

## AWSC Minutes

February 20, 2010, 9 a.m.- 5 p.m.  
Judson Baptist Church  
525 Idylwood Drive SE, Salem, OR

The meeting was called to order by Area Chair Rita B at 9 :00 a.m. with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. The Traditions were read by Barb B and the Concepts were read by Carolyn H.

**Roll Call:** Mary W.

- AWSC members excused: Glen G – Misty L
- Members absent
- Past Delegates absent and missed – Susan G.

**Secretary's report:** Mary W.

- Judy J had question on last page of minutes on motion 7- do we need to make the description of motion 7 more clear?
- Roland discussion is on p 5-7 so he feels it is pretty clear
- Betty suggested that we say "motion outline above" on p 10 so that it is more clear.
- Sue B suggests "this is just for the Nov 2009 assembly"
- Eileen suggest that two years from now someone will hear this motion and ask what does it mean
- Motion made, seconded and passed– now read on p 10  
"That the above procedure be used at our November 2009 election assembly."

**Housekeeping:** Barbara S, District 4

- The meeting space rent is \$150; Dist 4 agreed to pay for it entirely
- General facility and food announcements were made

**Introduction:** Cindy E., alternate delegate, led the group in getting to know each other and sharing

**Treasurers Report:** Bunny G.

- Expenses and Income – Jan 1<sup>st</sup> from Feb 15
  - Balance as of 2/15/2010 \$11,252.18
  - Income: 1/1/2010 – 2/15/2010 \$ 1,933.09
  - Expenses: 1/1/2010 – 2/15/2010 \$ 2,909.07
  - Area Cash Balances as 2/15/2010 \$11,252.18
- As we receive donations from groups, we need to educate them about getting all necessary information on checks. Checks should be made out to Oregon area AFG and should include group# and name
- Roland asked that item rows match up to the actual approved budget and asked to have budget sent out before next assembly to review
- Bunny will do the total budget at end of February
- Discussed travel area funds - Oregon area handbook on section IV on p11

Bunny reviewed expense request forms and mileage reimbursement

**Delegates Report:** Bette R.

- Panel 50 pass on the message to all AWSC - enjoy the ride, have fun and joy
- E community is a password protected site for coordinators to share material. Folders are used by WSO to share info to coordinators for their positions
- Board of trustees – preparing for 50<sup>th</sup> annual world service conference
  - Sandy from trustee central Canada called Betty about T.E.A.M. events
    - Are you planning a T.E.A.M?
    - Do you need help for planning team event?
    - Can have WSO officer visit and help with that
  - Betty has conference mentor, Mary from Illinois
  - Goal of the Board of Trustees to have more interaction with AA to get message to AA that Al-Anon is alive and well
  - Chosen Agenda items - 2 out of 15
    - How can members of WSO develop an effective strategy to bring message to minority communities and retain them as active members?
    - What do we do if members in service position are not able to perform requirements of their position?
  - Agenda
    - Speaker on diversity - 85% of membership is over 50, white women
      - 88% Caucasian – not effective in assimilating minority members
      - International outreach very successful because have to become part of culture of country
      - Hearts in right place but approach not working
  - Sunday Apr 11 orientation for new delegates
    - Share one highlight that has happened in our area one positive, one negative in relation to group conscious, email Betty if have ideas
    - 2 leader workshops Betty has chosen to attend
      - Responsibility as a conference member to expand hope
      - diversity

**Communicator Report:** Lisa B.

The full report is on page 10

- `may not be using resources to full capacity
    - Some groups want no communicator; some want 10
    - Question best way to use this resource
      - Options
      - Get rid of communicator
      - Put on web site
      - Use email server
      - Continue to print
        - Send to DR and she will give to GRs
        - Not feasible to send 10 to one group, 4 to another and 1 to a third
    - Give this to Membership Outreach to work on.
- Betty would like to take 100 copies of the Communicator to WSO

**Review of Trusted Servant Profile used at November 2009 election:** Colleen G.

The full report can be found pages 5 & 6.

