



# NORTH CAROLINA / BERMUDA AFG, INC.

## AREA WORLD SERVICE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

April 5, 2008

La Quinta Inn, Burlington

Paula B. opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. After the Serenity Prayer, the Twelve Traditions, Twelve Concepts, and General Warranties were read by members of the AWSC. Paula then reminded the group that according to the Bylaws of the North Carolina/Bermuda AFG, Inc., Article VI, Section 2: "AWSC Functions. The primary function of the AWSC is to plan for and improve Assemblies, Area Workshops and Area Conventions, publish a quarterly newsletter and provide a link of service through its Delegate to the World Service Conference."

ROLL CALL – Members Present:

<b>Delegate</b>	<b>Paula M.</b>	<b>District 7</b>	<b>Carma B.</b>
<b>Alt. Delegate</b>	<b>Patsy A.</b>	<b>District 8</b>	<b>Eileen W.</b>
<b>Chairperson (Past D.)</b>	<b>Paula B.</b>	<b>District 9</b>	<b>Tom W.</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Margie S.</b>	<b>District 10</b>	<b>Judy H.</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Vickie R.</b>	<b>Literature Coordinator</b>	<b>Harvey S.</b>
<b>District 1</b>	<b>Steve R.</b>	<b>Alateen Coordinator</b>	<b>absent</b>
<b>District 2</b>	<b>Linda V.</b>	<b>Archivist (Past Delegate)</b>	<b>absent</b>
<b>District 3</b>	<b>Deborah H.</b>	<b>Convention Chair</b>	<b>Sylvia W.</b>
<b>District 4</b>	<b>Jim R.</b>	<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	<b>Cissy T.</b>
<b>District 5</b>	<b>Dick R.</b>	<b>Public Outreach</b>	<b>Valentina D.</b>
<b>District 6</b>	<b>Woody M.</b>	<b>Website Coordinator</b>	<b>Erica P.</b>
<b>Past Delegates—Doreen D.</b>			

**Other members present—Deb D.**

Paula B. shared the following quote from page 202 of the *Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual* as the framework for the meeting: "All the Warranties counsel prudence—prudence in personal relations, prudence in money matters, and prudence in our contacts with the world around us. For Al-Anon, prudence is a middle ground, a channel between fear on the one hand and recklessness on the other. Prudence creates a climate of harmony, effectiveness, and consistent spiritual progress. These Warranties express the wisdom of taking thought for the future based on lessons of the past. They protect us against needless errors and the natural human temptations of wealth, prestige, and power."

Bullet Reporter—Carma B. volunteered to prepared the bullet report for the meeting.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Margie S. presented the minutes from the January 12, 2008 AWSC meeting. Patsy noted that on page 5 under "new business" the exit number for Mebane is noted as 119 but should be 153. Cissy T. moved to accept the minutes with the noted correction. Erica P. seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Vickie R. presented the Year End Fiscal Report for the year ending January 31, 2008. A question was raised about how the income from newsletter subscriptions is used to offset the overage in expenses. The 2007 Year End Treasurer's Report shows that the expenses for the newsletter went over by more than \$1,000. It was explained that the newsletter is a service provided to groups and is not expected to be self-supporting through subscriptions. It was also noted that the price of postage is due to increase on May 12, which will increase the cost of each issue. Newsletter expenses have been discussed in the Fellowship Communication Service Arm. Because of increasing expenses, the service arm was charged with further discussion of the topic. There was an inquiry as to whether cash on hand is decreased to cover the negative balance. It is not. The report reflects actual income and expenses only. Cissy T. moved to accept the Year End Fiscal Report. Patsy A. seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Vickie then presented the current Treasurer's Report dated March 2008 and reported that the first appeal letter of the year was sent out in February and that donations are still coming in. A question was asked about whether anything is done to recoup returned check charges. There is no existing procedure for handling this. The Group Services Service Arm was asked to look at this as a future responsibility of the treasurer. Woody M. moved to accept the March 2008 Treasurer's Report. Patsy A. seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Resignation of Treasurer** Paula B. announced that Vickie D. submitted a letter of resignation which has been accepted. According to page 145 of *The Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual*, a DR may be appointed by the Area Chairperson to fill an officer vacancy. Paula asked for willing volunteers to serve as interim treasurer until an election can take place as Spring Assembly. Woody M. volunteered and was appointed.

**ALTERNATE DELEGATE'S REPORT:** Patsy A. reported the following:  
Group Changes

DRs are still doing a great job keeping their group records up-to-date resulting in a very low percentage of return group mail when the Area Appeal, Area Newsletter and Assembly notices are sent. DRs, keep up the good work! Communicate, communicate, communicate the links of service at every opportunity...the GR sends changes to the DR; the DR sends changes to the Alternate Delegate; the Alternate Delegate sends the changes to WSO. This process enables all of the links of service to be quickly updated thereby eliminating return mail. Patsy suggested that DRs continue encouraging the groups to get and/or share a P.O. Box to avoid interruption of group mail from all levels of the service structure. She has seen a small increase of groups getting a P.O. Box or sharing a box with another group.

In response to a question about why Alateen group information was not included with the most recent group records, Patsy explained that all Alateen information goes through the Alateen Coordinator who then sends the information on to Patsy. In the future she will try to report all group information updates to DRs at the same time.

#### The Forum

*The Forum* continues to be a wonderful resource tool for meetings and public outreach. Encourage your GRs to talk about our "meeting in your pocket".

Enclosed in the March 2008 issue mailed to each group were three surveys with return envelopes were enclosed--one for the group to complete concerning how the group welcomes newcomers and the other two for the first two newcomers to the meeting with the questions worded to give WSO feedback as to how they felt they were welcomed to Al-Anon. WSO wants feedback from the groups and newcomers so that groups can be given information that will help them to greet newcomers more effectively and will encourage newcomers to become members.

