

Oregon Area Assembly Minutes  
July 18-19 2009  
Azalea Middle School, Brookings OR  
District 8 Hosting

**Embrace the Legacies: Our Spiritual Bridges to Expand the Future**

The Assembly was called to order by Chairman, Bette R, at 8:30 AM with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. The Steps were read by Ted B and the Traditions were read by Linda N

**Roll Call - New GR Introductions and Welcome** – Colleen G

- Excused: Ruth W, Archivist; Annie M, Literature; Cat H, District 5; Billie B Dist 9 – Represented by Dianna; Rita B, Dist 10 – represented by Alternate DR Barb B; Penny H, Dist 14 – represented by Jerry L-H; Willie H, Dist 16/Audit Budget 2 – district represented by Cheryl; Susan G. PAD.

The District Representatives introduced their new GRs, returning GRs and visitors.

**Housekeeping:** District 8 – Monica S

- Welcomed and thanked us for coming. She gave general instructions for room use.
- Theme: By Far The Best Proof Is Experience
- Bandon provided the decorations
- Raffle: To support the district funds for this assembly
- Tonight: A Bonfire on the Beach
- State Speakers Meeting raffle and a 50/50 drawing

**Announcements:** Bette R, Chairman

- Bette welcomed the Assembly members and the visitors.
- Discussed the badge colors and what they represented.
- Read the voice and voting statement. (Oregon Area Handbook, p.VI- 1)
- Those with voice, one trip to the microphone/if your view was expressed do not restate it.
- Anonymity statement regarding photo taking was given.
- Statement of Attendance (Oregon Area Handbook, p.1-2) was read addressing the issue of attendance at all scheduled sessions of the Assembly in order to qualify for reimbursement of expenses.

**Secretary's Report:** Colleen G

The minutes to the Oregon Area Assembly (March 21-22, 2009) were accepted with a date correction from 2010 to 2009 on pages 8 and 20 in the Public Outreach reports. The secretary thanked those people who helped her proof the minutes.

**Treasurer's Report:** Glen G

Some AWSC Members who qualify for area travel funds are returning any excess payments if they are able to. They are paid 25 cents a mile round trip, minus the first 80 miles. Audit budget is currently reviewing a possible procedure for evaluating the area travel fund's paid mileage. Area officers and coordinators can qualify up to \$150 total for meals and lodging expenses per assembly.

Please be sure to include your group's name and group's number on your checks when donating to the Area.

Oregon Area Al-Anon Expenses and Income vs. Annual Budget  
January through June 30, 2009, lists a breakout of line items for income and expenses vs. the annual budget.

1/01/09 - Cash on hand:	\$17,332.69
Net Income:	\$-994.58
6/30/09 - Cash on hand:	<u>-\$16,338.11</u>
Prudent Reserve:"	\$7,500.00

We were reminded the term for Prudent Reserve is actually "Ample Reserve used prudently."

### **Alateen Workshop** – Loretta P

- Alateen Training Module I – The "Overview Of Alateen Meetings" was used in an overhead presentation.
- Description of Alateen, including membership
- Required to set safety requirements (by Area)
- Dual Members can be Alateen sponsors, keeping their focus on the Al-Anon program.
- A mock Alateen Meeting was held with two Alateen sponsors and using other Alateen Sponsors acting as kids. Who better would know how that behavior is demonstrated in a meeting? The meeting started with the Good and Bad that happened to them during the week. They read from the daily reader to choose topic. Consensus of the group: Recovery begins when we focus on ourselves and recognize that Alcoholism is a disease and Al-Anon's experience a disease as well. We learn to change one day at a time...

#### Discussion:

- The sponsors acted as if they were just part of the group. Is that the way it goes all of the time? Do they not facilitate the meeting?
- Sponsors are part of the group and share their experience, strength and hope with the others. The teens run their meetings. As a sponsor, you would only speak up if the group really gets off topic or really out of hand. Most often the kids will say something way before it would be necessary for the sponsor to step in.
- I am a court mandated reporter. This is why I have never become a sponsor.
- Being a Mandated Reporter is an outside issue, and in order to keep this outside of the group one sponsor reported: "I always tell the kids before they start sharing that I am a court mandated reporter, and if they need to share anything about abuse to let me know and I will step outside the room."

### **Ask-It-Basket Questions**

1. Does "dual member" mean a person in Al-Anon and AA? What about NA? What about OA? Where does it end?

Bea J: 'Dual Member' ends at AA, because of Al-Anon's unique relationship with the AA program. This relationship does not exist with other 12 step programs.

2. Does every Al-Anon district have to have a DR? What if no one wants to do it?

Judy J: referenced pages 143 and 140 in the Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual. If there isn't a DR some groups have had people share the responsibility of chairing the district meeting and going to assembly as a contact person to hear the business of Al-Anon and to bring it back to their district and their groups.

3. Area and District Coordinator positions do not lead to a seat at WSC. Why can't this position be held by a dual member?

Bunny G: directed us to the descriptions in the Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual on pages 79 and 149.

4. What is the AI-Anon definition of Cross Talk? What is considered appropriate action in the case of cross talk occurring? A longtime member has yelled out crosstalk during someone's sharing. The group has requested clarification.

Eileen B: Cross talk is not an AI-Anon term and has resulted from treatment center jargon. What we need to remember is to use good manners and respecting the individuals in our group and to be able to offer compassion to those in need at our meetings.

**Delegate's Report** – Roland C - Entire Report begins on Page 15. Excerpts follow.

This is my last Assembly to present a Delegate's report and that makes it difficult to write. As I think about that, it seems to make it about me and my report, in fact, being delegate isn't about me; it's about the fellowship and you.

The two Goals of the Conference were:

1. *"The spiritual tone of the WSC will prevail by the demonstration of mutual respect and acceptable conduct by its members."* Roland stated "This is a powerful yet simple statement. One I would hope we could carry forth into our assemblies."

2. *"Conference members will understand the purpose of the conference, relationships within the structure, and be able to articulate Conference decisions."*

Roland read a letter from the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Mary Ann R, welcoming the WSC members and introducing this year's theme, "Embrace the Legacies: Our Spiritual Bridges to Expand the Future":

The Legacies are the very foundation of our spiritual program.

As a formula for recovery, unity, and service, the Legacies bring balance to our lives.

In growing and expanding the future of AI-Anon Family Groups, we in turn receive many personal benefits.

To ensure the preservation of our beloved fellowship, we have the capacity to form spiritual bridges that will reach others; to expand our thinking and our horizons.

Let us remember that as members of the WSC, we are the active voice and effective group conscience of the fellowship. With the help of our Higher Power to guide us, let us

"Embrace Our Legacies: Our Spiritual Bridges to Expand the Future."

With slight modification, Roland restated the last two paragraphs of the letter as it could be applied to those of us attending this assembly:

While at *the Assembly* this weekend, you will experience many feelings. At times you may feel uncertain and challenged. You are not alone. I encourage you to reach out to your fellow *Assembly* members; capture that energy and spirituality; be that Spiritual Bridge upon returning to your *Districts* and groups or wherever your journey takes you.

Let us remember that as members of the *Oregon Area*, we are the active voice and effective group conscience of the fellowship. With the help of our Higher Power to guide us, let us "Embrace Our Legacies: Our Spiritual Bridges to Expand the Future."

We can be those Spiritual Bridges.

Now a little word about our 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition:

In the U.S and Canada 55.8% of the groups make a contribution to the WSO.

In Oregon, 66.8% of the groups contribute.

The average contribution from the groups in the U.S. and Canada is \$100.84.

The average contribution from Oregon groups is \$93.69.

The WSO spends on average \$243.22 per group in the U.S and Canada. Without the markup on literature our WSO would not be fully self-supporting.

In AI-Anon there are no dues or fees....but we give what we can. It is better to make the contribution where it will be put to use than to let it sit in the bank doing no one any good.

*Discussion:*

*If \$243.22 is spent on each group in the US and Canada and the group average donation is \$100.84, where does the difference come from?*

*The difference comes from the mark up of literature. There has only been one time the groups' donations have fully supported the WSO.*

*How come our literature is so expensive? The figures speak for themselves. A new book in a book store is much more expensive for a hard-bound covered book than our own literature costs.*

I am given ninety minutes to present what happens in five days at Conference. The entire Conference Summary can be viewed or downloaded from the WSO website:

[http://www.ai-anon.org/members/pdf/summary/summary\\_09.pdf](http://www.ai-anon.org/members/pdf/summary/summary_09.pdf) or it can be ordered from WSO free, with a \$3.00 shipping and handling fee.

**RSS:** Regional Service Seminars are no more. They were no longer fully self-supporting or cost effective, and attendance numbers were dropping. This conversation started at my first Conference.

**T.E.A.M.:** **T**ogether **E**mpowering **A**I-Anon **M**embers - (another acronym!) is the good news. This will be replacing RSS.