- Roland suggested a thought force committee take trusted service profile and do revisions to present to AWSC
- Volunteers for thought force
  - Roland
  - Jodie P.
  - Barb B
  - Rita
  - Linda
- Action Committees / Breakout sessions / Judy J.
  - Judy presented about the history of action committees, what their purpose is and who makes up each committee.
  - Ask GR's if they are interested in serving on business services (don't need to include business services in numbering off at Mar assembly since don't need many)
  - Choose recorder at the beginning of each meeting

Public Action committee's full report can be found on pages 6 & 7.

Ongoing Business

**Past Delegate Report:** Roland C., \

- Knowledge Based Decision Making (KBDM) Full report is on pages 7-10
- Area is In transition between KBDM and Robert's Rules
  - Rita will gather more information about what is next
  - Next meeting talk about whether we want to put KBDM in Oregon area handbook
- Reports from DR and Coordinator Breakout
  - Bunny gave in depth how to fill out reimbursement and how to use reimbursement chart in new handbook
- Ongoing motions / Sue
  - Front page of handbook on motions is outdated and was replaced. Will be put on-line
  - One time motions will only be in minutes of that meeting
  - 7 motion items in pale grey to be discussed at next AWSC meeting
  - Motions in new handbook are old motions. Remove them and replace with new list of 5 pages
  - Archived many motions and whittled it down to 5 pages of motions
    - Archived motions will no longer be put into handbook
- Cindy E. distributed new Oregon Area Handbook
  - On p3 section to request changes to handbook
- Sue B. discussed request to reconsider process of Ask-it-Basket Questions
  - Roland C. asked for a list of history of ask-it-basket questions from old minutes many questions are asked over and over.
  - Cindy E. rotation of leadership leads to rotation of questions, different delegates give different perspectives to same questions

- Judy J. every regional seminar and conferences has Ask-It-Basket because there are questions out there
- Suggests continue discussion at next AWSC

### Emerging Business

- T.E.A.M event update / Bette
  - Replacing old regional seminar. You work together with WSO to put on event
  - Sent out survey and got back 18, 16 felt should do team event, 2 felt we should not
  - Area has more responsibility
  - Together Empowering Al-anon Members (T.E.A.M.)
  - Magdalena from WA would like to put one together with OR
    - 2011 June SeaBeck 1 hr from Seattle houses 250 people \$100/person housing and food for weekend
    - Other areas are combining to do TEAM events
    - Weekend service event focus on service
    - Ask membership group to look into this
- Archives – taken care by action committee

### **March 20-21, 2010 Assembly:** Sue B, District 7

- Will have potato feed and dessert auction on Friday before sharing meeting
- Potluck lunch on Saturday
- Bring own coffee cups

### **Discussion on Calendars:** Judy J.

- Questions were raised about the calendars distributed by Public Outreach Action Committee.
- Betty read from service manual “use of material to keep Al-Anon focus it is suggested that only Al-Anon material be distributed.”  
Cindy E. mentioned an article in Area Highlights about putting Al-Anon message on placemats, to reach out.
- P100 of service manual – WSO extends permission for posters reserving right to refuse permission. WSO possibility should have reviewed calendar before putting out.
- Judy J. pointed out that there is no advertising so there is no problem using the calendar as a Public Outreach tool.

### **2010 SSM Report :** Cindy E. from District 6 on 2010 April 23-25 SSM.

- Need contact with Hispanic community in Portland area to promote event
- Trish B willing to make some contacts with people in her District

### **June 19, 2010 AWSC meeting:** Cheryl K., District, 16

- meeting will be upstairs in city hall in Brownsville
- \$75 for rental of room and will receive back \$60 if leave room clean. The room is handicap accessible.
- 1 motel in Brownsville or other motels in Albany.