In the April 2008 "Forum" on pages 22-23 there is an article on "How Welcoming are We to Newcomers?" Also in the April 2008 issue there is a new page called "One 'Quote' at a Time" that gives thought provoking quotes by members.

#### Formation of New Al-Anon Groups

As the DR if you know of a new group beginning to form in your district, encourage that group to meet as a "meeting" for at least three months before they register as a group. Past experience has shown that if a new group can sustain itself for three months the group has a chance of becoming a strong group in the community. This waiting period does two things: 1) gives the group a chance to form a root system to become a viable group and, 2) eliminates unnecessary cost in getting the group registered which includes sending the group a group binder.

**Exception: All Alateen groups must register prior to having a first meeting.**

**DELEGATE'S REPORT:** Paula M. reported the following:

All information from WSO that Paula has received recently has already been forwarded via e-mail. Preparations are being finalized for the World Service Conference in Stamford, Connecticut.

Paula has been assigned to assist with a workshop while at Conference, and needs the committee's help. The topic for her presentation is "How to Prepare and Effectively Give a Delegate's Report". Paula has requested written suggestions on the topic. Some of the suggestions from other Delegates for discussion topics are listed below:

- Communicating in short time frames
- Involving others in giving the information of the Conference (Shared Leadership)
- Talking about how to use PowerPoint or other technologies
- Sharing Hot Topics information effectively
- Making reports more interesting and exciting
- Engaging the Assembly in the report
- Giving some information in a written report
- What to do if you don't have the availability of technology to give your report

Doreen D. shared that she is the chairman of the WSO committee that is working on e-CAL (electronic Conference Approved Literature). She reported that not much is being received and explained that submissions need to be multimedia, not just written sharings as these can be submitted to *The Forum* for publication.

### NC/Bermuda Area World Service Committee Inventory

An AWSC inventory was prepared by Area Chair Paula B. in March. Members were asked to respond by e-mail or mail their responses. 22 responses were received. The committee went through the responses item by item with discussion occurring where needed.

Following are the topics that were discussed:

1. Area workshop--In regard to the question of whether we are adhering to the AWSC's primary function, it was asked if we need to consider revision of the area bylaws to reflect that we no longer have an Area 42 Workshop? There was a motion passed at the AWSC to discontinue an area-wide workshop due to low attendance. This doesn't mean that we can't have a workshop, just that this is not currently being done. It was decided that there is no need to revise the bylaws.
2. Report at AWSC meetings--The question as to whether there is enough time at AWSC meetings to discuss agenda items raised questions about the issue of time. It was felt that there is no need to have reports read if they are sent to the committee in advance. A suggestion was made in regards to reports to bold key points/important items in order to highlight their importance, and the committee agreed to do so. Bold items are anything that DRs need to report at their district meetings. After discussion about setting a firm deadline for officers and coordinators to e-mail their report to the entire AWSC, the consensus was that reports would be e-mailed by the Saturday before the meeting. Reports at the AWSC meeting will take the form of a Q & A period regarding the Information that has already been sent.
3. DR reports in minutes—Discussion occurred about the number of reports DRs are being asked to submit if they are sending reports for the newsletter and for the AWSC minutes. There was some confusion because of the differing deadlines and whom should be receiving the reports. District information is reported to members through the area newsletter, and DR reports do not fall under the primary purpose of the AWSC. Since we are now doing a DR forum for DRs to bring forth concerns or questions, the consensus is that DR reports do not need to be part of the minutes since the information is not being reported at the meeting.
4. Distribution of information between meetings—A question was raised about what would be on the AWSC meeting agenda if reports are read prior to the meeting. This was compared to the file exchange through WSO and will help to streamline the process of getting information out to members in a timelier manner.  
\*\*There was a reminder that all AWSC members agreed at the beginning of our term to respond to all e-mails that are received. There is no need to comment unless requested, just to acknowledge the receipt of the e-mail.
5. Service Arms—There was discussion of how to best accomplish business through Service Arms. Paula B. has asked that an agenda for each Service Arm meeting at the AWSC meeting be prepared by the chairperson of the service arm and sent to its members in advance of the meeting. Coordinator reports will take the format of a Q & A session allowing more time for discussion and decision making on new items.
6. Improving the assembly—A request was made to schedule newsletter and convention reports prior to the lunch break so that members will know to register for convention and/or subscribe to the newsletter during the break.
7. Preparation for role as an AWSC member—This was an area of concern for half the committee. It is felt that more time is needed for the DR orientation at the transition meeting. It was strongly suggested that each member of the committee have a service sponsor who has served in the position the person holds. Job descriptions were prepared by the previous panel to help outline the responsibilities but not all were turned in and we were reminded that this is the description of just one person. The Public Outreach Service Arm was charged with creating an DR checklist/job description. The orientation packet prepared by the Alternate Delegate will be the starting point for this discussion. There was mention of the need for AWSC members to be computer literate and the importance to this in carrying out our service roles. Since this is not a requirement for those wishing to stand for a service position, e-buddies were suggested for DR's and GR's who do not have internet access. The e-buddy would print out information and pass it on to the person who does not have e-mail. A member also commented on the need to have job descriptions distributed to interested members prior to elections so that those standing for a position are educated about the role they are considering. It was suggested that this could be put on the website.

### DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS (appearing in the minutes for the final time)

District reports were submitted for the minutes and to the Newsletter Editor and Archivist but were not read.

