AL-ANON - SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WORLD SERVICE (SCWS)
AREA WORLD SERVICE COMMITTEE (AWSC) MEETING - SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2024
MINUTES

8:30-8:55 a.m. – Sign in, change virtual name tags

9:00 a.m. - Starting time

A) Chairperson's Report — chairperson@scws-al-anon.org -- **Micheila L.**

- Moment of Silence – Serenity Prayer
- Voted to give Ann H. voice for the purpose of giving a presentation on Conflict Resolution and Knowledge-Based Decision-Making (KBDM).
- Micheila reported that we've had a jam-packed January with Officer and Board meetings, Sharing of Service (SOS) and SFVAAC service roles. The Board is six weeks into our new roles and responsibilities and all are getting acclimated and finding our footing individually and collectively. Together, the Officers along with the Immediate Past Delegate appointed the Coordinators; we still have a few openings to fill. Chair appointed Renee M. as Alternate Delegate and Patty B. as Interim Treasurer for the Officer vacancies we had. Excited about our new Board and fulfilling our Tradition Five primary spiritual aim.
- Welcome – Past Delegates and new DRs
- Guidelines for Participation & Who Has a Voice and a Vote

B) Traditions read by: District Representative #06, Sean.

C) Roll Call – Group Records Coordinator – grouprecords@scws-al-anon.org -- **Cathy W.**

Present: DRs from: 3, 6, 9, 12, 17, 21, 24, 27, 30, 33, 40, 42(AltDR), 45, 51, 54, 57, 63, 66, 69, 72, 75. All Officers. All Coordinators except Area Alateen Sponsor Coordinator. San Diego AIS Liaison Sandra L. Past Delegates: Marcia M. (GST), Jayme C., Miriam McK, Willie W., Kathi M. Convention Chairs: AFG - Ben P. for Lisa, SoCal A.A.- Shaina.
Absent: DRs from: 8, 10, 36, 39, 48, 60, 64, 78. AIS-LDC Liaisons: Inland Empire, LA County, OC, Spanish Intergroup, Ventura County Intergroup.

Tim, Immediate Past Delegate–corrected that Renee is the *Interim* Alternate Delegate. Noted that Patty B. has not been a DR so she is not qualified to be the Treasurer.

Teresa, Delegate– Some Officers do not recognize Patty as the Interim Treasurer.

Micheila –Bylaws need to be addressed, perhaps at a special Assembly, which will be discussed later in Agenda. Stated that she has the delegated authority to make certain appointments as Chair.

One member suggested that this conversation needs to be taken offline.

Another member asked who the "us" was who made the decision not to affirm the Interim Treasurer. The answer: the Delegate, Interim Alternate Delegate, Secretary and the Immediate Past Delegate.

One member noted that at the November Assembly, there was discussion about whether or not the requirements for Treasurer could be broadened to other members.

Miriam, a Past Delegate and member of the Bylaws Committee, was surprised that the issue of the Bylaws has been brought up today. Noted that this panel has had a rocky start due to conflicting interpretations of the Chair's power to appoint with or without consulting with the other Officers.

One member requested that we return to the agenda. Disturbed by the "hierarchy" whereby a "cabal" of Officers make a decision and present their decision to the Board. She expressed the hope that there can be a loving interchange about these differing views.

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One member noted that this is the first meeting at which we've had this kind of discussion.

D) District/DR information – chairperson@scws-al-anon.org -- **Micheila L.**

1. What cities are in your District
2. How many Active, registered meetings are in your District
3. How many GRs attend your District meetings.
4. Website and anonymity regarding DR email addresses with last names or work email addresses

E) Secretary – secretary@scws-al-anon.org -- **Donna E.**

● **Approval of August 19, 2023 Committee Meeting Minutes** *https://www.scws-al-anon.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Draft-minutes-AWSC-August-19-2023.pdf*

Several changes were suggested to the Minutes. Those will be incorporated into the final version of the Minutes posted on the website.

Kristin, D66: second, Mykel, D24: Vote to approve the amended Minutes from the August 19, 2023, AWSC Meeting: Yay: 24 Nay: 0 Abstain: 7.