Roland presented a Power Point outlining the concepts of this new program:

1. We can do this as an Area, in combination with another Area or Areas or as a Region. This will give each hosting group an opportunity to design something to meet their specific needs.
2. We can do this as often as we like.
3. We have more responsibility for hosting and planning.
4. We will have a lot of help and coordination with the WSO – they will send, at a minimum, either, the Executive Director, Chair of the Board of Trustees or the Chair of the Executive Committee; in addition one WSO Staff and one other volunteer (member of the Board of Trustees.)
5. We are responsible for more of the hosting costs. The WSO is responsible for transportation costs for whom they send.

**CONFERENCE MOTIONS** - There were nine motions presented at Conference. All carried. The Conference acts in a spiritual way for the benefit of all AI-Anon groups.

Motion Number One is always about who is allowed to attend Conference and who has voice and vote or only voice and the ones who have neither. There were 94 voting members which included Delegates from 67 areas. There was International representation from Germany, Mexico, Italy and the UK/Eire. Their expenses were paid by the service areas they represented.

On one motion Roland thought about the minority voice. Though he was in agreement with the motion, he chose to vote no. He wanted it known; the minority voice can be present and can be heard.

**BEQUEST FUNDS:**

Roland presented a power point covering the major points of the discussion on bequest funds.

In simple terms these are the results:

WSO will not be amassing perilous wealth. Accepting bequest funds will not happen on a routine basis. If there are any disputes in a will, the WSO will return any money and stay out of any disputes, refuse any money until the disputes are resolved as this will keep us within the Tradition of avoiding outside controversies.

Admissions Handbook Work Group and the Group Services Committee: Is disbanded for a Three year Trial period.

e-CAL: is no more. At the end of the three year trial period it proved, at this time, to be a non-viable tool.

ALATEEN: Finally, the Alateen Traditions have been afforded protection in the Conference Charter... It will now take ¾ written approval of all AI-Anon groups (which includes Alateen) to change the Alateen Traditions.

All of the information needed to be informed on this motion was sent out prior to Conference. I would like to have the Area have this kind of information prior to the assembly.

Closing thoughts from our Delegate:

A committee in my head does not mean a group conscience.

Service IS Spiritual First.

"Thank you for allowing me to walk this path. I love you all."

Our Area Chair, Bette, Announced lunch break, and asked us to please reconvene at 1:15.

The Area Chair opened the meeting with the Serenity Prayer.

### **Elections Skit – Judy J**

Judy and cast put together a fun, musical skit called "Leadership" written by Judy A, BC/Yukon.

The cast included Della Gate; Chairman, Trustee; GR - Luke Warm (about service); Sela (who has selective hearing) and Enthusiastica (who expresses herself in song). All characters somehow felt familiar to our AI-Anon experience. As the skit progressed, we saw them develop leadership skills with changed attitudes, new skills (KBDM) and more willingness to participate. Their message was "We are all leaders." AND "When we work together for the good of AI-Anon we all benefit!"

### **Elections Workshop – Beth T**

VOTING & LEADERSHIP SKILLS: From the AI-Anon/Alateen Service Manual

- Handouts were distributed that duplicated the overhead presentation and included Area position descriptions.
- What are the most crucial positions in AI-Anon?  
The indispensable links between our fellowship and its World Service Office, because they carry the group conscience of AI-Anon are: The GRs, DRs and the Area Delegate.
- GRs: When choosing a GR it is important to consider electing members with experience, stability, and an understanding of the traditions and how they work. It is only the GR who, in district or Assembly meetings, can name the DR and also the Delegate. Their position and duties may be shared with an Alternate GR.
- DRs: When choosing a DR it is important to consider electing members from among the incoming, or outgoing or active past GRs. The DRs help the groups in their districts understand the relationship and responsibility to the world wide fellowship.
- Delegate: When choosing a delegate an even greater degree of care and dedication will be required. Personal ambitions must be set aside, antagonisms and controversy forgotten. "Who are the best qualified people we can name?" should be the sole thought.
- The Third Legacy method (2/3rds vote or by lot) of electing DRs and Delegates of a high level of dedication and competence, greatly reduces political friction and makes these individuals feel they are truly a world servant and not merely the winner of a contest.

### **Oregon AREA AL-ANON SERVICE POSITIONS:**

The presentation continued by reviewing the qualifications needed to hold service positions at the Area level that covered information found in the Oregon Area Handbook. Included in this presentation was:

- Residency-Home Group needs to be in the state of Oregon.
- Dual Membership: Because of the unique nature of both programs, AI-Anon/Alateen members who are also AA members do not hold office beyond the Group level, as these positions could lead to membership in the World Service Conference.
- Area Officers: Delegate, Chairman, Alternate Delegate (and Oregon Area Process Person), Treasurer and Secretary requires they have held the position of DR.
- Leadership skills were reviewed.
- Coordinator positions are filled by election at the November Assembly. They need to be members of AI-Anon but not necessarily a current or past GR.
- Those Coordinator positions are:

- Alateen: Must meet the Oregon Area Alateen Safety Requirements to work with Alateens.
- Archives: Collects, catalogs, and preserves historical materials of Oregon Area AI-Anon/Alateen.
- Cooperating with the Professional Community: (CPC). Primarily, the CPC coordinator keeps in touch with the WSO, the Area Delegate, and all AI-Anon and Alateen Members doing CPC work.
- Communicator: The primary responsibility of The Communicator Editor is to produce and distribute the newsletter prior to each Oregon Area Assembly.
- Forum Coordinator: Acts as liaison between WSO, AWSC, and AI-Anon/Alateen Districts, Groups, and Members in the Oregon Area.
- Group Records: Keeps track of all the Oregon Area Group Records (meeting times, place, permanent mailing address, GR, etc) and provides mailing labels and address lists for AI-Anon Family Groups work within the Oregon Area. Works closely with DRs and WSO) to maintain current information.
- Literature Coordinator: Provides information received from the World Service Office on new pieces of Conference Approved Literature (pamphlets, books, videos, and tapes) for AWSC and assembly members to carry to the group level.
- Public Information: (PI). The PI Coordinator keeps in touch with the World Service Office, the Area Delegate, and all AI-Anon/Alateen members doing District PI work.
- Area Website Coordinator should be familiar with website hosting, domain name registration, website design and usability, uploading and downloading items, and basic HTML knowledge. This position should also be familiar with Trademarks and WSO suggested policy regarding anonymity on websites. Facilitates communication and receives updates to area meeting lists with the Group Records Coordinator.
- Audit Budget Committee: Bookkeeping skills are helpful and are suggested. Primarily, the Committee proposes an annual Budget and regularly audits the Treasurer's books and records. The Committee Chairman presents their report at Assemblies and to The Communicator.
- Oregon Area Past Delegate is already qualified. As past delegate, the views and spirit of worldwide AI-Anon are brought to the Area World Service Committee and Area Assemblies on current endeavors.

Copies of this presentation can be requested from your District Representative. And The more explicit duties of each position are available on the Oregon Area Website and can be downloaded for printing or viewed on line at [www.oregonal-anon.org](http://www.oregonal-anon.org).

Willingness and dedication to serve is of primary importance in any position. We were reminded that the experience in these positions qualify the willing!

**2009 SSM Report – Judy J, Chair (Entire Report on Page 20)  
Happy Joyous and Free.**

Expenses: \$ 7,997.55  
Income: (Almost \$14,000) \$13,960.77

We asked the fellowship for baskets to raffle, we asked for volunteers, we asked for craft donations, we asked you to purchase items, buy raffle tickets and we even had a bakeless bake sale. And the fellowship came through!!!!

2009 SSM's Donation to the Area treasury: **\$ 5,963.22**  
A full financial accounting is in The Communicator and can be viewed on line.  
Thank you District 17 and thank you Oregon Area fellowship!

**2010 SSM Report – Debee B, District 6**  
Theme: Walk'n the Walk, Talk'n' the Talk - 2010 SSM  
Challenge for \$100 worth of literature:

Buy today, or at the upcoming Assemblies and AWSC meetings or call Carolyn at 541-521- 8581 or Gretchen 541-954-5063.

Here's how it works: For each group that buys 2 sets of SSM items – that group's name goes into a drawing to be held at the April 2010 SSM in Eugene for \$100 worth of literature. An example set of SSM items would be: 2 mugs = \$10. 2 flashlights = \$14. 2 Tie dyed shoe strings = \$10. 2 shirts @ \$16 = \$32 OR 2 Shirts @ \$22 = \$44

**DATE:** APRIL 23, 24, 25, 2010

**LOCATION:** Holiday Inn Express – 2117 Franklin Blvd – Eugene – 1-888-465-4329

Flyers are available this weekend.

New Raffle Items Greatly Appreciated.

AGENDA:

Friday: Registration and Talk'n the Talk sharing meeting.

Saturday: Meditation meeting and choice of walking meeting or From Around the State sharing meeting.

Workshops by Speakers that will be repeated in the afternoon so all can participate.

Lunch will include an Alateen speaker.

Dinner/raffle/AA speaker/Al-Anon speaker/candlelight meeting and a dance.

Sunday a full course breakfast and countdown/Spiritual speaker and final raffle.