**District 1:** Steve R. reported the following:

District 1 is preparing to host the 2008 Spring Assembly in Asheville, which will be held in the First Baptist Church downtown. There is a secured block of rooms in the Sheraton Four Points Hotel, one block from the assembly venue and walking distance to downtown Asheville. There is also a block of rooms at the Ramada in at River Ridge, just three miles from the assembly. District 1 is introducing hospitality accommodations on a first-come, first-served basis. Several District 1 Al-Anon members are graciously opening their homes to assembly attendees. More information will be in the newsletter and Spring Assembly flier. Thank you to Tom R, District 1 Alternate DR, for the idea and coordinating this effort.

The January 26<sup>th</sup> district meeting, hosted by West Asheville AFG, had a record attendance of 50% of District 1 GRs. The response was positive for the new GR forum period of the meeting, modeled after the DR forum at the AWSC meeting. There was a unanimous vote to continue the GR forum at all future district meetings. The April 26<sup>th</sup> district meeting will be hosted by Waynesville AFG.

**District 2:** Linda VanDyke reported the following:

District 2 met January 27<sup>th</sup> in Granite Falls at the Philadelphia Lutheran Church. There were 22 in attendance with 8 GR'S, representing 80% of the district's groups. The budget for 2008 was approved. Future meetings will now be held on Saturdays. Plans were made for the District 3 workshop to be held May 3<sup>rd</sup> in Wilkesboro at Saint Paul's Episcopal Church. "Recovery is Fun" will be the theme. There will be three breakout sessions followed by a panel discussion. Registration starts at 9 a.m. Bring a bag lunch and have some fun! Flyers have been distributed soon. The next district meeting will be April 19 in Wilkesboro.

**District 3:** Deborah H. reported the following:

The last district meeting was held on January 27. It was hosted by the Shelby AFG at the Shelby Presbyterian Church. There were ten members in attendance, and Sonia P. joined the group as a new GR from Belmont AFG. The district voted to assign each group an e-mail address. Work is being done to implement this within the district. Plans are in the works for a district workshop to be held on September 13, 2008, in Spindale, NC.

**District 4:** Jim R. reported the following:

District 4 now has a Spanish-speaking meeting, called "Valor para cambiar en Al-Anon," at the Iglesia Catolica, 1505 E. Kivett Drive in High Point. It meets at 7:00 p.m. on Fridays. The district will host a workshop on *Opening our Hearts, Transforming our Losses* on April 12, 2008 at Main Street United Methodist Church, 306 South Main Street in Kernersville. It will run from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The next district meeting will be Sunday, April 27, 2008, from 1:30 to 4:00 p.m. at Centenary United Methodist Church, 2300 West Friendly Avenue in Greensboro.

**District 5:** Dick R. reported the following:

District 5's last quarterly meeting was held on January 19 at the District Office in Charlotte with 13 GR's and 6 District Officers present. Business brought before the GR's included the following:

1. the presentation of the 2008 budget showing anticipated income of \$34,950.00 and expenses of \$34,840.28.
2. moving some of the funds from the Money Market account into a CD paying a higher rate of interest.
3. 626 incoming calls were received at the District 5 Office during the last quarter of 2007.
4. Revision of the list of volunteers that handle 12 step calls coming into the District Office
5. Adelaide S., District Public Outreach Coordinator, thanked all volunteers who made contacts on the "prospect list". New meeting schedules are available and all volunteers were encouraged to pick up new ones to update the displays.
6. Maggie D., District 5 Website Coordinator, is currently working with 2 hosting companies to get the website transferred. Her goals for this year include training volunteers so that the meeting list can be updated regularly and getting the local events on the website along with a list of links to WSO, Area 42, and possibly other websites in NC.
7. A motion was made and approved for the District LDC to send \$100.00 worth of books to the 2008 NC/Bermuda Convention to support the book raffle.
8. The next district meeting will be held April 19, 2008.

**District 6:** Woody M. reported the following:

The last district meeting was held on January 26 at Historic Providence United Church of Christ in Graham. 21 voting members and 14 non-voting members attended. At this meeting the Spanish Group Liaison for the district presented the first report to the district on the Spanish-speaking meetings who will host one of the district meetings this year. Our next district meeting is May 3 at Binkley Memorial Baptist Church in Chapel Hill. Several groups are continuing the LME outreach project and many are celebrating group anniversaries with potluck dinners. Since the last AWSC meeting we have added two new groups, one in Durham and one in Wake Forest. The district is having the first ever District 6 Fellowship Picnic at the Lake Wheeler Park in Raleigh on May 10. This event will include not only food but family recreational activities including face painting, horseshoes, live music and a recovery meeting. We welcome families and friends.

**District 7:** Carma B. was unable to attend the meeting but sent the following report:

The last District 7 quarterly meeting was held at the First Baptist Church in S. field on January 26 at 2:00 p.m. The Johnston County Al-Anon Family Group hosted the meeting. There were three GR's present along with 10 non-voting members. Members present shared about what Al-Anon service work has meant to them and shared public outreach ideas. The outcome of the open forum was a consensus that public outreach is an area that we can each participate in to make a difference in our communities. All groups present had ordered *Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism 2008* to distribute in local communities. The next District 7 meeting will be held at Coats Community Church in Coats, April 26 at 2:00p.m. Area 42 Alternate Delegate Patsy A. will attend and present on a topic yet to be decided upon.

**District 8:** Eileen W. reported the following:

District 8 met in Greenville on Saturday, January 26. The district meeting followed a lunch full of sharing and fun. Eleven GRs were present. The district is researching the possibility of implementation of a district web site. District 8 Birthday Workshop and Meeting Requirements have been revised to "keep it simple." The GRs voted to have a Birthday Workshop/District 8 meeting in Wilson on May 31 at West Nash Methodist Church. All are welcome to attend. The district is growing in size with a new group in Elizabeth City.

