AL-ANON - SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WORLD SERVICE (SCWS)
SPECIAL AREA ASSEMBLY – SATURDAY, JULY 25, 2026

Draft MINUTES

Online **9:00 AM – Noon**

Members were asked to:

- For Zoom Meeting Training Instructions, go to https://scws-al-anon.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/ZoomAssemblyTrainingReviewEnglish2026.pdf
- Keep the meeting "open" and not end their electronic connection if they stepped away from their computer/phone during the meeting
- Note the estimated time allocated per Agenda item to help stay on track.
- "Chat" to our Tech Team if they had technical issues.
- DRs: "Chat" to Records Coordinator, Cathy W. when the number of GRs changed. Roll was taken after the break.
- Closed Captioning was used for Spanish Translation. Members were instructed to click on the Zoom CC logo "up arrow" and select language. This feature did not work during the meeting.
- Rename themselves for the meeting: 03 DR Mary P., 76 ADR Tom H. (if DR not here), 00 Chair Irene C., 00 AIS Lisa B., GST Bob A. https://scws-al-anon.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Area-Zoom-Meeting-Guidelines.pdf

8:15-8:55 a.m. – Sign in, change virtual name tags on Zoom

1. 9:02 a.m.—Chairperson's Report — chairperson@scws-al-anon.org **Irene C.**

A. Moment of Silence – Serenity Prayer
B. Welcome – GRs, DRs, Service Panel, AIS Liaisons and Conventions Chairs, and Past Delegates
C. Meeting Transcription – Participants instructed to chat to "Alt Delegate" with their position and question or comment to be included in the Minutes (if they did not want to be included in the transcript).
D. Interpretation services were available on Zoom using Closed Captioning. There was a software glitch with the Spanish interpretation feature on Zoom.
E. Guidelines for Meeting Participation & Who Has a Voice and a Vote

2. Traditions read by: Linda L.. District # 45

3. Bylaws Amendment and Reinstatement Teresa F. (123 total participants at this time)

- All of the documents referred to during the presentation could be found on the Area Assembly Information page at https://scws-al-anon.org/area-assembly-information/.
- Presented the *Restated and Amended Bylaws of SCWS of AFG, Inc.*, which reviewed the history of the Bylaws and the current major revisions.
- Teresa F., Delegate, went over all questions that were sent in by members prior to today's meeting. Those questions and answers were posted on the the SCWS website and will be considered to be an Addendum to the Minutes to today's meeting: https://scws-al-anon.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/QUESTIONS-FOR-SPECIAL-ASSEMBLY-JULY-25-2026.pdf

QUESTIONS

- Who are the Board of Directors and how many people are voting (2/3rd). There are 6 Board of Directors (Delegate, Alternate Delegate, Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Immediate Past Delegate). Four are 2/3rds.

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Anything significant would require attendance by all members–at least 2/3rd vote.

- Behind the scenes, the Board decides on the terms of President, Vice-President for legal purposes.
- Questions about Concept Seven: the legal rights are held by the Board of Directors and the Assembly has traditional rights.
- Who are the officers now? Our current officers of the Assembly are also the Board of Directors of the legal entity. The current Chair is the "President." The Secretary (of the Assembly) is the Secretary of the Corporation.
- The Board seems to have "a lot of power." The members elect the officers of the Assembly, which affirms them as /the Board of Directors. The current policy regarding removal of an officer is the same policy that had been voted on in the past. That policy is also in line with the policy at the World Service Office (WSO).
- If the Board of Directors/Officers of the Corporation are the same people, what different work do you do as officers of the Assembly versus as officers of the corporation? For example: when we are planning the agenda for the Assembly or AWSC meetings, the officers are acting as officers of the Assembly. If the Officers have a conversation about something "legal" (for example, determining what to do with a Certificate of Deposit that has matured), they are acting as Officers of the Corporation.
- Do District and AIS/Intergroup Offices follow this model? Districts are not incorporated. AIS offices create their own Bylaws.
- Did the Assembly vote to recall the previous Bylaws? No. The past practice of voting on the previous Bylaws was out of order, legally, since the Assembly is the traditional body and should not be "seen" in the eyes of the law.
- Is Southern California Alateen Conference (SCAC) considered to be a separate legal entity with its own Bylaws? No. There is a partnership agreement with SCAC.
- In November, when the Group Representatives (GRs) elect the officers of the Assembly, they will be affirming the Officers of the legal Corporation. Three years from then, the outgoing Directors will elect the incoming Directors.