There will be a 2010 SSM reimbursement package that includes: One ticket for early registration (before 2/15/2010), one ticket for reserving a room at the Holiday Inn Express (next to the Blvd Grill). And one ticket for each meal purchased through the SSM.

**AIS Liaison Reports - Entire Reports Begin on Page 21. Excerpts Follow.**

**AIS Portland - Paula J**

- Fundraiser: Birthday envelopes were distributed to members in the metropolitan area. The amount raised was \$2,860.96. We are grateful to all who have contributed and who continue to support AIS' important work in our community.
- AIS Mini-Workshops were held to include: Problems in Meetings, Group Inventories, How to get Tax I.D numbers to open a group's bank account, Coffee Creek Correctional Institution Al-Anon meetings, and Knowledge Based Decision Making.

**ALATEEN:**

- The AIS incorporated Alateen expenses into a line-item in the regular AIS budget.
- Annual Alateen Roundup was in April in Milwaukie. It was a huge success and growing.
- There was a 7-member Alateen panel at the SSM. A Q&A session followed with Al-Anons seeking information. A lot of information was shared.
- An Alateen Sponsorship Workshop will be held in the Portland area on November 9, 2009.

Spanish AIS:

- Is now in the Portland metro area. It is successful and growing.
- They are listed in the regular meeting schedule and AIS has offered them room in the office to meet.

MEETING CODES in our weekly schedule:

- The AIS Board requested that members from the Rainbow Recovery group in Portland come to talk with board and ISR members about meeting codes and why so many codes were requested to be in that meeting's schedule description. Those codes are GLBTQQ (Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Tran gendered, Queer and Questioning.) Representatives from the group explained their meeting felt that in order to attract members to AI-Anon from these many groups, it is important to use these codes whose meanings are accepted in the gay community and especially the younger gay community.

Public Outreach Event May 5-8, 2009

- First year to participate in an annual Child Abuse and Domestic Violence Summit held in Portland. Professionals from counseling backgrounds and law enforcement officers attended. AIS volunteers participated with AA Intergroup volunteers, who had a table next to them.

**Salem AIS** - Linda N

- The phone service is fully staffed and we even have an alternate person.
- Meeting schedules are still being published on a bi-monthly basis.
- The book depot has been very busy selling literature.
- On June 6<sup>th</sup>, following our monthly District/AIS meeting a Sponsorship Workshop was presented and was well attended and well received.
- As out going liaison, Linda will attend the March 2010 assembly with the new AIS liaison. The March assembly is a more typical assembly than the November elections assembly.

**Eugene AIS** - LeAnn T

- Held their fourth annual fund raiser. About 140 people attend for a wonderful evening of fun, food and fellowship.
- AIS staffed our Public Information booth at the Eugene Celebration, displaying the newly purchased AI-Anon/Alateen banner that was mostly funded by a \$100 mini grant from the Oregon Area Public Outreach Action Committee.
- All but three coordinator positions have been filled: Public Information, CPC Coordinator, Activities Coordinator, Volunteer Coordinator, Office Coordinator, Newsletter Editor and all of our volunteers all work hard and in harmony to carry the message of AI-Anon to the District 6 community.
- I have a strong personal interest in encouraging cooperation between our AIS committee and District 6. The easy part is talking about the ways the two groups cooperate and support each other in all events including our fund raisers like the root beer float being held at the Literature Depot next Saturday.

This is my final report to the Assembly. It has been a wonderful learning experience and a great honor to serve.

**Coordinator Reports:**

**Group Records** - Helen M, Coordinator

Business has been slow, both from WSO and Districts. I hope that is a good thing. All changes given to me have been processed promptly and it is my belief records are up-to-date.

The next printout from WSO is September. I will have up-to-date copies of that for all DRs at the October AWSC. Please check them thoroughly against your meeting list and the Oregon Area Website.

My goal is to hand over an accurate account of Group Records at the end of my term.

**The Communicator** Report - Barbara L, Editor

Hi...I am Barbara L, your Communicator Coordinator. I have five minutes to give you MY REPORT. I have thought long and hard as to what I will say to you in my time.

First off, I again, want to say how grateful I am and have been for this service position. I enjoy creating the newsletter for you all and I do the best I can. This last issue was sent as a single copy to each group. The bulk mail issues came to me as a surprise. I hope to be able to mail more copies in October...I am not sure yet.

This does not alter the joy I have of getting the newsletter to you. When the articles come to me (mostly via email), I get excited because you are excited. I recall when I was a GR and I wrote an article for the Communicator...it was so exciting to actually see it in print. That feeling, two years later, gave me the courage to actually stand and be willing to take on this service to the area.

So in November of 2006, I was a GR and I was elected to be the next Communicator Coordinator. How exciting was that!!

Then along comes 2007 and the reality hit me...Yikes, I have to now "do" it. I felt like I squeaked by the first issue. My confidence was not very strong. That changed as the issues have been created and sent out. I have one last issue to publish and then my tour is over. Am I sad? Not really ...it will be the next person's turn to learn and grow in this wonderful service position.

I encourage ALL of you in the room today to consider this position:

If you are willing to learn: You may learn how to use a computer program better than you thought you ever would; I did. You may learn how to interact with a printing company, I did. You may learn how to deal with the Postal System like you never had before, I did. You may learn that it is OK to let others decide whether they will send you an article or not; I did. You will learn how to work within a budget, I did. You may learn how to ask for help when it comes time to fold and to mail, again, just as I did.

I encourage ALL of you in this room to consider this position:

If you are interested in having an even better relationship with your Higher Power; I did. He has guided me in every moment.

I encourage ALL of you to consider this position:

If you are excited about AI-Anon and want to be there as the Oregon Area continues to grow and to work together---that is most certainly what I have felt these last years in this service position.

Being the Communicator Coordinator has been a wonderful experience. I would not have missed it for the world. I have one more issue, as I mentioned and I would really love it if the Group Representatives would share how being in Service has helped their recovery program. Please send me what is in your heart...or not. It's up to you.

Finally, I would like to say a big Thank You to all of you who have participated in the Membership Outreach Action Committee. I recall the first breakout in 2007 wishing I could melt into the wallpaper. I was not used to being looked to for leadership. I had to find the courage and the strength to do my part. I now look forward to seeing you all and can honestly say you have each had a part in making me who I am today.

Don't forget to at least CONSIDER being willing to stand for election to this Service Position in November.

**Cooperating with the Professional Community (CPC)** - Ginny R, Coordinator

This last year has been a fun, but working year. We started with using some of our funds for grants. Coffee Creek was given money to purchase books for the inmates attending Hope at Coffee Creek AFG meetings. District 2 for purchase of AI-Anon literature for the local libraries, District 13 to purchase business cards, District 6 was awarded funds to purchase literature for doctors and schools and money to help purchase a banner. In November grants went to Coffee Creek for more books and pamphlets and District 8 to buy literature.

We also have ordered Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism for 2009.

In March we started "Get your Boots on the Ground" campaign to adopt an institution and keep them supplied with literature. To use your district fund if possible and if needed submit receipts for up to \$50 in Public Outreach funds.

There have been many more ideas on how to get the word out about Al-Anon.

**Alateen Coordinator** – Loretta P, Coordinator

I have been doing Alateen for two years now. It is not enough, you need three years. This year I'm on fire and now it's coming to an end.

I have gone out to Linfield College for a Health Fair. There seemed like hundreds of kids, but I doubt if there were that many. It was for graders who were bussed to the college to see a play and then they came into the auditorium for a health fair. Some of the kids were just there, but others asked questions. You never know who you're going to touch.

I went to the Chemawa Indian School in Salem for the White Bison program. I went with the intent of finding someone to talk to about starting an Alateen meeting there. Someone came up to me and asked me to bring a meeting into the school. So, I'm excited. I'm setting up a meeting in the fall.

I never thought that I could have stood in front of a group and give a workshop. The first time I did it I was very nervous. I learned to dig down deep and find what I had inside of me, becoming what I'm supposed to be according to my Higher Power.

I have just done a workshop here today. I was nervous but it gets easier. I also am doing a workshop in the fall in Portland. Please come, you never know now what you're capable of until you take that first step.

**Area Website** - Joanne C, Coordinator

I cannot express my gratitude for the opportunity of being your Web Coordinator for the past five years. Everyone always says how much they grow and learn in service. Well, they say it because it is true. I would not trade this experience for anything. You took a chance on someone who wasn't sure of what she was doing and had the patience to stick with her. You treated me as a trusted servant and helped me to believe in myself. Susan G. saw my knees shaking at the mike when I said I would stand for this position.

I still have some goals to meet before November. I have not had the opportunity to post the Spanish pages yet. You will see I have added two PSAs from WSO to the site. One is on the home page and the other is on the Alateen page. I also have started linking meeting addresses to their Google location map.