F) Treasury Report – treasurer@scws-al-anon.org -- **Cathy S. (former Treasurer)**
● Update on Financial Review (previously referred to as the "audit") & Financial Report through 12/31/2023
–Presented the financials (net income $11,707.43)
–The audit for 2023 was rescheduled until the end of February because of bad weather.
–Clarification: service trips for panel members are once per panel, per Board member.
–SCWS contributed total of $50K to WSO in 2022, $30K in 2023.
–SCAC's records are shown on the SCWS spreadsheet. May give the impression that SCWS has more money in "our" account because their funds are included in the "bottom line" in our checking account.
–Question about whether there is a way to remove the SCAC accounts so that the balance doesn't seem inflated.
–Suggestion re putting more money from our savings account into a CD so that it will earn more.
–Suggestion re explaining how and when we distribute funds to WSO and which year those funds are attributed to.
–We haven't technically "posted" the January contributions ($14K) yet. This will be the duty of the new Treasurer.
–We have a list of physical assets on a Google document; we update it regularly. The check scanner belongs to the bank; we rent it from them for a monthly fee. We can add more information to that list to make sure it is up to date.
–Question re whether we'll be using the already-purchased "clickers" for voting in the future, when we meet in person.
- Chair answered that already-purchased "clickers" are now defunct and new solutions to be explored for voting in the future, for both meeting in person and online

G) Observe 7th Tradition
Question re "suggested contributions" from the Districts: Each District has the autonomy to determine the amount of its contribution.

Ann H.: Presentation on *Conflict Resolution* and *Knowledge-Based Decision-Making.* These presentations can be found on the SCWS website: https://www.scws-al-anon.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/2.-CR-presentationREV.-2_24.pdf
https://www.scws-al-anon.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/4.-CR-Grp-Practice-Updated-2_10_24-1_9_22.pdf
https://www.scws-al-anon.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/1.KBDM-ppt-6_23.pdf
https://www.scws-al-anon.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/KBDM-Quick-Reference-Tool-2021.pdf
https://www.scws-al-anon.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/KBDM-Framing-the-Topic-WORKSHEET.pdf

Various suggestions were offered regarding how to get members to participate in KBDM conversations.

H) <u>Old Business</u> – Bylaws Committee: revising and updating Bylaws; suggested reviewing and voting at April 6th Special Assembly

–Bylaws Committee members: Tim P., Miriam M., and Willie W., all Past Delegates.
–Chair read a statement from an Al-Anon member and attorney, Belinda E., who has counseled SCWS on various matters for several years and is available to advise the AWSC members regarding any revisions to the Bylaws from a legal perspective. Shared contact information for Belinda in the chat for any interested members who wish to reach out to her.
–April 6 is spring break weekend for some SoCal school districts; perhaps not an ideal date to hold a Special Assembly.
–The Bylaws are not in "disarray" or "deficient" and do meet the qualifications for the state and the IRS.
–SCWS incorporated as a 501(c)(3) in order to gain significantly reduced costs for the mailing out of *The Bulletin* newsletter which at the time was the Area's largest business expense.
–The Bylaws have been updated to reflect changes in the Service Manual and motions that have been passed at the Assemblies that are pertinent to the Bylaws.
–GRs review the revisions as presented on the current document prior to voting on the amended Bylaws as a whole, every three years.
–What happens when Officer positions are not filled during elections and they need to be filled? They are appointed as "Interim" Officers by Chairperson until the next Assembly, at which qualified candidates who have submitted resumes stand for the position(s) and are elected per Area Election Procedures.
–Items can be added to the Bylaws for future updates.
–We need an Area procedure manual to spell out details of the "how to's" of various procedures. Bylaws are not intended to address items in detail.
–Interim Officer positions are temporary, and are followed by an election at the next Assembly
–Question whether the Bylaws Committee is going to move forward in the future as it has been constituted in the past. Chair: Yes, for the immediate future. It could go in a different direction in the future.
–The Bylaws should be a record of the issues that GRs have already voted on.
–The purpose of the April 6 Special Assembly would be to resolve the different interpretations of several issues that need to be resolved by the GRs.
–The Bylaws Committee will not be accepting new changes to the Bylaws until after this past revision is voted on at the May Assembly with a "yes" or "no" vote by the GRs.
–The "old business" of voting to approve the most recent revision of the Bylaws (which were on the November Assembly Agenda) will move to the next Assembly in May.