COMMENTS

- One member expressed the concern that the "power" is being given to six people to make decisions "unilaterally."
- One member noted that It was not illegal for the Assembly to be included in the bylaws, even though it violated our traditions. Because that was the case and the Assembly has voted on Bylaws changes in the past, the Assembly should vote to recall the current amended and restated Bylaws.
- When the GRs elect the officers of the Assembly/Board of Directors–they are giving those members the "authority" to act on behalf of the Assembly.
- One member appreciated the work involved in changing something that has been done a certain way for thirty years. If the GRs are "invisible" – then are they spectators? No, the Assembly will continue to be the decision-making body regarding all Area policies.
- One member was on a Bylaws Task Force in Florida. Tradition 8: Al-Anon Twelfth Step work should remain forever non-professional, but our service centers may employ special workers." "Our leaders are but trusted servants, they do not govern."
- One member suggested reading page 201 of the *Service Manual* regarding good leadership.

10:40 a.m. - 10:50am—Break

4. **9:10 a.m.—Roll Call – Group Records Coordinator – Cathy W.** grouprecords@scws-al-non.org
   (DRs were asked to update Cathy if they added/subtracted GRs from their total after roll call.)

Total number of Group Representatives (GRs) in attendance: 86 as of 11:10am

SCWS BOARD POSITION	NAME	Present/ Absent

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Alternate Delegate & Forum Coordinator	Sean N.-G.	P
Chairperson	Irene C.	P
Delegate	Teresa F.	P
Secretary	Donna E.	P
Co-Treasurer	Sandy	P
Co-Treasurer	Mary M.	P
Immediate Past Delegate	Tim P.	P
AIS-LDC Coordinator	Yoly W-H.	P
Archives Coordinator	Kathleen G.	P
Area Alateen **Communications** Coordinator	Selena J.	A
Area Alateen **Events** Coordinator	Jeri M.	A
Area Alateen **Member** Coordinator	Shana B.	A
Area Alateen Process Person	Betty D.	P
Area Alateen **Sponsor** Coordinator	Tina N.	P
Bulletin Coordinator ("Newsletter Editor")	vacant	
Cooperating w/ Professional Community	Wendy B.	A
Group Records Coordinator	Cathy W.	P
Hospitality Coordinator	Maria N.	A
Institutions Coordinator	Shauna S.	P
Insurance Coordinator	Chris C.	A
Literature Coordinator	Annah H.	P
Public Information Coordinator	Cherie S.	P
Spanish Coordinator	Marilen H.	P
Technology Coordinator	Sue B.	P
Website Coordinator	Heather G.	A

AIS-LDC LIAISON	**NAME**	**Present/ Absent**
Inland Empire	Steven F.	A
Los Angeles County	Bradley R.	A
Orange County	vacant	
San Diego County	Joy	A
Spanish Intergroup	Eliazar F.	A

CONVENTION CHAIRPERSONS	**NAME**	**Present/ Absent**

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AFG Convention	Melody (2027)	A
Southern CA Alateen Conference	Bernadette H.	A
SoCal AA Convention/Al-Anon Chair	Charlene (2026) Frances J. (2027)	A A