This November a new Website Coordinator will be elected. As you think about what you would like to give back to Al-Anon keep this position in mind. Five and a half years ago at an assembly I heard a Trustee say that all that is required to be of service is to be willing. This position needs internet familiarity, a willingness to learn, ability to get to the assemblies and AWSCs, and the readiness to post information as soon as it is available. I have found knowledge of the Al-Anon Traditions and Guidelines to be just as (or maybe more) important than the actual technical know how. When I started on the website a recovering AA was doing all the technical work while I was creating layout and content. I enjoyed it immensely. You don't have to do it alone – in fact I believe it is too much work for one person. If you are interested just do the footwork, be willing, and HP will take care of the rest.

**Public Information (PI)** – Gretchen H, Coordinator

I procrastinate way too much. As I was going through my "many papers I save," I put them into categories like AIS, District 6, AWSC and Assemblies. Also I found that there were papers I tucked away to read later and later just happened Friday morning...Too late to do anything about it at this time.

I think I'm doing too much and that I might do a better job at one or two things (this is only after 30 years in the Al-Anon program.) Things have slid that I should have done and life is better than I could have imagined. Who

knows? I don't feel that I've filled the responsibilities of the Public Outreach Coordinator and for that I apologize but as always I'll try to do better. When I was Area Treasurer (before computers) I worked on the report and took in donations all the time and then writing and passing out the checks took time. When I was Communicator Editor I worked on articles all the time and got things ready ahead of AWSC and my job was done until next time. I've also had many computer problems.

Public Outreach did submit a proposal for groups to ask for up to \$100 to spread the Al-Anon word and then to update the committee by the July Assembly as to the progress of the project. We wanted to share the results with the whole assembly.

I did bring Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism (AFA) 2009 and I have a sign in sheet as to what districts have taken these tools and how many. I brought 400 English and 100 Spanish. Debee will be giving our recent Public Outreach Action Committee Report.

Thanks for your vote of confidence. I'll keep learning and hopefully get better and better.

**Forum Coordinator** – Elizabeth B, Coordinator

This is one of the area positions where any Al-Anon/Alateen member, not necessarily a Group Representative, can stand this next November and be elected by the Area Assembly to fill this position.

For the last three years I have enjoyed giving Forum Writing Workshops at assemblies and being invited by Districts to give Forum Writing Workshops.

As in the description of this position, I was able to serve on the Fellowship Communication Action Committee. I have really enjoyed this service.

Please consider standing for this position.

**GR Sharings Highlights:** - Reports Begin on Page 23

The Group Representatives gave a two minute report at the microphone.

**Sunday July 19, 2009**

The Assembly was called to order by Chairman, Bette R at 8:30 AM with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. The Concepts and the Warranties were read by Shanna.

**Housekeeping** – District 8 – Monica S

There will be a raffle today.

Need help with clean up after the meeting.

Chair had everyone from District 8 come to the mic to be recognized.

**GR Sharings**, continued from Saturday.

## Action Committee Reports

### Business Services

#### Audit Budget Report – Sue B

The audit-budget committee has met and audited the books for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2009. The books were found to be in order with a few minor changes. One of the adjustments concerns the \$35.00 that was discussed yesterday. It was determined that the item actually belongs in the Area Travel Funds and it was moved to this category. But everything happens for a reason, and it gave us further direction in preparing the budget for next year.

We also audited the 2009 State Speakers Meeting and found the books to be in wonderful order. We appreciate the detail and hard work that the SSM Treasurer took in keeping her books for this event. The Communicator's and Secretary's checking accounts were reviewed and found to be in order.

Business Services continued with the process of reviewing the financial guidelines of the Oregon Area handbook for their accuracy.

### GROUP SERVICES COMMITTEE

Recorder: Caralynn W, presented by Marvalee M

- There is confusion over the duties of Membership Outreach and Group Services. Should they be merged because some of the activities overlap?
- Group Services' main duties, by our current actions and group consensus are: Alateen, Archives (SSM guidelines, etc.) and Group Records.
- The actual guidelines for our committee do not match what we thought we were supposed to do.
- Discussion consensus was a need to re-write the committee guidelines and have more specific duties.
- We, as a group, believe both committees (Membership Outreach and Group Services) should continue, but with clearer – more specific duties.

Reports:

1. SSM Guidelines report was given by Caralynn W on the revision of the guidelines. A copy was given to our chair Helen M. She will give them to Billie L. Caralynn will email the word document to Billie L.
2. Alateen: Loretta P is starting a new Alateen meeting at Chemawa Indian School in Salem. Loretta also has handouts to be included in the Alateen Sponsorship Notebook. If you need to contact her, her email address is at [www.oregonal-anon.org](http://www.oregonal-anon.org) - Alateen Coordinator.

### PUBLIC Outreach/CPC Committee - Debbie, Recorder

- Last assembly's challenge to the districts was to put your "Boots on the Ground" and adopt an institution and Public Outreach would reimburse up to \$50.00 for literature. No requests were received.
- District 6, Eugene, donated \$50 worth of literature at their expense to the local juvenile detention treatment center.
- District 4, has been invited to start an Al-Anon meeting at the Oregon State men's correctional facility and is making arrangements for possibly having a meeting at the Federal Penitentiary at Sheridan.
- We decided on purchasing calendars to distribute at the November Assembly. Ginny R will check with her custom printer in Salem to order calendars (generic) with a National website and phone number. A motion was made and carried to allow up to \$700 for this project.
- We talked about purchasing PSAs but found they can be downloaded from U-Tube in a format that can be shown on your websites.
- Ginny R reported her participation in a health fair at "White Buffalo – A Journey of Forgiveness," at the Chemawa American Indian gathering on the reservation. There were over 100 attendees and the Al-Anon information was greatly appreciated. Ginny and Loretta, the Alateen Coordinator, were invited to return for a Powwow coming up.
- District 6 bought a \$115 banner for Al-Anon/Alateen booth with fund from Public Outreach.
- It was found that billboard advertising is prohibited by costs.
- It was suggested Billboard Ads would be a good way to spend future excess Bequest funds.
- There is \$723 left in PO budget. We discussed at least two ways to spend this.
  1. Purchasing 2010 Forums to leave at professional offices. Gretchen has ordered 500 Forums (2008 and 2009 – 400 English and 100 Spanish) and planned to order \$350 worth of 2010 Forums.
  2. Purchase calendars – good advertising tool.

### FELLOWSHIP COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE REPORT - Lisa, Recorder

- Elizabeth shared about Area Highlights.
- We had a writing activity for the “Sharings Are Needed” request from WSO. Several members shared their readings.
- March Assembly topic about using a variety of CAL in group meetings was discussed.
  - A district decided to use new literature and pamphlets at group meetings.
  - Another district gives Al-Anon pamphlet to GRs at their district meeting once a month to take back for group meetings. Those GRs really like the idea.
  - District 7 has a link on their website for the literature and pamphlets available, including visuals.
  - The June Reflections meeting had a speaker who used pamphlets and related them to his life experiences.
- The challenge: How can we promote sponsorship?
  - Give GRs the specific pamphlets regarding sponsorship, to be discussed in group meetings.
  - Some groups have a meeting sign-in list where they indicate if they are willing to sponsor.
  - Small groups or groups with newer members might not discuss sponsorship as much. How can we change this?

#### **MEMBERSHIP OUTREACH - Joanne C, Reporting**

- Chris K. presented three mock-ups and cost for the Oregon GR Quick Reference Guide. The group discussed the differences between the three mock-ups and voted to go forward with #1.
- The group conscience was to print 1000 guides.
- The total cost of \$800.00. (Chris K. volunteered her services to help in the printing process that lowered our cost.). This put us \$100.00 over our budget. Joanne C. volunteered the \$100.00 from the Web Coordinator budget.
- Volunteers will do a final edit. A version number will need to be added to the final copy so changes can be tracked.
- A discussion on distribution was tabled. Distribution will happen at the November Assembly.
- Our remaining minutes were spent discussing the proposition of merging the Membership Outreach and Group Services action committees. The feeling of our committee was they were not in favor of it.

#### **November 21, 22, 2009 Assembly – Carol gave the report for District 10**

- Theme: Responsibility – Our Expression of Gratitude
- Location: Crown Plaza in Portland in conjunction with AA.  
1441 ME 2nd Ave – Portland OR 97232.
- Reservations: 1-800-971-4654
- Other Hotels near by will soon be posted on Website.
- Rita and Linda are the Al-Anon Liaisons working with the AA committee.
- Luncheon Speaker: Fran A, a past delegate from Mississippi who now lives here. The AA speaker hasn't been finalized.
- Only contracted for 105 lunches so they will go quickly.  
There will be theatre seating at the back of the room for those not signed up for lunch.
- A Flyer with room rates, parking info and meal registrations is on the area web-site.
- Register Early for a drawing on October 8<sup>th</sup> - 15 free overnight parking passes.
- Will have our own ballroom and will share a hospitality room with AA.
- Sharing meeting on Friday night.

#### **March 2010 Assembly Report: Marvalee M – DR**

There will be an Assembly in March. It will be in District 7 - Jackson or Josephine County. More will be revealed, soon.

Marvalee announced that a chili feed had been held in District 7 as a fundraiser for SSM 2010 and a check for \$723.11 is in the mail.