**District 9:** Tom W. reported the following:

District 9 held its annual workshop in conjunction with its first district meeting of 2008. The title for the workshop was "Conference Approved Literature--Traditionally Speaking". There was a great turnout and all enjoyed the program that was put together by Becky B. Several members from Whiteville and Morehead City Groups participated to make the workshop a big success. The Whiteville Alateens continues to meet regularly. There were two new Alateen sponsors approved, Darrell L. and Rosetta L., to work with the Whiteville Alateens. They have a passion to help these kids and Tom is confident they will do an outstanding job.

**District 10:** Judy H. reported the following:

March was a busy month for District 10. An open candlelight meeting was held on March 3<sup>rd</sup> with members being asked to bring literature so they could have a selection of literature to "forget" on March 4<sup>th</sup> for Lois' birthday. A *Forum* writing brunch was held on March 9<sup>th</sup> at a member's home. PSA's have been running regularly on the local TV station.

### **DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE FORUM**

1. **Communication within districts**—Woody asked for guidance in how to handle the exchange of information via e-mail. There are groups in his district that decline to receive information via e-mail. It was recommended that he provide paper copies at district meetings of any materials that have been sent out to groups for those who do not receive e-mail. This brought up the concern of what to do when these groups don't have a representative at the meeting. Suggestions were to send a card to those not attending letting them know that they were missed and making phone calls to open the lines of communication.
2. **District 2 workshop**—Linda announced that there will be a workshop on May 3. A flyer with details has been sent to the AWSC.
3. **Dominance at district meetings**—Steve asked for guidance on how to handle a member who dominates the discussion at district meetings. Suggestions included using Knowledge Based Decision Making, giving members a time limit and asking that they speak only once per topic during discussion, and preparing an agenda with times noted. The importance of modeling KBDM at the district level to prepare members for the assembly was noted.
4. **District workshops**—Eileen asked if it was a good idea to combine a workshop with a district business meeting. Several districts have had success at doing this. Getting notices to the membership via e-mail and postal mail prior to the meeting is important.

The meeting broke for lunch at 11:30 a.m. and resumed at 12:45 p.m.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **AWSC meeting location**—Several members gathered information about possible meeting locations in Burlington, Mebane, Greensboro, and Charlotte. (See Attachment A for details.) A vote was taken to narrow the options. The choices were narrowed down to the Comfort Inn and the Country Inn and Suites which are both in the Burlington area. A vote was then taken between these two options, with the Comfort Inn receiving 12 votes and the Country Inn and Suites receiving 5 votes. The Comfort Inn is not available for the July 26 meeting date. It was decided that a reservation will be made at the Country Inn and Suites for this date.
2. **Treasurer vacancy**—Paula B. announced that a service resume is required for anyone willing to stand for the position of treasurer. These are needed by Wednesday in order to be included in the assembly mailing.

**SERVICE ARM REPORTS:** Service Arm meetings were held from 1:05-2:30 p.m. The full committee then reconvened.

**1. FELLOWSHIP COMMUNICATION**— Steve R. reported for the Fellowship Communication Service Arm. Jim R. served as the chair for this Service Arm. The coordinators that are part of this service are website, convention, and literature. Their reports follow.

#### **Website Coordinator Report**

Erica P. reported the following:

It has been a very busy second quarter on the website. Though you may not see a lot of new things happening, behind the scenes there has been a lot of research and testing going on, some of which worked and some that did not. Following is a list of projects and updates.

### “Live” Projects

*Calendar Page* – Erica has worked on the color and font scheme to determine which would be the most consistent to the overall look of the site and has chosen colors in the neutral theme of the website.

*Alateen Page* – Originally there was no Alateen page on our site. After working with Alateen Coordinator Connie Cowell on AMIIAS information, Erica has published the Alateen page she had been working on behind the scenes. The AMIIAS form is now online.

### “In development” Projects

*Contact Page* – A contact page that includes Area 42 generic e-mail addresses for each member of the committee has been created. This will not be posted until Erica has distributed the e-mail addresses and given instructions on how to access e-mails. The “Live” launch of this page will happen after the AWSC meeting.

*Steps and Traditions Pages* – Erica has begun to design the pages that will list the Steps and Traditions.

*Meeting Lists* – Erica is investigating adding an interactive meeting list that will make it easy for folks to get a listing of the meetings and has looked at the Virginia Area Website as a model. The meetings section of the Area 42 website has been the source of many questions. Erica has had to start from scratch in its design. The page has not been posted because it is not anywhere close to ready. Erica plans to post a very generic page that contains each district’s meeting list. There will be no sorting or searching options, just a link to the list for each district that has submitted one. Hopefully this will hold the membership over until a more sophisticated page can be launched.

*Update Page* - Along with weekly Friday posting updates, Erica plans to create an update page that will contain a list of current and upcoming projects, notes, and project status. This way if there is any question as to what work is going on with the site, one can easily access this page and check it out for themselves. This will help dispel any lingering questions and may help the committee feel more a part of this process. Erica will be sending out a follow up e-mail when the updates page is ready to be used.

Erica anticipates having the meetings page and contacts pages live by the end of next week. The updates page will be a work in progress. She is going to get the projects list posted as soon as possible to allow members to chart the website’s progress.

### Literature Coordinator Report

Harvey S. reported the following:

Interest in literature was extremely good at convention. A wide variety of books sold for total sales of \$1123.95. More copies of the new *2006-2009 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual (P24/27)* were sold than any other book.