<u>12:00 p.m. Lunch Break – (12:20pm to 1:00pm)</u>

Concepts read by: District Representative #30, Gloria.

Continued the discussion regarding the Special Assembly in April:
–The Bylaws Committee updates the Bylaws based on the votes of GRs over the previous 3 years. They do not include material that has not been voted on by the GRs. They send progressive revisions to the Officers, the Board, and the AWSC prior to presenting the draft to the GRs. The document is posted 45 days before the voting Assembly. The GRs can ask questions of the Bylaws Committee during that time.
–Two separate issues: 1) the revision, posting and presentation of the Bylaws–that could be voted on at the May Assembly. 2) the GRs to give input into how they want the Chair, the Officers, and the Board to communicate, collaborate, and make decisions. That would be the purpose of the Special Assembly.
–When will we vote on the final revision of the Bylaws? It would have to be May in order to have a 45-day notice.
–New GRs step into those service positions all of the time. It might not be a bad idea to delay the vote until November in order to give new GRs the opportunity to learn about the information.
–Some things have changed over several panels without discussion.
–Willie – since the Bylaws revisions weren't addressed at the November 2023 Assembly, they are "old

business" to be presented at the May Assembly.
–It may be hard to get enough GRs to attend a Special Assembly.
–Not sure about the direction of the meeting from today.
–Concern about how the GRs will perceive the conflict in a way that discourages them to be of service; this is not attractive as they look up to the Board.
–Hire outside help/consultant to help resolve this, our Area has the money; do KBDM as well on it
–Our leaders are our trusted servants and we get to presume goodwill
–How to come to a middle way or compromise
–Having a special Assembly might increase the controversy
–Concept Ten from Service Manual–important to read the comments around it not just the Concept
–Suggested a group conscience and inventory within the Board
–The Bylaws will be on the May Assembly for the GRs to vote whether or not to approve them at that time.

Poll: Bylaws to be discussed and voted on at May Assembly: 30 Yays; 6 Nays; 5 Abstentions

2. Area Assembly Task Force: Hybrid Meetings & Voting Procedures
Tim: The Long Beach Church did not work out.
–Some discussion about whether the GRs should vote on whether or not to hold a hybrid Assembly.
–Reluctant to push ahead and proceed to a hybrid Assembly given that the GRs have not voted on it formally.
–Hybrid is a more "inclusive" format
–What would the costs be of hosting a hybrid Assembly; how would the voting take place if DRs are online and some of their GRs are in the physical room
–Suggestion to take this as a new business item to the GRs to get their input at the May Assembly
–Members of the Task Force put a lot of work into finding a venue that is reasonably priced. It's harder than one may think to find places that are suitable and reasonably priced.
–We will have to run this by our GRs because the budget may have to be more than $2K per meeting.
–Perhaps look at colleges and universities.
–The room in the Glendale Church where we previously held our Assemblies held 350 people.

Poll: Meet virtually for the May Assembly and at that Assembly, ask the GRs what they would like to do as far as meeting either hybrid or virtually only. (Task Force to present venue options for consideration at that time.)
Yays = 33. Nays = 0 Abstentions = 2

3. 2028 International Convention Application – completed and submitted

4. Alateen Meetings Status – There is no current policy that would make it possible for Alateens to attend virtual meetings that originate locally. No Alateen meetings should have a Zoom component. There are 5 electronic Alateen meetings on the Al-Anon Family Groups app.

I) Alternate Delegate's Report – altdelegate@scws-al-anon.org -- **Renee M.**

- Sharing of Service (SOS) Report – Donna reported on the SOS.
- The *Forum* –"promoted" the Forum via PDF presentation and encouraged everyone to subscribe to it and have their District's GRs talk about it at their meetings. It's Conference Approved and convenient to take when traveling. Many groups subscribe to the Forum so that they make it available on their literature table.