#### **July 2010 Assembly Bid**

Trish, District 11 DR, presented a bid for her district to host the July 2010 Assembly. Brenda and DR, John O, from District 12 also put in a bid. After discussion the two districts decided they would co-host the July 2010 Assembly and the proposed meeting place will be Hood River.

## 2011 SSM Bid

Beginning the Trial Basis of having the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend in May be the date of the next SSM, for the next 3 years, Marvalee M, DR from District 7 placed a bid to host the 2011 SSM in Jackson and Josephine County. Her bid was accepted by the Assembly.

### Ask-It-Basket Questions - Continued

5. Has anything (steps, traditions, etc.) ever been changed by the procedure in the service manual – the ¾ of groups' vote? Has any question even ever gotten to the voting stage?

Bea J: I have 31 years in program and Eileen has 39 years. Our answer is "No!" They have never been changed.

6. Can a dual member be an ISR to the AIS and not be an alternate GR?

Judy J read descriptions from the AI-Anon/Alateen Service Manual referencing pages 133, 79 (Alateen members), 44, 57 (Group autonomy dual members). All of these referenced the ISR as being a service position above the group level. She shared that at Portland's AIS, a dual member cannot serve as an ISR because their service structure follows the suggested guidelines from the service manual.

7. My group is half long time double winners who no longer use AA. They asked me to ask: How can the rule of no double winners as GRs be changed? What is the process of change? My son went to AA for 2 years and now has 6 years in AI-Anon because he recognized that AI-Anon is truly where he belongs.

Bunny G: We are not police however the policy is very clear as has already been reported from information in the AI-Anon/Alateen Service Manual. I have compiled a report of this on-going question from reading all of the conference summaries and will bring it to assembly and available to anyone to review. She suggested instead of being negative about what can't be done, looking at alternative solutions to serving as a GR i.e. opening the door, chair the meetings, literature (Alateen), Public Outreach projects, Treasurer, Chair special events, Sponsor an Alateen Group. Ask what I as a dual member can do for AI-Anon Service.

**District Raffle:** It was stated for clarification that this raffle was to raise money to support this assembly and was very much needed. The raffle proceeded and many nice items were claimed by winners. Eileen B won the afghan that was donated by Bea J.

SSM 2010 Raffle Drawing: Members went home with fun and lovely items.

Meeting closed at 11:50 with the AI-Anon Declaration.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Colleen G  
Oregon Area Secretary

Oregon Area Assembly  
July 18- 19, 2009  
Brookings, Oregon  
No motions were voted on at this assembly

## Assembly Reports

### Delegates Report – Roland C

The following “report” is from notes I had written as I had no actual report to go by.

This is my last Assembly to present a Delegate’s report and that makes it difficult to write. As I think about that, it seems to make it about me and my report, in fact, being delegate isn’t about me; It’s about the fellowship and you.

Even though the Conference started on Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, on Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup> I had 3 meetings and the Opening dinner.

I want to show you a Power Point slide about the Conference Goal –

***“The spiritual tone of the WSC will prevail by the demonstration of mutual respect and acceptable conduct by its members.”***

That is a powerful yet simple statement. One I would hope we could carry forth into our assemblies.

I would like to now read you a welcoming letter from the Chairman of the Board of Trustees from our Conference notebook:

“April 2009

Dear Conference Members,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of AI-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc., it is a pleasure to welcome you to the 49th World Service Conference (WSC). Our theme this year is “Embrace the Legacies: Our Spiritual Bridges to Expand the Future.”

The Legacies are the very foundation of our spiritual program and assure us that when entering the rooms of AI-Anon, we have an opportunity to share with a pure heart. Our feeling of spirituality gives real meaning to our lives, the way we think and feel, and becomes evident in our manner toward others and our approach to life situations.

As a formula for recovery, unity, and service, the Legacies bring balance to our lives. As we heal and gain self-knowledge and confidence we put aside our personal agendas, opening our hearts and minds to the possibilities and opportunities presented us to carry the message. In growing and expanding the future of AI-Anon Family Groups, we in turn receive many personal benefits.

To ensure the preservation of our beloved fellowship, we have the capacity to form spiritual bridges that will reach others; to expand our thinking and our horizons. There are many methods to deliver our message; some that we have yet to discover. Spiritual thinking brings vision and removes us from the status quo.

While at Conference this week, you will experience many feelings. At times you may feel uncertain and challenged. You are not alone. I encourage you to reach out to your fellow Conference members; capture that energy and spirituality; be that Spiritual Bridge upon returning to your Areas and groups or wherever your journey takes you.

Let us remember that as members of the WSC, we are the active voice and effective group conscience of the fellowship. With the help of our Higher Power to guide us, let us “Embrace Our Legacies: Our Spiritual Bridges to Expand the Future.”

With love and in service to AI-Anon,

Mary Ann R

Chairperson, Board of Trustees”

I would like to re-read the last two paragraphs with some slight modification:

While at *the Assembly* this weekend, you will experience many feelings. At times you may feel uncertain and challenged. You are not alone. I encourage you to reach out to your fellow *Assembly* members; capture that energy and spirituality; be that Spiritual Bridge upon returning to your *Districts* and groups or wherever your journey takes you.

Let us remember that as members of the *Oregon Area*, we are the active voice and effective group conscience of the fellowship. With the help of our Higher Power to guide us, let us "Embrace Our Legacies: Our Spiritual Bridges to Expand the Future.

Now a little word about our 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition –

In the U.S and Canada 55.8% of the groups make a contribution to the WSO.  
In **Oregon** 66.8% of the groups contribute.

The average contribution from the groups in the U.S. and Canada is \$100.00.  
The average contribution from **Oregon** groups is \$93.69.

The WSO spends on average \$243.22 per group in the U.S and Canada. Without the markup on literature our WSO would not be fully self-supporting.

I do remind the groups I attend, it is more important to make a regular contribution (make it a habit), than the amount. There are no dues or fees....but we give what we can. It is better to make the contribution where it will be put to use than to let it sit in the bank doing no one any good. And now off that soapbox. ☺

For those of you that have attended Regional Service Seminars, they are no more. The good news is we have something that is better! The news that may not be so good is that we have one more acronym ☺ T.E.A.M. **T**ogether **E**mpowering **A**I-Anon **M**embers. I'm going to go through this power point fairly quickly to give you an idea of how it works. Basically, here are some of the highlights:

1. We can do this as an Area, in combination with another Area or Areas or as a Region.
2. We can do this as often as we like.
3. We have more responsibility for hosting and planning.
4. We will have a lot of help and coordination with the WSO – they will send at a minimum of either the Executive Director, Chair of the Board of Trustees or the Chair of the Executive Committee; in addition one WSO Staff and one other volunteer (member of the Board of Trustees.)
5. We are responsible for more of the hosting costs. The WSO is responsible for Transportation costs for whom they send.

The reason for this change is that the RSSs were not being fully self-supporting or cost effective. The attendance numbers were dropping and this will give each hosting group an opportunity to design something to meet their specific needs.

At my 1<sup>st</sup> Conference when discussing a change to the RSS format, we were asked to do some "Big Thinking." The idea of a RSS Cruise came up. We liked it...but again, it was thought that it probably wouldn't be self-supporting and maybe that was too big of thinking.

This is very exciting, though I am only doing the power point and not the skit I was part of at Conference...I don't have enough pompoms...YEA T.E.A.M.

I want to tell you about the motions we do at Conference. I won't cover them all. You should read the **Conference Summary**.

The 1<sup>st</sup> one I will tell you about is the seating motion. This is always the 1<sup>st</sup> one and it's about who can attend. Just like our Chair reads about our voting and voice procedure before each Assembly, the Conference has attendance policies too.

The standing members are: the Delegates, members of the Board of Trustees, Executive Committee, Chairpersons of Committees, and WSO Staff Directors and Associate Directors. All voting Conference members are AI-Anon Members.

Overseas Representatives (paid for by their Service Structures) have voice but no vote. The Director of Business Services (non AI-Anon member) and the Chairperson of the Executive Committee for Real Property Management attend general sessions with voice limited to their role with no vote. Executive Committee for Real Property Management (ECRPM). Get use to this acronym. You are going to hear much more about it as the vote about the 15 year trial period on real

property ownership is coming up and discussion will take place. Please let the membership know about the background information available on the Oregon Area Web Site under the Delegate's Corner.

Next I would like to tell you about one motion I voted no on. I won't tell you which one. It's more about the process that is important. In this case I was actually in favor of the motion. I think you need to know, I vote yes when I believe all is as it should be and no when I don't. You trust me to do this. I knew this motion was going to carry unanimously. In this one and only time, I thought about the minority. I thought, someone needs to know there are those that are not in favor of this process or the reason for it. I will let that be recorded. I was the lone no vote.

We voted on a process to handle excess bequest funds. The process is explained in the following power point. What I think is important to tell you is; we will not be amassing perilous wealth; we will not have to do this on a routine basis; if there are any disputes in a will, the WSO will return any money and stay out of any disputes, refuse any money until the disputes are resolved as this will keep us within the Tradition of avoiding outside controversies.