*Opening Our Hearts-Transforming Our Losses (B29)* continues to be WSOs bestseller and has sold over 70,000 copies since last May. WSO plans to present Al-Anon’s newest book on the topic of recovery in relationships at the International Convention in Pittsburg in July. The book and its proposed title are currently being reviewed by policy reviewers. French and Spanish translations of *Opening Our Hearts, Transforming Our Losses (B29)* are also planned to be introduced at the International Convention.

An e-CAL Contest is being held through May 31. The most notable e-CAL presentations will be on display at the International Convention. The types of sharing being requested are multi-media expressions using color, sound, animation, music, and photography. Text-only submissions will no longer be accepted but will be forwarded to *The Forum* Editorial Advisory Committee for consideration in our monthly magazine. WSO is looking for technology-minded teens who would like to submit a multi-media presentation for the e-CAL Web page. Go to the Members’ Web site at [www.al-anon.org/members](http://www.al-anon.org/members), type in the name of any Al-Anon or Alateen group followed by the letters “AFG.” Click on the e-CAL logo, where you will find the criteria for submissions.

*The Forum* now has a new feature, “CAL CORNER,” in which members review Conference Approved Literature. Members are welcome to submit reviews of Al-Anon books and pamphlets for consideration. Also check out the new feature “One Quote at a Time” in the current *Forum*.

Orders and payment for *Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism 2009* must be received by **5 P.M. ET, Tuesday, July 8, 2008. No exceptions can be made.** Al-Anon Family Groups Headquarters, Inc. will ship orders before September 1, 2008. *Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism 2009* is available in both Spanish and French.

During the Area Literature Coordinators Conference Call on March 1, 2008, there was discussion on the “Sample Chapter Project” of the web site concerning its success and whether or not it should be repeated. The consensus of those who spoke was that the project be continued with additional books used for upcoming sample chapters, providing more time for completion if possible. The next Sample Chapter Project using *Opening Our Hearts—Transforming Our Lives (B29)* for meeting topics is due out **April 21, 2008.** The Sample Chapter Project using *The Dilemma of the Alcoholic Marriage* for meeting topics is due out **July 15, 2008.**

### Formula for pricing Literature

The formula that is currently used to determine the selling price of a book or piece of literature is based on cost of writer plus the printing cost of the first printing divided by the number of copies printed times 10 to get the price of the book. (This doesn’t include other production costs such as staff time and cost of committees.)

### **Timeline on pricing of Literature**

1991 World Service Conference Motion 3: To establish a five times markup on new service pamphlets, eight times markup on new recovery pamphlets and ten times markup on new hard and soft covered books as a guideline, but that each book be evaluated as to its sales potential.

1992 World Service Conference Motion 10: To establish a seven times markup for all Alateen recovery material, but that each book be evaluated as to the sales potential.

#### **WSO literature sales to:**

	Bookstore	% of Total Sales	Treatment Centers	% of Total Sales
2005	\$44,071.97	1.3	\$137,836.72	4.1
2006	53,213.65	1.4	193,932.04	5.3
2007	71,196.73	1.6	191,252.76	4.4

### **Convention Committee Report**

Outgoing Convention Chair Sylvia W. reported the following:

The 2008 NC/Bermuda Convention held on February 22-24<sup>th</sup> seemed to be energized with a new and fresh approach in every possible way. The registration committee was set up and ready to hand out convention packets as “family” members began gathering on Friday at the Days Inn in Southern Pines. The hospitality room was only a few steps away to provide our weary travelers some refreshments and fellowship to start their weekend of recovery. Everyone was happy to have this spacious room to meet friends for a visit between meetings.

This year’s committee set the tone of fun and laughter with energizing music playing as members gathered in the meeting room. Once the announcements and guest speakers were introduced, a parade of committee members kicked off the weekend. To the tune of “We Are Family”, the 2008 Convention Committee made a grand entrance in their “job appropriate” hats. The convention chairperson introduced each member as she draped them with their feather boas. This idea came from last year’s suggestion box that committee members were hard to find during convention weekends. Needless to say, that problem was solved during this year’s convention!

The raffle has become a very popular event and is so helpful in keeping our convention self-supporting. The donation of CAL was overwhelmingly generous from groups and members. This year we had a “raffle princess” who made this event very entertaining.

The program committee did an outstanding job inviting guest speakers who had experiences from many different perspectives of the family illness of alcoholism. Freedom from despair resonated in each sharing. These messages provided a fresh dose of hope to all who attended. The AI-Anon Squares game was a big hit! It spilled over with a “competitive” spirit of fun and excitement. The Tradition meeting was very well attended which created great discussions on Traditions and Relationships.

Final reports from the final 2008 Convention Committee meeting held on April 4 are as follows:

The Days Inn evaluation was completed and submitted for the 2008 convention. Suggestions were reviewed, and new ideas were discussed for the 2009 convention. The 2009 Days Inn contract has been renegotiated. There is a room rate increase. Prices will range from \$61-\$65 per night which includes hot breakfast. The meeting room set up fee will be \$100.

Program Chair/Co-Chair Deb D. reported total speaker expenses of \$1,637. The raffle raised approximately \$434. The tradition meeting had about 150 in attendance. Saturday’s AI-Anon Squares game was highly competitive and was a big hit. Overall, comments about the 2008 program agenda were very positive.

Hospitality chair Carole Griffin reported total expenses of \$530. She recommends that coffee urns be rented for 2009. The registration chair announced total registration of 390—316 AI-Anon, 32 Alateen, 10 Alateen sponsors, and 32 AA.

Alateen Coordinator Connie Cowell reported that the unconditional love workshop was well attended, and the tropical paradise dance was a huge success. The Alateen discussion meeting had low attendance. There needs to be better communication about this being open to AA and AI-Anon. It was also felt that there needs to be more recovery activities for Alateens in 2009.