### **2010 July Assembly:** Trish, Districts 11 & 12

- July 17-18 in Gresham “Spark of Recovery and Blast of fun”
- Holiday Inn \$99/night

**Agenda for March 2010 Assembly: Rita B.**

- Action committees
- Bid on assembly for Mar 2011 assembly
- Vote on gas mileage motion
- GR sharing
- DR breakout
- New GR orientation with everyone
- Delegate report
- Education workshop
  - List for attracting GR
  - Education on communicator
  - Concepts of service or traditions

5:00 p.m. Adjournment / Al-Anon Declaration

Take Home Reminders / Upcoming Discussions

- Have Groups plan to bid on upcoming Assemblies. Need host for March 2011 Assembly.
- Vote on gas mileage reimbursement.
- Consider Goals for Panel 50. We will discuss at June AWSC.
- We need a Host for SSM May 2012. We will vote on this at November 2010 Assembly.

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**Trusted Servant Profile Review**

Colleen G.

The form, itself, was compiled from one introduced by WSO in 1993 and by adding vision statement blocks similar to those used on the Trustee Résumés also distributed by WSO.

Trusted Servant Profiles were introduced as a tool to document qualifications through the Links of Service in the Area and with WSO at the June 2009 AWSC and again at the October 2009 AWSC for use at the November elections assembly.

Many of the new Panel 50 members were at the election assembly. We want to hear from them what their views of its use were. We will go around the room and each gets to share or pass. If you hear your thoughts already expressed please don't restate them. If you have an additional thought, please write it down and we will come back to you.

What We Know: The general consensus was the Trusted Servant Profile was an effective tool to use. In using this form we know:

1. Helped members make the decision to stand for a position at the Area level.
2. Allowed individuals to look at personal work experiences and how those skills could be utilized in a service position.
3. Helped clarify experiences on paper to be more coherent at the mic.

4. Was really valuable as a Service Inventory tool. What I have done, where do I go from here, what I may possibly need to improve upon.
5. Helped to identify personal conflicts and conquer them.
6. Helped members to recognize all they have accomplished in service and made them feel good.
7. Had a better understanding of the links of service.
8. Those who took the time to fill out the profile seemed more serious about the position they were standing for.
9. I felt I had more knowledge about the people standing for the positions.
10. Helped the elections go more smoothly.
11. Use of the vision statements helped bring the spiritual aspect of the program into the process.
12. If members' qualifications were published before the election, those of us who are new in service will have a better awareness of who is standing for positions. This could be a shortened version appearing in the newsletter or posted on the area website.
13. Instead of the vision statements, I would like to have candidates write what service has done to help them grow.
14. It is a useful tool needed to move into service at the WSO level.

What We Know: About the form:

1. It freaked me out, because of personal issues in my own life! Now I see it as an effective tool.
2. I just need to say I didn't like it.
3. It was too long and although a valuable tool needs to be shorter. Remove the vision statements.
4. I have a concern that it will keep people from standing for a position they have only become aware they are interested in.

Where Do We Go From Here?

The Area Chair will establish a committee to work on this for further discussion at the June AWSC.

**Public Outreach Proposed Agenda (draft)**

1st meeting March 20, 2010

- 1) introductions all around - while passing contact sheet. Invitation to join Yahoo group with instructions
- 2) discussion and creation of our Statement of Purpose for this panel's PO Action Committee
- 3) defining roles - Concept 10. Service responsibility is balanced by carefully defined service authority and double-headed management is avoided.
- 4) exploration of tools: WSO Conference Call summary, e-community
- 5) brainstorming of project ideas. (Barbara to bring flip-chart style pad - to be reimbursed from our budget)

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General information on Action Committees is found in the Oregon Area Handbook, SEC I - PG 3+4.

The committee purpose is to provide a time and place where group representatives and other members can work together to find ways to strengthen Al-Anon and Alateen.