We voted to disband (3 year Trial period) the Admissions Handbook Work Group and the Group Services Committee. Other methods were working better to do what these committees were initially designed to do.

As I had told you I thought would happen, e-CAL is no more. The 3 year Trial Period came to an end, and it was not extended. It proved to be a non-viable tool at this time.

Finally, the Alateen Traditions have been afforded protection in the Conference Charter...

Alateen Traditions – Protection of them – Motion #8

As you may recall, we voted to give Conference Approval to the Alateen Traditions at the 2007 Conference. This was step 1. However, the Conference could still change them because they were not part of the Conference Charter.

At the 2008 Conference a motion was made to change the Conference Charter (*please turn to page 152 in your Service Manual*). There was a lot of discussion about changing item #3.d. (page 153) and whether the Conference could do this because of item #3.f.

The discussion was tabled, a Task Force was formed and the presentation was made this year. I hold before you the work of the Task Force. 4 different Documents with a total of 13 pages.

Document 1: Presentation to the Conference

Document 2: Original vs. Current Charter Text Comparison Chart

Document 3: Solution Possibilities Chart

Document 4: 1984 WSC Motion Timeline

This document was sent to us for study prior to the Conference. 2 days before a motion was brought forward a preliminary discussion and review of the documents was held. I had spent many hours prior to the Conference in 2008 reviewing the original motion and I was opposed to it. As the discussions proceeded this year, I felt pretty much the same. What was being suggested were some pretty drastic changes to the Conference Charter. Some of these changes I didn't believe we were authorized to make.

I did a lot of praying. I could tell from other's questions and comments that there were other Delegates that felt the same as I. I asked some to join me in submitting a substitute motion from the floor, knowing I would need a second before I could do so. I received word from several that they would support this effort. I asked the Trustee responsible for blank motion forms for one. When she handed it to me, said she would help with the wording, but suggested I speak with the Task Force 1<sup>st</sup> if possible. I approached the chairman (a Delegate from Panel 47) and spoke with him the next day and explained what I was looking at doing. He convened the Task Force during a break so that we could all discuss my concerns. They thanked me for giving them some additional things to consider and they would let me know one way or another what they decided. Later that day they proceeded with the continuation of their presentation, without any changes. I went to the mic, voiced my concerns, announced several of us were working on a substitute motion and would recommend strongly against voting for any motion that came out of this presentation.

That evening after the conclusion of the Conference, I returned to my room. I began reviewing all of the documents again. I thought about the discussions from the floor and the discussions I had with the other Delegates that were opposed to what appeared to be going on. I asked God for some guidance. I set my alarm for an early morning wake up so I could study this some more in the morning and went to sleep.

I awoke, showered then started ironing my clothes and began a conversation with God. I thought; I see the work that has been done, I know what the motion will be that will be voted on, I know that I will have to figure out a way to explain this to my Area and I will have to face those fears later, in a couple of months...

A couple of hours later I was sitting in the Conference. We had a motion being projected on a screen and were "word smithing" it. Once that was done, the motion was read, a 2<sup>nd</sup> was made and they were ready to vote. I approached the mic and asked for a "point of order." Since the motion had just been read and seconded, wasn't it now time for discussion? There were some groans but the Chair said yes and asked for discussion.

I went to the mic. I said; "I will not stand here and repeat anything from yesterday. Rather I would like to tell you how our Conference Theme works: Embrace the Legacies: Our Spiritual Bridges to Expand the Future " – I then proceeded to tell the Conference about my morning conversation with God.

"You see, the Task Force had done all of the background research and had presented us with the information. What the motion was doing was correct. The way we were doing it was correct. The reason for doing it was correct. Everything is correct and this body has the authority to make the changes. My opposition was based on fear. It came to me when I was telling God, 'I will have to face those fears later. I would like to ask the Conference to vote yes on this motion.'"

Yes, we changed the wording of item #3. If you look at the information available, you will see that item 3.f. was added because of a letter received from a Delegate, but that particular part of the Conference Charter had never been approved by the Conference. It may seem a little confusing. But what we did and why we did it was correct. If you would like to look at all of this information later, please see me.

It will now take ¾ written approval of all AI-Anon groups (which includes Alateen) to change the Alateen Traditions.

The following power point shows the changes we made to the Conference Charter.

Thank you for allowing me to walk this path. I love you all.

Roland C.  
Oregon Area Delegate – Panel 47  
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#### **FINAL SSM 2009 REPORT TO THE JULY 2009 ASSEMBLY**

District 17 had a great committee and a lot of fun. If you read the report in the Communicator you will know that. What positive comments were heard by all. The committee met pretty much monthly and read the SSM guidelines for input regularly. We found the SSM guidelines in the handbook needed to be updated and we have given our input to the action committee working on this.

The Milwaukie Center was a great facility, and we all wanted to have the SSM there, but we had to sign a contract of \$2500. Did you know the Oregon area budgets \$4000 income from the SSM? Many times at our committee meeting we would hear our treasurer say "how can we do this?" (Pay \$2500 AND make \$4000) But we kept turning it over to our Higher Power. Higher Power always comes through!!!

We asked the fellowship for baskets to raffle, we asked for volunteers, we asked for craft donations, we asked you to purchase items, buy raffle tickets and we even had a bakeless bake sale. And the fellowship came through!!!

The guidelines say the SSM is to provide fun, fellowship, and an understanding of AI-Anon, AND TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR THE AREA BUDGET. It also says the income for the SSM comes from ALL GROUPS, from fund raising projects, raffles and the sale of items. We did all that. And we want to thank all the members, groups and districts that sent in CONTRIBUTIONS. This wouldn't have happened without all your support.

It is suggested the AI-Anon speaker be from out of state to enhance Oregon AI-Anon. And to keep expenses down the AA and Alateen speakers should be locals. There was no mention of charging a fee/donation to attend. So we all worked very hard, we didn't want anyone to have to pay to come. Then we patted ourselves on the back for being able to do just that and for making over \$4000 for the area.

We wanted to include the Spanish groups, and we did. They did pay the expenses for their speaker, and a member of our committee housed her so we did not incur any expenses by including them. We did give them some of our meeting space...but we felt we had enough room for our agenda. Their culture is different, and they always have their families and the needed 2 rooms. So we took little steps working with them. The feed back we got from them was awesome. They loved everything!!! They had their own program, but they participated in ours when they could. And they want to come again.

We only offered one meal, because catering was expensive and more work..and we wanted the local fellowship to participate. So we chose to have that meal be lunch. We also had a great hospitality room...that's where I ate.

All the reports and notes are in the 2009 SSM notebook. It will be kept with our archives and I will put it on the back table for all to view.

Our expenses were: the Milwaukie Cent (42150). Other expenses for the speaker, copies, printing, DJ, decorations, hospitality, the lunch and items to sell brought our expenses alone to \$7,997.55.

AND our income came from the sale of items we sold (t-shirts, calendars, note pad etc) and our most wanted item ----- "damit" dolls. We sold many raffle tickets, a bakeless bake sale, ice cream social, lunch and all the donations brought our income to almost \$14,000. It's over, it's done and it was GREAT, we are now all HAPPY, JOYOUS AND FREE....AND ...that makes our contribution to the Oregon Area (STAND UP DISTRICT 17) \$5,963.22

THANK YOU FOR LETTING ME BE OF SERVICE.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **AIS Liaison Reports**

Salem AIS Liaison Report  
Linda N, Salem AIS Liaison

The Salem AIS functions have been going along smoothly.

The phone service is fully staffed and we even have an alternate person. This helps when it is necessary for one of our regular phone service people can not meet their obligation.

Meeting schedules are still being published on a bi-monthly basis.

The book depot has been very busy selling literature.

On June 6<sup>th</sup> a Sponsorship Workshop was presented, in the afternoon following our regular monthly District/AIS Meeting. This was well attended and well received.

At our June meeting we decided that I will be attending the March 2010 assembly with the new AIS Liaison. After a discussion it was determined that it would be more helpful for the new person to have the outgoing person in attendance at the March assembly rather than the November assembly, due to the March assembly being a more typical assembly while the November assembly is very atypical due to elections. We feel that attendance at the November assembly is very overwhelming to the new person.

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### **Eugene AIS Liaison Report**

Lee Ann T, Eugene AIS Liaison

It has been a year since I have given a report to the assembly so I get to go back to last fall, in September when Eugene AIS held our annual fund raiser. For the fourth year in a row, we held our annual speaker meeting and for the first time, also, had a pasta dinner. We had about 140 people attend for a wonderful evening of fun, food and fellowship.

Also in September, AIS staffed our Public Information booth at the Eugene Celebration. This event was the inaugural event for the Al-Anon/Alateen banner that was mostly funded by a \$100 mini grant from the Oregon Area Public Outreach Action Committee. This banner is very durable and will be used at AIS public outreach events for years to come.

At this Eugene Celebration, we were fortunate enough to have an Alateen staff the booth with adult members. The Alateen attracted the attention of teens passing by and was able to effectively carry the message to other teens and their parents. We will be staffing an outreach booth at this year's celebration as well.