An appeal has been made to DRs to submit names of potential prospects for the vacant position of 2009 Program Chair/Co-Chairperson. These need to be submitted to 2009 Convention Chair Deb D. at [NCBERMUDA@aol.com](mailto:NCBERMUDA@aol.com).

The secretary/treasurer reported a balance on hand of \$10,248.89 as of 3-26-08. Total 2008 expenses were \$6,312.54. The proposed budget for 2009 is 30% over 2008 expenses for a total of \$8,260.

Dates for the 2009 convention are February 20-22.

### **Area 42 Newsletter**

Cissy T. reported the following:

The Area 42 ~ Volume 39 ~ Issue 1 ~ Spring 2008 Edition of the North Carolina/Bermuda Newsletter went to press in March with an order of 700 copies. At the 2007 Fall Assembly an overwhelming number of the members

responding to the questionnaire Cissy provided indicated they are in support of leaving the newsletter at the current size with the same “quality and quantity” of news and information. Suggestions and constructive criticism have been given consideration. As the newsletter is constructed, every effort will continue to be taken to keep each member as informed as possible. Cissy expressed appreciation to each AWSC member who adheres to the newsletter deadline with the much needed and complete information. All reports for the Summer Edition of the North Carolina/Bermuda Newsletter are due on **Sunday, June 15, 2008. Please mark your calendars and respond accordingly by e-mail** to: Cissy T. at [cist@charter.net](mailto:cist@charter.net) with the words “Summer Newsletter Report” on the subject line. Cissy also provided a listing of upcoming newsletter deadlines. (See Attachment B)

### **Report from the Fellowship Communication Service Arm**

Discussion took place in the service arm meeting and recommendations were brought forth to the members of the AWSC regarding convention registration fees, Convention Hospitality Chairperson responsibilities, and who is responsible for signing binding contracts involving Convention and/or Assembly.

Sylvia W. explained that the income from Alateen registrations only covered the expense of their pizza party, leaving the convention committee feeling that the Alateens were not self-supporting. The service arm suggested raising the registration fee to better cover expenses. A recommendation was made to raise the Alateen registration fee from the current \$5 to \$10. There were also concerns with the large number of people who registered on site which significantly slowed down the progress for registering member. There were 106 on-site registrations in 2006 and 115 in 2007. The convention committee plans to move the registration area away from the entrance to the meeting room and recruit more volunteers to help alleviate congestion and speed up the registration process. The service arm also felt that raising the rate for on-site registration might help to encourage more members to register prior to the deadline. The recommendation was to raise the on-site registration fee from \$20 to \$25 which is \$5 more than the pre-registration fee. It was also pointed out that the hotel stipulates a cap on the amount of people that can attend an event in the main meeting room not to exceed 400 people. The registration total of 390 is very close to this maximum.

A recommendation was also made from the Convention Chairperson to make an addendum to the convention guidelines under the job description of the Hospitality Chairperson. The addendum would add a basic shopping list to the current job description.

Jim R. motioned to increase the Alateen registration fee for convention to \$10 up to the Early Bird registration deadline, maintain the \$20 registration fee for AI-Anon and AA members up to the Early Bird registration deadline, and charge a surcharge of an additional \$5 for all on-site registrations (\$15 for Alateens and \$25 for AI-Anon and AA members). Erica P. seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

A question was raised in the Fellowship Communication Service Arm as to who should have the authority and responsibility for signing legal and binding contracts for conventions and assemblies. The Area 42 Chairperson is responsible for signing all contracts. In the event the chairperson is unavailable, another area officer would then be the signator. This needs to be reflected in the convention and assembly guidelines.

Discussion occurred about defraying the increasing cost of the NC/Bermuda newsletter. A proposed idea is to offer members an e-mail subscription to the newsletter. An electronic version in pdf file would be created and sent via a distribution list. For a \$3 annual fee members could be placed on an e-mail distribution list and receive the newsletter via e-mail. There was discussion about who would be responsible for the distribution list. The information and fees would be collected by the newsletter editor. E-mail addresses would then be given to the website coordinator for creating the list. It was decided that further discussion is needed. The Fellowship Communication Service Arm will continue discussion at the July AWSC meeting.

**2. PUBLIC OUTREACH**—Woody M. reported for the Public Outreach Service Arm. Valentina D. chaired.

### **Public Outreach Service Arm Meeting Report**

Valentina reviewed the basics of public outreach. Public Outreach is:

- Telling what AI-Anon is and what it has done for us
- leaving Conference Approved Literature with a local meeting list
- panel discussions with healthcare professionals
- coordinating efforts with AA
- speaking to professionals and the public about our experience in AI-Anon

Current Public Outreach projects were reviewed with related questions:

- LME (Local Management Entities of the NC Mental Health System)—What are the groups in each district doing to work with the LME’s?

- How are groups using *Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism 2008* in public outreach?
- How are districts cooperating with AA intergroups to get the message of hope to families and friends of alcoholics?
- How are district Web sites attracting newcomers?
- How are PSA's helping to get the word out? (Valentina will send instructions to the AWSC on how to use PSA's.)