We learn from each other how to carry our message of hope. The committees will meet three times yearly at the assemblies for 90 minutes to provide an opportunity to brainstorm ideas, select ideas and promote enthusiasm for those ideas. Each committee has the goal to assist all members of our groups to help carry these ideas out.

The committees can determine projects and action steps to accomplish these goals. All area Al-Anon groups will be encouraged to participate through reports at the Assembly, the Communicator and actions within the service structure (district meetings). Members will serve on their assigned committee for the entire three-year panel.

The Delegate and the first AWSC meeting of the new panel will assign members. Area Officers, District Representatives, and Past Delegates can request a particular committee, or simply be appointed. GRs will count off at assemblies (1-4) and be assigned to the corresponding committee. After the first assembly of the new panel, their District Representative will appoint new GRs to a committee. This will enable every district to have representation and participation on all four committees.

Public Outreach: To be the communication voice for Al-Anon to the general public. To attract the newcomer and inform professionals about the Al-Anon/Alateen program. To provide knowledge and generate public good will toward Al-Anon. To encourage individual members to become involved in public outreach efforts.

The previous Public Outreach Action Committee (2007-2008-2009) last session's minutes are found here: <http://www.oregonal-anon.org/pdf/publicoutreachminutesjuly09.pdf>

### **Knowledge Based Decision Making (KBDM) Process to reach an INFORMED GROUP CONSCIENCE**

Let me start with a few questions: **Ask yourself these questions...**

*WHEN ENTERING AN AL-ANON BUSINESS MEETING, DO I LEAVE MY PROGRAM OF RECOVERY AT THE DOOR?*

*What does that mean to me? Whether it is a Group Business Mtg., a District Mtg., an Assembly or any other type of business meeting think about these words or phrases taken from various parts of the Service Manual -*

*The Opening –  
Spiritual  
Distorted thinking by trying to force solutions  
Loving Interchange*

*Suggested Preamble to the 12 Steps  
Sharing experience, strength and hope in order to solve common problems*

*Twelve Steps  
12 – Practice these principles in all our affairs*

*Twelve Traditions*

- 1 – Depends upon unity*
- 2 – Trusted Servants*
- 12 – Principles above personalities*

*Twelve Concepts*

- 1 – Groups and Ultimate Responsibility*
- 2 – Delegated Responsibility*
- 3 – Right of Decision*
- 4 – Participation*
- 5 – Protecting Minorities – rights of appeal*
- 9 – Personal Leadership*
- 12 – Spiritual foundation*

*The Closing*

- If you try to keep an open mind*
- Talk to each other*
- Reason things out*
- Let there be no gossip or criticism*

How does KBDM use this approach? We will cover each area in more depth with some explanation but 1<sup>st</sup>:

4 BASIC PARTS:

**OPEN COMMUNICATION –**

- Loving Interchange*
- Talk to each other*
- Reason things out*

**DIALOG BEFORE DELIBERATION –**

- Distorted thinking by trying to force solutions is prevented*
- Sharing experience, strength and hope in order to solve common problems*
- Protecting Minorities – rights of appeal*

**ALL DECISION MAKERS HAVE COMMON ACCESS TO FULL INFORMATION –**

- Depends upon unity*
- Principles above personalities*
- Participation*

**WE EXIST IN A CULTURE OF TRUST –**

- Trusted Servants*
- Let there be no gossip or criticism*

All of the above are SPIRITUAL

HOW DOES IT WORK – HOW IS IT DIFFERENT – WHY CHANGE?

Someone has an idea they would like to get on the agenda to talk about:

HOW DOES IT WORK - Call the person that is responsible for putting together the agenda and say, I would like to have the following topic on the agenda.

HOW IS IT DIFFERENT - you don't need a motion to talk about it. Or you don't need emotion either.

WHY CHANGE – You don't know what you need until you talk about it. Maybe all you need to do IS talk about it.