Volunteerism is the life and heart of Eugene's AIS Literature Depot. Our December elections resulted in all but 3 coordinator positions being filled. With new energy and enthusiasm Public Information and CPC Coordinators hit the streets and made new contact with such places as youth and family services, Lane County Victims Support, doctor's offices and treatment facilities in our local area. Through these efforts a panel attended training for volunteering with Lane County Victim's Advocacy.

Our activities coordinator, Maria M, is in charge of our annual open house to celebrate the anniversary of our literature depot founding. In February 2009 we celebrated 3 years with a Mad Hatter's Tea Party sharing meeting. Everyone wore hats of all sorts, both fantastic and sublime, and enjoyed high tea and assorted goodies. The sharing was awesome for this fun event.

In May, our Volunteer Coordinator, Gayle S, worked with our Office Coordinator, Martin F, and a dedicated committee to

conduct a thorough volunteer training on new office procedures. About 25 people showed up to learn our computerized sales and inventory system. This new system helps AIS meet the challenge to keep our literature stocked and accounted for. This has become increasingly important because our literature sales grow every year and will likely exceed \$20,000 this year.

The Literature Depot is scheduled to be open from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm, Monday – Saturday. Our committed volunteers do their best, but sometimes, on occasion, the door isn't open. But over all, the dedication of the volunteer staff is awesome and inspiring and the life and heart of AIS in Eugene.

Our current newsletter editor, Stephanie, has been producing a professional and informative newsletter for District 6 that is distributed via email. Members are encouraged to print copies for meetings and a few are left at the Literature Depot. My personal goal is to bring enough printed copies for GRs that attend the district meeting and to include them in mailed materials.

Upcoming event include a Root Beer Float Party and speaker meeting next Saturday at the Literature Depot. This type of event brings people to experience the love available in our AI-Anon "Home" in District 6.

Next Sunday AIS will participate in the "National Night Out" event in Springfield's Day Island park. This is our 2<sup>nd</sup> year at this community event that promotes neighborhood health and safety. We will be there with other community groups, police and firemen and so on.

In September or October AIS will again host our annual speaker meeting fund raiser. No date yet, but those who attended in the past will be mailed registration flyers. This is our most important fundraiser so please help spread the word.

The Literature Depot is more than a bookstore. Two AI-Anon meetings are held there each week; Gifted with Life on Monday and Friday Night Step Study. District 6 and the AIS coordinators meetings are held monthly. There are committee meetings held there frequently, and the 2010 SSM is meeting there monthly. Truly the Literature Depot is our AI-Anon home.

I have a strong personal interest in encouraging cooperation between our AIS committee and District 6. I often find myself explaining their different functions. The easy part is talking about the ways the two groups cooperate and support each other. In Eugene/Springfield, we can point to joint responsibilities like publishing our meeting list, supporting Public Outreach projects and other efforts. District 6 also contributes financially to AIS every year and by paying rent for meeting space. We continue to work out new ways to cooperate and are currently discussing how to share responsibilities for our local website as well as a possible joint service workshop. The liaison position is key to insuring that this cooperation continues to benefit our members. We make progress month by month, year by year.

This is my final report the Assembly. It has been a wonderful learning experience and a great honor to serve.  
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### **Portland AIS Liaison Report**

Paula J, Portland AIS Liaison

The Portland AIS has been busy this past year.

Last year, the Board decided that instead of having a fundraiser, we would instead supply the groups in the metropolitan area with birthday envelopes to be distributed to members. On their AI-Anon anniversary month, members were asked to submit their donation to Portland AIS in gratitude and support for the wonderful work that is done there. A suggestion was that members donate of a dollar or two for each year they have in the program, place their donation in the envelope, and mail to the AIS office. We are grateful to all who have contributed and who continue to support AIS's important work in our community. As Barbara O. of the AIS office points out, we are a non-profit organization that needs and uses every penny that comes in.

As a result of this birthday envelope fundraiser, **we exceeded our goal of \$2,000. The actual amount raised was \$2,860.96.** As a result, the AIS Board decided to continue asking members to contribute to AIS on their birthdays via the AIS Birthday envelope. However, in addition, we will have a fundraiser event this year tentatively scheduled for October 3, 2009. The event will include a speaker, homemade crafts, a silent basket auction, and an Ice-Cream Social.

### **AIS Mini-Workshops**

At our bi-monthly ISR and Board meetings, we ask a volunteer to present a workshop to all the attendees. In the last year, we have had workshops whose subject matters were:

- Problems in Meetings,
- Group Inventories,

- How to get Tax I.D numbers to open a groups bank account,
- Coffee Creek Correctional Institution Al-Anon meetings, and
- Knowledge Based Decision Making.

## Alateen

Just this year, the AIS incorporated the previously separate Alateen expenses into a line-item in the regular AIS budget.

The annual Alateen Roundup was held Saturday, April 19, 2009 in Milwaukie. It was a huge success and fun and learning was had by all. There were 35-40 attendees – more than in past years.

The 2009 State Speakers meeting had a 7-member Alateen panel. The Alateen speakers were fabulous, and there was a Q & A session for Al-Anons to ask them questions. Much information was shared back and forth.

The Board voted to add the Alateen “20 Questions” brochure to the Alateen Newcomers packet.

There will be an Alateen Sponsorship Workshop in the Portland area on November 9, 2009.

## Spanish AIS

There is now a Spanish AIS in the Portland metro area. The telephone number is listed in the regular schedule. Although Spanish AIS does not have an office of their own yet, the AIS has offered them room in their office to meet. AIS is proud of the Portland area Spanish community and wishes to help all it can with the Spanish AIS becoming successful and growing in the Portland metro area.

## Meeting codes in our weekly schedule.

At the request of the Board, some members from the Rainbow Recovery group in Portland came to talk to the AIS Board and ISRs about the meeting codes requested by the meeting. Those codes are GLBTQQ (Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Transgendered, Queer and Questioning). The AIS wanted more information from the meeting on why so many codes were necessary in the meeting schedule. Representatives from that meeting explained that their meeting felt that in order to attract members to Al-Anon from these many groups, it is important to use these codes whose meanings are accepted in the gay community, especially the younger gay community.

## Public Outreach Event May 5-8, 2009

AIS volunteers manned a booth at the annual statewide Child Abuse and Domestic Violence Summit held in Portland. Professionals from counseling backgrounds and law enforcement officers attended. This was our AIS’s first year with an information table at this conference. We participated with AA Intergroup volunteers, who had a table next to us.

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## GR SHARINGS: Highlights Of Your Al-Anon Service Work And How It Has Helped Your Personal Recovery.

Saturday July 17, 2009 – Two minutes sharing at the microphone:

Service is taking what you learn in group and stretching it out to help others.

\*\*\*\*\*

The last year has been a major breakthrough and living happy, joyous and free has me loving life today.

\*\*\*\*\*

Our meeting was struggling. We considered closing it. Instead through prayer, discussion and group conscience, we changed our meeting time. We are growing with new members that keep coming back, and we recently celebrated our group's 25<sup>th</sup> birthday.

\*\*\*\*\*

I want to thank you all for coming to the sharing meeting. I hope you were able to take some spiritual experiences with you. I know I did. It reinforces that the program is not yours until you give it away. I want to thank God for putting you in my life.

\*\*\*\*\*

Bossiness is leadership that is gone astray. Treat it like a wild beast that needs to be calmed. I now spend more time listening than talking. So, I am grateful to my

group for the trust they have given me and support they have shown me in allowing me to serve in this vital role in Al-Anon's links of service. I am also grateful for the many opportunities my higher power has provided where I have been able to practice taming my bossiness and to learn how to be a leader. And finally, I am especially grateful to all of you here in this Assembly for the love and support you have given me as we have walked this part of spiritual paths together.

\*\*\*\*\*

In my life, I have had no experience as a manager or a representative of any kind...until I became a GR. This experience is enabling me to speak in front of a large group of people. It has also taught me much about responsibility and accountability.

\*\*\*\*\*

The highlight of my service work for me is about getting excited. I believe that the more I can set an example by living this program in my life, will draw more individuals to our meetings.

\*\*\*\*\*

With my walk in Al-Anon and especially with my Higher Power, I know I will become the person God wants me to be. I got my faith back.

Giving service to the Winner's Circle has kept me close to my heart and the group that gave me so much recovery and love when I first got here. It taught me how to trust again, to give and receive love and has shown me the value of "Service through Recovery."

Three years ago our meeting was struggling. We have a strong group now and newcomers often become regular members. All positions in the group are filled by grateful members.

\*\*\*\*\*

I volunteered to be the GR. I accepted the position with excitement and I felt accepted and embraced by my group to do this. This way our group could stay involved with Area responsibilities. Being in program, I trusted I can do the best that I can. I am an adult child and do not want to pass my family habits to my daughters. Although my children have been challenged by my Al-Anon attendance and GR position, our family has grown substantially as I have grown with the love of my Higher Power.