### Public Outreach Display Boards

The Public Outreach Service Arm brainstormed ideas for creating a design for a display board that could be used at any event in which Al-Anon has the opportunity to do public outreach. It was decided that the question "Are you concerned with someone's drinking?" would be used as the header with questions from the "Twenty Questions" pamphlet on the board. A model will be assembled prior to Spring Assembly. At assembly a board will be put together for use each district to use. There was also discussion of literature that would most effectively provide along with the display. Each district may wish to purchase its own literature rack (M-54) for \$32. The suggested pamphlets are as follows:

"Troubled by Someone's Drinking?" (S-17)—\$ .03 each

"Detachment" (S-19)—\$ .03 each

"Has Your Life Been Affected by Someone Else's Drinking?" (S-20)—\$ .02 each

"Did You Grow Up with a Problem Drinker?" (S-25)— \$ .03 each

"Are you Concerned About Someone's Drinking?" (M-1)— \$ .03 each

"Al-Anon's Path to Recovery- Al-Anon is for Native Americans/Aboriginals"(S-67) —Free

"Al-Anon is for All People of Color" (S-68)—Free

"Al-Anon is for Adult Children" (S-69)—Free

"Al-Anon Welcomes Gays and Lesbians" (S-70)—Free

"Crying House Outreach Bookmark" (M-76)— Free

**3. Group Services** Carma B. was the recorder for the Group Services Service Arm. Patsy A. chaired.

#### **Alateen Coordinator Report**

Connie Cowell was unable to attend the meeting but sent the following report.

**Numbers** We have 22 Alateen groups in Area 42. We have gotten several new sponsors lately to support these groups.

**Alateen Conferences** Connie attended the SAC board meeting which was held at convention. The guidelines for both EAR (Eastern Alateen Roundup) and SAC (Southeastern Alateen Conference) have been given to the Chair of the Group Services Service Arm for distribution to the service arm members. These guidelines will be reviewed for compliance with Area 42 conference guidelines.

EAR will be held May 30-June 1 at Camp Carefree in Stokesdale, NC. The miraculous EAR board has found this place and negotiated so the kids can come for only \$50 for the whole weekend. The information has been included in the newsletter and sent Alateen groups in Area42. DRs, please mention EAR at your district meetings and ask your AMIAs to consider going and sponsoring a kid or two. In addition, EAR has a scholarship fund to which any Al-Anon member can contribute any amount. DRs, please mention that also. While a monetary value can't be placed on these weekends for our teens, a little \$\$ doesn't hurt. For some this is the only way they can afford to go.

**Alateen Sponsor Certification** Since Connie was unable to attend the AWSC meeting, the discussion on the issue of Alateen Sponsor Certification has been tabled until the July WSC meeting and will be revisited at Fall Assembly. Connie cautioned against referring to this as a background check but instead using the phrase "Alateen Sponsor Certification." Connie has gotten a lead and now can offer the possibility of an affordable check using SSN instead of fingerprints. Both options will be presented in July.

**AMIAs Recertification** The first notice for recertification has gone to all AMIAs via e-mail and US Mail. The pickup from the website seems to be going smoothly. Some of the DRs have already turned in forms. The second reminder will go out this week.

**Area Alateen Process Person** Up until this time, Connie has felt that the Alateen Coordinator could do the work of

the AAPP. Due to the time commitment involved in holding the Alateen Coordinator position (about 17 weekends a year-either Saturday, Sunday, or the entire weekend to attend AWSC meetings, assemblies, convention, and Alateen conferences and their board meetings), she is requesting that we look at adding the position of AAPP to handle the paperwork aspect of the current Alateen Coordinator position.

### **Group Services Service Arm Meeting Report**

The following was brought forth from the Group Services Service Arm:

Current Mailing Address for groups-- Patsy A., Alternate Delegate, informed us that she had corrected CMA information for second and third time.

AMIAS recertification forms—Alateen Coordinator Connie Cowell is in need of recertification information from Al-Anon Members Involved in Alateen Service. Current AMIAS have been informed of the May 31 deadline. Forms are available through the Area 42 website. **DRs, please announce this at your district meetings.**

#### LCD Projector

The Group Services Service Arm will submit the proposal to purchase an LCD projector at Spring Assembly. The background info for this has already been distributed.

#### New Business Items from Group Services

1. Discussion of one time trial centralization of the 2009 Spring Assembly occurred. The proposal is to have the assembly at the same hotel as convention (the Southern Pines Days Inn). The cost would be \$65.00 per sleeping room to include breakfast. Assembly registration of \$10.00 would cover a chef's choice buffet with hot and cold items. All three meeting rooms would be available for Saturday for \$250.00. Monies from the raffle are approximately \$250 and would be used to cover the cost of the meeting rooms. Participants would be allowed to bring snacks and drinks into the rooms during the meeting, but no coolers are allowed in meeting rooms. There was discussion of the possible need to increase registration to \$13.00 for Al-Anons and \$10.00 for Alateens to cover the cost of the lunch. The goal is to see if assembly attendance is related to location.  
Discussion on this topic took place in the full AWSC. Patsy shared attendance information from past assemblies. Attendance is generally about 100. Election assemblies typically have greater attendance, which raised the question as to whether this is due to the central location of the assembly or the fact that it is an election assembly. A 1999 ad hoc committee studied assembly attendance and determined that location is not a factor in attendance. A concern was raised that centralizing the assembly would take the opportunity away from districts to host. This topic will be presented by the Group Services Service Arm at Spring Assembly.
2. Nominating Guidelines to select the nominee for Southeast Regional Trustee for a three-year term need to be put into place. The nominating district needs to come forward with a nominee as candidate no later than 45 days prior to the first district meeting of 2009. Prospective candidates would submit a service resume to their DR by January 2009. By February 28 of the election year, DR's will submit the service resumes of all candidates to the Area 42 Chairperson. The Area Chair will e-mail all resumes to AWSC members along with a rating form prior to the second AWSC meeting of the year. At the AWSC meeting, a recommendation of a candidate and alternate will be determined and brought to GR's at Spring Assembly for approval. If GR's approve a candidate and an alternate, the names of the candidate(s) will be given the Delegate to submit to WSO no later than August 15. If no candidate is approved or if no candidate(s) steps forward at the assembly for consideration, there will be no candidate submitted from Area 42 for Southeast Regional Trustee and the Delegate notifies WSO no later than August 15. Any member who wants to be considered for the Trustee at Large service position will submit his or her service resume directly to WSO by December 15 of the same year. This topic will be discussed at the July AWSC meeting.