PANEL	NAME	Present/ Absent
2003-2005	Miriam M.	A
1997-1999	Willie W.	P

D#	DR/ADR	PRESENT/ ABSENT	# of GRs	D#	DR/ADR	PRESENT/ ABSENT	# of GRs
03	**Delfina M.**	P	2	**40**	**Peggy B.**	A	1
06	**Sarah H.**	A	2	**42**	**Emelinda McG.**	A	2
08	**Jessie S.**	P	2	**45**	**Patricia D.**	P	5
09	vacant			**48**	**Dora Luz L.**	P	0
10	**Loreina C.**	A	0	**51**	**Sandra M.**	P	2
12	**Newt G.**	A	1	**54**	**Laurie M.**	P	1
15	vacant			**57**	**Diane M. P.**	P	6
17	**Ann H.**	P	3	**60**	**Karen G.**	P	6
21	**Eddie D.**	P	4	**63**	**Diane J.**	A	0
24	**Barry**	P	4	**64**	**Zully C.**	P	14
27	**Nate S.**	P	6	**66**	**Alfredo G.**	A	7
30	**Gloria S.**	P	3	**69**	**Werner B.**	P	6
33	**Sandra L.**	P	1	**72**	**Randy B.**	A	2
36	**Coy C.**	A	2	**75**	**Trenta R. T.**	P	2
39	**Gerardo L.**	A	2	**78**	**Leticia G./ADR**	P	1

5. Policy from Previous Bylaws – Irene C.

6. Discussion and Vote on Eligibility to become an officer of the Assembly and Board of Director.

- Reviewed the Responsibilities of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors has legal and fiduciary responsibilities, the responsibilities of the officers of the Assembly are traditional.
- There was a link provided to a survey regarding today's meeting. If members had questions or comments about the Bylaws or today's meeting, they were encouraged to fill out the survey.
- *Policy for Officer Eligibility* – This policy is in our new Bylaws. We want to ensure that our Assembly affirms the qualifications of Officer candidates. The "new" qualification is to have served as a District Representative for at least 18 months.
- Because of the elections coming up in November, the request was for the GRs to vote on the eligibility qualifications.

QUESTIONS:

- What is continuous attendance for five years? Attendance at Al-Anon group meetings (not necessarily

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Area Assemblies).

- Some concern was expressed about the definition of "good financial standing with the Area." The presentation defined that criteria. In the past, a former officer did not submit receipts for expenses in a timely manner, per stated procedures. Although Officers are not required to submit expenses, if they are going to submit for reimbursement, they must do so in a timely manner, following the current procedures and timing. Not doing so creates a number of problems for the Treasurer, the budget, and reconciling the Area's accounts and budget at the end of the fiscal year.
- How is residency in Southern California validated? Candidates provide their residential address on their application..
- How do we know that they have been in the DR position for at least 18 months and for 5 years? The candidates submit an application.
- What is different from the past? These have been listed in several different documents, and are now listed on the Job Descriptions. The specification of the eighteen-month stipulation is new.

COMMENTS:

- Other Areas have wrestled with these issues (i.e., the requirements)--it should specify that the service should be in Southern California, so that they are familiar with the practices in this Area.
- One member who did not expect to be voting today, and would have liked to consult with her group members prior to the vote.

Quick poll: Are you ready to vote on the qualifications? (84 voting members)

Are you ready to vote (on the motion regarding eligibility qualifications to become an officer of the Assembly/Board of Director)?			
Motion: Read by Chair		**Seconded: no second**	
Yea **72**	**Nay** **5**	**Abstentions** **6**	**Adjusted Percentage** **93.5%**

Motion: To be eligible to become an officer of the Assembly and a Board of Director, applicants must: ● **reside in the Southern California Area,** ● **have served beyond the Group Level** ● **have been a District Representative for at least 18 months** ● **have participated for 5 continuous years in Al-Anon, and** ● **is in good financial standing with the Area.**			
Motion: Meg W., D66		**Seconded: Josefa J., D64**	
Yea **78**	**Nay** **3**	**Abstentions** **2**	**Adjusted Percentage** **96.30%**

7. Hybrid Election Assembly on November 21, 2026 – Irene C.

8. Al-Anon-Related Announcements

- August 22, 2026, Longtimer's Event
- The District Rep's workshop is coming up on Saturday, August 1, 2026.

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9. 12:02pm—Closed with Al-Anon Declaration

Respectfully submitted,
Donna E., Area Secretary

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