\*\*\*\*\*

Service in Al-Anon has shown me that there is a bigger picture. It is healing to see I'm not the only one with problems. It is healing to share and be open in a safe place. I have learned to be compassionate. To really listen to what is being said to me. I am a very Grateful member of Al-Anon. Thank You!

\*\*\*\*\*

In my own personal recovery I spent a lot of time thinking of the past and to the future to make sure what I did next was perfect. There was real trouble keeping serenity and staying in the present. After an accident I couldn't remember the past and then I didn't look to the future because I didn't know what was there for me. I spent many hours sleeping or smiling. Because of my head injury I couldn't deal with more than zero persons at a time. At my home group, to sit with 8 to 20 people was an immense stretch and I could focus only on one person at a time. I discovered I could be in front of a group of people where I felt really safe and being supported by these people. I really like reaching past my home group, and being at the Area level has been great.

\*\*\*\*\*

Mostly though, I gained even more respect for the collective wisdom found in Al-Anon. I've found that I can trust their judgment, just as they have trusted me to represent them. Service work has been hard for me, but one day at a time, one assembly at a time and one function at a time has brought me to the place that I can fully appreciate who I am truly meant to be.

\*\*\*\*\*

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\*\*\*\*\*

I'm always encouraged when I go to assembly and if it wasn't for this fellowship here I could lose my willingness to continue in my home area. Your stories make me feel I'm in a safe place where I can learn to be a better person.

\*\*\*\*\*

I was asked to be the GR. I prayed about this position. I was nominated and voted in. I became more engaged in the program which compliments my recovery. I have experienced the importance of bringing back information to the groups and getting a healthy perspective about leadership. We discuss concerns, take group consciences and my lessons have been lots of support from district, assembly, groups. The voice of Al-Anon is the RX in the groups.

\*\*\*\*\*

My group is a very active collection of people who are volunteers for AIS in Portland or GRs for other groups. I presented my idea to collect money every Saturday in a second passing of the basket for this cause (Literature for Coffee Creek Correctional Facility). These members, who already give so much, were very receptive and giving. Instead of passing a basket, a member brought a coffee can for the collections. We raised \$165.43 for the purchase of Al-Anon literature. In this process, we also raised our collective desire to be present as a group in our district. Many of our group have inquired more about the Coffee Creek group and given more of their time, experience, strength and hope.

\*\*\*\*\*

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\*\*\*\*\*

My group participated in this assembly by providing the decorations. We're so blessed to welcome you all to Assembly in Brookings.

\*\*\*\*\*

This is what I get out of Al-Anon and being a GR. I'm a trusted servant sharing my flame.

\*\*\*\*\*

Grief and loss over the deaths of two family members within 2 weeks brought me to Al-Anon. Grief and loss over the sanity in me keeps me coming back. It is good to be in a place where I do not feel like a freak.

\*\*\*\*\*

I will remember that my service position as a GR kept my seat planted in my meeting, when I wanted to run because of the pain I was in, and sure enough, I needed Al-Anon then, more than ever.

\*\*\*\*\*

My personal growth in Al-Anon has come from the commitment that others before me made, to keep the

program alive. I have come a long way from the person who just wanted to fix the Alcoholic/addict. I am now taking care of myself, minding my own business, and doing my best to share the Al-Anon message. This program is about attraction, rather than promotion. On a personal level, it is up to me to carry the Al-Anon message by my behavior, which has changed from "you must do it my way" to following the Serenity Prayer, however difficult that might be.

\*\*\*\*\*

I vaguely remember hearing GR reports in the meeting when I was immersed in my own pain. I just didn't have the ability to conceive of anything outside of the narrow thing my life had become. So I was entirely clueless about what being the group representative entailed, I just knew that being a part of Al-Anon felt good and more was bound to be better. My self-worth has grown with the responsibility of keeping my group members informed about the assemblies.

\*\*\*\*\*

Well I guess my main new talents are to keep my calendar straight, to develop healthier relationships, and to laugh more. I've learned to be satisfied with what I can do, happy there are no mistakes, and that if I make a mistake or leave something out there are friends to help rather than to point out my fault. Whatever I do is OK. Whatever you do is OK. Easy does it! How cool is that.

\*\*\*\*\*

Service in the program has kept me connected to and in relationship with others. Being a trusted servant has challenged me to become a whole person, one who can use her mind as well as her heart. As I learn new skills I overcome fear and adversity in all areas of my life. I have faith in myself to persevere.

\*\*\*\*\*

I'm here today because someone told me I could do this and because people loved me when I couldn't love myself. I have learned to be in relationship with other people; that I could walk through the addiction with your help. I'm grateful to my service sponsor.

\*\*\*\*\*

As Group Rep, a "National Disaster" is very indicative of my stage in recovery. I had no clue to being prepared to give a talk. My method of operation in my group was just do it, but accountability may be a problem. My sponsor would guide, nudge, not give directions and I kind of went through the motions. I gave my report. Their expectations were low and mine of myself were low as well. At this assembly it has all started to click about what service is about. I want to thank you all for giving me this painful opportunity to work on my honesty, and on my accountability. I feel myself growing!

\*\*\*\*\*

Highlights of Al-Anon Service work and how it has helped my recovery:

1. *Listen and Learn*: The car rides – The rides to district and state meeting helped me listen to the people's stories and how Al-Anon helped them. At the same time it helped me use my computer to find map quest routes and hotels along the way.
2. Attending and leading meetings – Representative are all able to be themselves and work with the Traditions as

they work. I learned about the Concepts during the state assemblies.

3. I had to work with agendas and learned how to communicate on Yahoo as well as members of our local group about upcoming events.

4. *How important is it?* We worked together to make writing notebooks and I learned if I made a mistake, it will still get done.

5. I became more familiar with the Communicator, the Al-Anon website, the handbook, and the Forum with work on my committee.

6. Knowledge Based Decision making helped me decide we didn't always have to come to a decision on everything. Start the discussion first.

7. Writing workshop and two people from our group have been published in the Forum.

\*\*\*\*\*

I have to admit my reasons for being here are completely selfish. I tend to be a recluse and I'm here to learn from you. To be able to communicate in a group in an appropriate way. My home group has not had a group rep for a long time, so I spoke to our District Rep and thought about it. I took the idea to my group and volunteered. They chose to send me and support me. I am so grateful to be here. I am learning so much. If my Higher Power is willing, I keep coming back.

\*\*\*\*\*

I had no model for GR. Our group has filled in the positions with an alternate GR and secretary. I was slow to make decisions. I learned about a Power Greater Than Ourselves and a concept about time. Being in this group has been a truly humbling experience.

\*\*\*\*\*

What is Al-Anon? My program is for me being responsible for my own sanity and not to lose it or give it away. It is my serenity. You have given me my life back and loved me through it.

\*\*\*\*\*

When I first started my challenge was to "Get in the Car." I never thought I would be able to be at the mic. Now I know I do belong here. Al-Anon is my life.

\*\*\*\*\*

I have been in program for 20 years. My HP was a real part of my Al-Anon recovery. I needed a Good Guide. I moved through the service positions including newsletter coordinator. I knew I was worth something. I moved to Oregon about seven years ago to be with family. It has been really wonderful to be accepted with the new Al-Anon family. Our group is involved in Public Outreach and we work together sharing experience strength and hope. I am always willing to be at the area level. I don't need to be a label to be there and share and accept. My life today is like being on a roller coaster without the bumps.

\*\*\*\*\*

A note was passed to me by a sweet person. I am alternate GR. I found myself coming to the assembly. I had volunteered to be GR until I did what I always did, I quit! My group forgave me even before I forgave myself. There is no animosity. I have had the opportunity to see personalities at work. It was a hard decision to come, but

now I know I want to be the GR.  
\*\*\*\*\*

In 1973, 130 miles away from no where, there were no treatment centers, no council on alcoholism, I started Al-Anon. I served as GR and DR. I retired from Al-Anon Service in 1995. I am again in service with my home group in Medford at the invitation of members.  
\*\*\*\*\*

I am finishing up my position as a GR and it has been wonderful coming to the area level and getting to know people. It is sad in knowing that I need to step back because of health problems. I know we get what we need when we need it. This weekend my brother was hospitalized with serious problems related to alcoholism. I didn't know. I am in shock. We can share from our heart even though we are taking care of business. I thank everyone here for all the support they have given me.  
\*\*\*\*\*

Written GR Reports:

A note from the Secretary: Thank you to all who turned in written reports. Your efforts are so greatly appreciated. Due to space availability, I had to condense your ten pages. I hope I did you justice!

I am no longer critical of people in my group who do not do "service"... Setting out Kleenex is an act of service. I learn skills that help me with my life. Service supports my group and my growth!  
\*\*\*\*\*

I'm not perfect, cannot achieve perfection no matter how hard I try. I have a lack of confidence and I don't know why? Al-Anon has helped bring this back for me. I have a sense of purpose now. Our GR had to step down so I offered my service and then as the DR. I like this. It is helping me grow. I plan to stand for the DR for the next term. Who I am was rejected by my family but in Al-Anon I don't feel rejected. I belong! My group's service position to the district is having babysitting available.  
\*\*\*\*\*