#### **Spring Assembly agenda**

Paula B. asked for ideas on how to energize the assembly. There was discussion of how to handle DR reports. It was decided that past events and activities would be reflected in a written report. Oral reports will consist of announcements only. DR reports are to be sent to Paula by May 1, and she will condense them into one document for copying.

Carma B. shared the Bullet Points from the meeting.

Dick R. motioned to close the meeting. Cissy T. seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously. The meeting was closed at 4:00 p.m. with the Al-Anon Declaration.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Margie S., Area Secretary

## AWSC Hotel Information

### Greensboro at exit 214 (Wendover)

Hotel	Room Rate	Meeting Room Rate/Size	Other Information	Food
Best Western	\$72	\$125 2/3 the size of our current meeting location		Yes
Holiday Inn Exp.	\$80	\$175 same size as what we currently use	small kitchen w/ microwave and fridge, includes private bathroom.	Yes

### Burlington at Exit #141

Hotel	Room Rate	Meeting Room Rate/Size	Other Info	Food
Comfort Inn	\$76 microwave refrigerator Continental Breakfast	\$125 700-800 sq. ft.	7' pull down screen white board wireless internet feed TV/VCR available	Yes
Country Inn and Suites	King Suites \$89.00 Dbl/Queen Suite \$95 microwave refrigerator Continental Breakfast	Carolina Room \$175 800 sq. ft. Burlington Room \$125 400 sq. ft.	wireless internet	Yes
Courtyard by Marriott	\$169 \$7.95 pp	\$125 / 578 sq. ft. \$250 / 1472 sq. ft. Either room will be compt'd with 10 paid sleeping rooms.	7' pull down white board attached covered patio wireless internet feed	
Hampton Inn	\$116 for Cont. Breakfast	\$300	7' pull down screen wireless internet feed	Yes
La Quinta	\$59.75 Cont. Breakfast	\$100	water station	No

Mebane at Exit #153

Restaurants at this exit:

Kentucky Chicken	Cracker Barrel
Ruby Tuesday	Taco Bell
Burger King	S.field Bar-B-Que
Overtime Restaurant & Sports Bar	Sonic

Hotel	Room Rate	Meeting Room Rate/Size	Other Information	Food
Holiday Inn Express	\$75  Continental Breakfast (including hot items)  microwave  refrigerator	\$150 includes water, coffee & ice		Yes

Charlotte

Restaurants close by:

Carolina Country Bar-B-Que	Chinese Buffet
Panda Express (Chinese Fast Food)	McAlisters Deli

The closest eating place would take 40-45 minutes round trip plus the time it takes to order/eat.

Hotel	Room Rate	Meeting Room Rate/Size	Other Information	Food
Wingate Motel	\$99*	Meeting room at the Church is larger than the room at the LaQuinta.  No cost.		Yes
Quality Inn	\$69*	Meeting room at the Church is larger than the room at the LaQuinta.  No cost.		Yes

\*The above rates are suspended on Fall Race Week-end of October 10-12. This is the same time as the scheduled AWSC Meeting on October 11. During this weekend rates are increased by 25-30 percent, and a minimum of a three night stay is required.

## 2008 ~ 2009 North Carolina/Bermuda Newsletter Deadlines

This information is a gentle reminder and helpful hints. I hope that you will find this information to be a useful. Please use these helpful hints in the future when reporting to the NC/Bermuda Newsletter.

### **Each Member of the AWSC**

The deadlines for 2008 ~ 2009 are as follows.

<b><u>Edition</u></b>	<b><u>Deadline Date</u></b>
Spring Area Newsletter.....	March 1, 2008
<b>Summer Area Newsletter.....</b>	<b>June 15, 2008</b>
Fall Area Newsletter.....	September 1, 2008
Winter Area Newsletter.....	November 15, 2008
Spring Area Newsletter.....	March 1, 2009
Summer Area Newsletter.....	June 15, 2009
Fall Area Newsletter.....	September 1, 2009
Winter Area Newsletter.....	November 15, 2009

### **Delegate, Alternate Delegate, Area Chair, Secretary, Treasurer & Coordinators**

Choose **size 9 Arial Font**. Keep your report **approximately 400 words**.

### **District Representative**

Choose **size 9 Arial Font**. Keep your report **approximately 200 words**. Include **the date** of your **next district meeting**, any **workshops** and any **special events** include **what it is and when it is**. (where it will be held if you know where, but please do not hold up your report for the location information)

### **If your district is hosting an assembly these are helpful hints.**

DR it is your responsibility to see that directions with landmarks are provided to the Area Newsletter Editor and the Area Secretary. It is imperative that you drive the route yourself, checking the directions and planning for the route markers yourself. This is done to prevent any errors or miscommunication. No one likes to be lost. Map/maps should be included. (If you need assistance with the map, please ask the Area Newsletter Editor or members in your district. The directions and map/maps must be sent via e-mail, to the Area Secretary and the Area Newsletter Editor on or before **March 1 for the Spring Assemblies and September 1 for the Fall Assemblies.**

Your adherence to these deadlines is your responsibility and it will be greatly appreciated by this Area Newsletter Editor, fellow members of the AWSC, every Group Representative and all fellow Al-Anon and Alateen members.