STARTING THE PROCESS – We talked about the 4 parts of KBDM

**WE EXIST IN A CULTURE OF TRUST**

PRESUME GOODWILL – Everyone has what they believe to be the best for AI-Anon in their heart. You may not agree on what that is. We still love each other.

TRUSTED SERVANTS – If your officers, coordinators, DRs, GRs and other Trusted Servants/other volunteers are **NOT TRUSTED** why are they continuing to serve or being asked to? If you think you can do the job better, next time there is an opportunity BE WILLING. In the meantime; let there be no gossip or criticism. Offer encouragement, suggestions and WHEN ASKED offer your experience, strength and hope. The Right of Participation (Concept 4) is not a right to bitch and complain.

ASK YOURSELF

WHAT DO WE KNOW? WHAT DON'T WE KNOW? WHAT DO WE WANT TO KNOW?

Gather the background information – so that **ALL DECISION MAKERS HAVE COMMON ACCESS TO FULL INFORMATION**

What do we know?

If the 1<sup>st</sup> answer to this question is: **This is the way we have always done it, you need to think about the part where it says “keep an open mind.” I don't know about you, but doing it the way I've always done it is what got me to AI-Anon to begin with and that is the thinking I need to change.**

It's ok to look at how you have done it before to see if it is still working. Don't make assumptions. There are no PROS or CONS. Try to think about everything. Try to consider all possibilities. DO NOT discount or discard anything at this point. You are just gathering information. It is not right or wrong, it is just information. Be thorough.

What don't you know?

Again, ask the same questions. This will take some practice. As the information is gathered and as the “what we know” question is answered, this question will become more evident

What do we want to know?

Be careful about having a set outcome. **Plan the future, not the outcome.** Start the discussion and at some point the action will become known. Be patient. List some goals but you don't have to be specific. Decide who are going to be the decision makers (Concept 4) and TRUST THEM. Spend some time looking at the Traditions and Concepts. Remember, there is only ONE AUTHORITY (Tradition 2). The Groups have ultimate responsibility (Concept 1), it has been delegated (Concept 2) and those with the delegated responsibility have a right to make decisions (Concept 3.)

SO YOU HAVE GATHERED THE BACKGROUND INFORMATION; NOW WHAT?

**DIALOG BEFORE DELIBERATION**

VERY IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER - **NOT ALL DISCUSSIONS AND DECISIONS REQUIRE A MOTION.**

Repeat after me: **NOT ALL DISCUSSIONS AND DECISIONS REQUIRE A MOTION.** Robert's Rules is not CAL.

We don't spend time talking about crossing the 'Ts' and dotting the 'Is'. We talk about the information. Because it is just information without a motion there are no pros/cons (principles above personalities). Because we are discussing all of the information, minority opinions are considered at the same time (Concept 5). We don't reach a decision and then GO BACK to consider the minority...it is part of the process.

SEE HOW FAR YOU CAN PROCEED **WITHOUT** A MOTION.

### **OPEN COMMUNICATION**

Talk to each other, reason things out...let there be no gossip or criticism. Questions may come up that you don't have the answers to. STOP and do more background.

This will take some practice. Be patient. If you have been doing something for a number of years and would like to look at it to see if it could be done better think about this.

Part of what you know is what you have been doing. It may seem like it is really working well for you. You may find it is. It certainly doesn't hurt to check (sort of like a 4<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> Step.) Put together a committee. Let them do the work. I mean, really LET THEM do the work. Don't tell them what you expect other than something like; we've done fund raiser for the past 15 years. We would like to know if it could be more successful.

For the committee - some questions: who, what, when, where, how, how many...etc. All of these could be part of what you know, what you don't know and what you would like to know.

How many things in Al-Anon are so important we must reach a decision TODAY? There are some. We have deadlines for committee assignments, spending considerations and so on. However, if we are talking about annual events, do we have to wait until the month before?

Do you have any Questions?