J) Delegate's Report – delegate@scws-al-anon.org -- **Teresa F.**
–Wants to be available to our members. Will go to the Area's District meetings.
–Southwest Regional Delegates Meeting (SWRDM) is being hosted by Southern California (March 8-10 at the Hilton Costa Mesa) and everyone is invited to attend. There is no registration fee for attending as a "guest." Guests do not have a voice or a vote at the meetings but there are opportunities to meet and talk with Delegates, Past Delegates, Trustees and other members who are of service in the other states in the Southwest Region (California North & South, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Hawaii).

K) New Business

1. Our Primary Purpose: Shaping an Area Mission and Vision Statement. Something to discuss more in the future.
2. Together We Can Make It: Creating our Annual Operating Funds & Planning Dream Projects. PDF presented by Patty B. Interim Treasurer treasurer@scws-al-anon.org. Will discuss more in the future.
3. August 2023 Purchase Overage of Area Translation Equipment–spent $2,283.74 including tax on the equipment. Our Area hosted the Board of Trustees "Road Trip" in October of 2023, when we discovered that the translation equipment that we bought for our Spanish members many years ago was inoperable. We bought new equipment that exceeded the $2,000 limit for expenditures without GR approval. Will report this to the GRs at May Assembly.
4. Knowledge-Based Decision-Making (KBDM) & Conflict Resolution Trainings for GRs and DRs – there are several presentations about both KBDM and Conflict Resolution on our scws-al-anon.org website. In addition, Ann H. is available to participate in workshops and/or trainings with Districts. (See G: after 7th Tradition in the Agenda; was moved up to earlier in the day due to scheduling conflict.)

L) Hospitality Report Vacant

M) District Representative Reports

D3 - Delfina M,	D6 - Sean N-G,	D8 - absent,	D9 - Denise H.	D10 - absent
D12 - Cindy P.	D17 - Heather G.	D21 - Sandra W.	D24-Mykel M.	D27 - Nate S.
D30 - Gloria S.	D33 - Bonnie R.	D36 - absent	D39-vacant	D40 - Willie
D42 -	D45	D48	D51-	D54
D57	D60	D63	D64	D66 - Kristin
D69	D72			

Ended the meeting at 4:02pm. Last report was D40's.

N) Coordinators Reports

AIS-LDC Coordinator . . . . . ais-ldc@scws-al-anon.org . . . . . Yoly W-H.
Archives . . . . . archives@scws-al-anon.org. . . . . Kathy G.
Area Alateen Communications Coordinator. . alateencommunications@scws-al-anon.org. . . . . Vacant
Area Alateen Events Coordinator . . . . . alateenevents@scws-al-anon.org. . . . . .Tina S.
Area Alateen Member Coordinator . . . . . alateenmember@scws-al-anon.org. . . . . .Vacant
Area Alateen Process Person. . . . . .aapp@scws-al-anon.org. . . . . Suzanne P.
Area Alateen Sponsor Coordinator . . . . . .alateensponsor@scws-al-anon.org. . . . . .Yvette K.B.
Bulletin . . . . . bulletin@scws-al-anon.org. . . . . .Irene C.
Cooperating w/Professional Community . . . . .cpc@scws-al-anon.org . . . . . .Nicole W.
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Public Information . . . . . .publicinformation@scws-al-anon.org . . . . . Ruby G.
Spanish Coordinator . . . . . .spanish@scws-al-anon.org. . . . . .Vacant
Website . . . . . .webhost@scws-al-anon.org. . . . . Heather G.

O) Convention Chairpersons Reports

· AFG Convention (Al-Anon) · So-Cal. AA Convention (Al-Anon)

P) Intergroup Liaisons Reports

· Inland Empire · Intergrupal Hispana (L.A. County) · Los Angeles County · Intergrupal Hispana (San Diego) · Orange County · San Diego County · Ventura County

Q) Ask-It Basket – Q's & A's: Alternate Delegate (if time permits)

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R) Al-Anon-Related Announcements (if time permits)

Closing time - 4:00 p.m. - Close with Al-Anon Declaration

These Draft Minutes were not voted on at the August 17, 2024 AWSC Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna E., Area Secretary

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