Area World Service ASSEMBLY

&

Area World Service COMMITTEE (AWSC) Meeting

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What is Southern California World Service (SCWS)?

Southern California World Service of AFG, Inc. is a California Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation and a charitable 501(c)(3) tax-exempt entity per the Internal Revenue Service.

The five elected Assembly Officers and the Immediate Past Delegate (3-year term) are the **Board of Directors** of the nonprofit entity and have legal authority and responsibility for the corporation.

The Assembly Officers, the Immediate Past Delegate (IPD), and appointed Coordinators are the **Service Panel** members of Southern California World Service and have traditional (not legal) authority.

(Please note: Members of Al-Anon in SCWS who also are members of A.A. are ineligible to hold Al-Anon service positions that vote in matters affecting another group or Al-Anon or A.A. as a whole.)

What is the Area World Service Committee (AWSC)?

In between Assemblies, AWSC Meetings are held. The members of the AWSC are:

- All District Representatives (DRs)
- Elected Officers (Chair, Delegate, Alternate Delegate, Treasurer, Secretary)
- Area Coordinators (Board members with specific service jobs, such as Alateen Sponsor Coordinator, Archives, Literature, Website, etc.)
- Chairs of Area-Recognized Conventions (AFG, SCAAC, SCAC)
- Al-Anon Information Service (AIS)/Intergroup Office Liaisons
- SCWS Past Delegates who live in the SCWS Area
- Other Area Past Delegates and Past Trustees who live in the SCWS Area

What is on the Agenda of the AWSC Meeting?

- The Assembly Agenda is planned
- Information and reports are conveyed
- Area Delegate gives a World Service Report in May and reports on recent communications from the World Service Office (WSO) and the Board of Trustees (BOT)
- Decisions may be made that cannot wait until the next Assembly

What is the "Assembly?"

- These Area meetings are held twice a year (3rd Saturday of May and November)
- The elected Group Representatives (GRs) for Al-Anon and Alateen groups gather to discuss and vote on Area business and policies.

What is the *purpose* of the Assembly?

"To assure adequate interchange of information and ideas about service activities, not only in the immediate Area, but where Worldwide Al-Anon is concerned." (*Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual 2026-2029*, pg. 158).

The Assemblies at which there no elections are *Interim* Assemblies.
Every three years in November, we hold an *Election* Assembly.

Who are Assembly members?

- Group Representatives (GR)
- The AWSC members:
  - District Representatives (DR)
  - Elected Area Officers (Delegate, Alternate Delegate, Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer)
  - 18 Area Coordinators—members of the World Service Board
  - AIS/Intergroup Liaisons
  - Chairs of the 3 Area-Recognized Conventions
  - SCWS Past Delegates, other Area Past Delegates, and Past Trustees who live in the SCWS Area

All members of the Assembly have a “voice” (allowed to speak at the microphone).

Only registered GRs (or their registered Alternate in their absence) are eligible to vote.

Where is the Assembly/AWSC Meeting held?

Assembly Meetings are hybrid meetings held in person and on Zoom. AWSC meeting are held on Zoom. Go to scws-al-anon.org website for information, agenda, and other meeting information.

What time does the Assembly/AWSC meeting start? How long is it?

- The GR Workshop (prior to Assembly) and the DR Workshop (prior to AWSC Meeting) are two hour meetings that begin at 10:00am on Zoom.
- The Assembly and AWSC meetings **start promptly at 9:00am and conclude at 4:00pm.**
- There is usually a 30-minute lunch break.
- It is each GRs/DRs responsibility to attend the entire Assembly/AWSC Meeting, whenever possible.

What topics are discussed at the Assembly?

Topics on the Assembly Agenda might include:

- GRs accept Minutes from previous Assembly
- Voting on issues of concern to the Area brought by the AWSC
- Area Delegate gives a World Service Report in May and reports on recent communications from the World Service Office (WSO) and the Board of Trustees (BOT)
- Reports given by Officers, Coordinators, AIS Liaisons, Convention Chairs
- Time for GRs' ideas, opinions and questions
- Panel or open mic discussions, depending on time constraints
- Task Force and Thought Force Reports/presentations may be given
- Workshops and group discussions

Elections Assembly

- Group Representatives vote for SCWS Officers every 3 years.

- DRs poll GRs before the Assembly to estimate how many will be attending. DRs report the number of GRs to the Group Records Coordinator during roll call, for voting purposes.

- Please see *Group Representative Guidelines*, G-11

How do DRs/GRs prepare for the Assembly/AWSC Meeting?

- Read the Minutes from the previous Assembly/AWSC Meeting—available on our SCWS website: scws-al-anon.org
- Check the Assembly/AWSC link on the SCWS website for additional presentations/reports to read.
- Bring with you:
  - the current *Service Manual*
  - 7th Tradition donation from your Group/District (per your Group's/District's group conscience)
  - paper and pen for taking notes
  - lunch for Assemblies if you attend in person
- Bring your love and enthusiasm for Al-Anon/Alateen service!

Can all Al-Anon & Alateen members attend the Assembly/AWSC Meeting?

- All Al-Anon and Alateen members are welcome to attend the Assembly and/or AWSC Meeting as Guests.

- Members-at-large are not considered to be “members” of the Assembly or AWSC Meeting.

- Members-at-large/Guests do not have a voice or a vote at the Assembly or AWSC Meeting.

What is provided at the Assembly/AWSC Meeting (when we meet in person)?

- Copies of some documents presented at the Assembly/AWSC Meeting.
- Hot coffee, hot water for tea, etc.
- Snacks and bottled water are provided by several Districts on a rotating basis.
- Area-recognized Conventions may bid on providing lunch for Assembly members to purchase. Watch for email communications before the Assembly regarding lunch.

What is the “etiquette” at Assemblies and AWSC Meetings for asking questions or making comments?

- We use Knowledge-Based Decision-Making (KBDM) for an Informed Group Conscience.

- To find out more about the KBDM process, click “Members” on scws-al-anon.org: KBDM is in the dropdown menu.

- The Area Chairperson will review the KBDM “guidelines” for asking questions and making comments at the beginning of each Assembly/AWSC Meeting.