

HAWSC 61 Vision:

All people of Hawai'i have access to welcoming and vibrant Al-Anon Family Groups in their neighborhood and online

HAWSC 61 Mission:

Reach inward to our ohana membership, reach outward to people still suffering, and broaden our communication bandwidth.

HAWSC 61 Goals:

1. *Strengthen Hawai'i fellowship by providing the information and resources needed for all Al-Anon members to thrive, grow, and increase capacity to best reach out to all people who are affected by someone else's drinking.*
2. *Define our evolving communication needs through informed group conscience.*
3. *Encourage the districts to create plans, working with individual members and public outreach coordinators, to attract diverse populations.*
4. *Use technology to attract new members to Al-Anon and to encourage service.*
5. *Assure Panel 61 members will become skilled practitioners of KDBM – Knowledge Based Decision Making.*
6. *Grow our Alateen program, enhance support for AMIAS, and engage Alateens in our Area service structure.*

Love, Laugh, and Grow Together

Spring Assembly Minutes

May 20 & 21, 2023

Hosted by Central District

St. Anthony Retreat

Center

Saturday May 20 2023

8:30 Assembly Orientation

9:30 Opening and Welcome

Serenity Prayer – David

Literature Reading – Dianna

Dianna announces a Forum drawing, for each \$11 we accumulate, a name will be drawn for a subscription to the Forum.

Announcements

General Announcements

Introductions

Officers, Coordinators, DRs

DRs – Introduce your GRs,

Assembly Etiquette – Tom & David

In order to keep on schedule and to limit our time at the mic, we have installed the “Big Clock” at the back of the room. Michelle is responsible for this addition to our Assembly equipment, it should be a big help in keeping us on schedule.

Public Outreach Announcement

Sophie announces that she has a number of old Forums and pamphlets to give away and would like us to pick them up from the Public Outreach table at the back of the room and distribute them in our own communities, medical offices, etc.

Kelsey reports on the Assembly evaluations and the Ask-it-Basket questions. Please everyone take the time to fill out an evaluation, we really do read every comment and use this input as we plan our next Assembly. The Ask-it-Basket questions will be answered by an officer or coordinator, best suited to answer and we will read all of the questions and responses at the end of the day Sunday. They will be included in the minutes of the Assembly.

Akemi reads the World Service Quarterly Appeal letter. She invites us to join in fellowship at the International Convention in Albuquerque, NM starting June 29, 2023. She explains how we can make contributions to our Areas and Districts and to World Service.

Delegate's Report Part 1 – Penni (The complete Delegate's Report accompanies this document)

Penni introduces herself, "Hi, I'm Penni, grateful member of the world wide fellowship of Al-Anon and Alateen." She shares the reason for this introduction, that we really are part of a world-wide fellowship. This year's World Service Conference was number 63, the sixty-third annual conversation of the world wide fellowship of Al-Anon. When our program was still very young our co-founders realized that they could not make the decisions alone for the entire program and that we needed to get together to take a group conscience in order to guide Al-Anon and ensure it's sustainability. The World Service Conference was created had its first meeting in 1961.

There have been 67 delegates for decades, but this year a new delegate was added for the Global Electronic Area.

Love Gifts were still a little hit and miss, but check out the love gift table.

Penni shared about being on the Public Outreach Committee (for all of Al-Anon) and the work they do. She participated in scoring quotes from members for inclusion in the Forum and other outreach pieces.

Penni shared about the close relationships formed by the delegates, particularly those on her Panel (61).

WSO talking about changing the "Links of Service" to "Links of Communication", more accurately depicts what we are doing. Penni shared about the crush of condensing the Conference into a 4 day session (rather than 5).

Q & A

Did you say that 82% of Hawai'i Groups gave to WSO, and that was second in the nation? Yes, first was Puerto Rico, Patti suggests Massachusetts, Penni will check.

Is there, or will there be, a search tool to search for groups that have an online component by

location? Right not you can search for in-person groups and groups in the Global Electronic Area. They are working on upgrading the search site to provide more, but it is in process. Or check out the mobile app. When we register groups that are anchored in Hawai'i WSO will require that we give them a town, so that will be the anchor for an electronic group registered in Hawai'i.

Thank you to whoever translated our prayers into Japanese and Hawaiian, long overdue. Would you be willing to go back to the Diversity Committee and discuss with them the fact that equality is not the word that is typically associated with diversity work, it really should be diversity, equity, and inclusion. And that is a huge difference. And I would love to work on that committee.

Thank you for the question, actually, equity was the word used by the committee. You would have loved the conversation and our next delegate will get to see how it evolves.

(The full Delegate's report accompanies this document)

Roll Call

34 voting GRs, Alt. GRs, and acting GRs

Area Business Meeting

Policy Committee: Dana thanks Ethel for chairing the Policy Committee for such a long time. So, we just started meeting in January, where I became the policy chair. And one of the first things we did was create roles and responsibilities. And we used our service manual to get this information. So, I'm just gonna say this is what our roles and responsibilities are to implement policies and procedures as approved in concept by the Assembly, and ensure that they reflect the environment of the Hawai'i area. Not to act as an advocate or opponent, but focus on the area needs, identify gaps, discrepancies, errors, and their relevancy and purpose. So, and propose solutions, and or clarifications of policies, procedures and guidelines. And lastly, to ensure that the P and P adhere to the Traditions and Concepts. So, bless you for doing this for so long that we can't even remember who the last policy committee chair was.

There's been quite a few years where things haven't really been reviewed. And if you're not familiar with our policy and guidelines, this is them. They're different colors. The blue one is actually policy and procedure. There are nine in total. Some of them are completely irrelevant, like the team together empowering AI Anon members that hasn't been going on for quite a few years. Lists server, what is a list server? I don't even know what that is anymore. Anyway, so our job was then you know, where do we begin? Where do we start to look at this? David, thanks a lot for asking me to be the policy committee chair. And that is sarcasm.

I haven't been involved in the Hawai'i area for this last panel. And I'm actually a GR for a meeting at the global electronic area. So, I'm still a GR but not with you guys anymore. But I love Hawai'i area. And it means so much to me. And AI-Anon just means so much to me that I just knew my higher power was sending me a message, you know, come back to your ohana. So, anyway, thanks, David. So, in January, we began and we did the first thing we did was to clarify our roles and responsibilities. And we have to decipher multiple copies of the same

documents to find the most current because there are several floating out there that may not be current. So, it's been a challenge for us to even get going. And we decided that we would start with a P & P. And we are going paragraph by paragraph through it to review it and update it and bring it into 2023. If you have them and you see that some of them are dated, you know, 2014 2017. One even says 1995. So that's where we were going. And then in March, the

policy committee was asked to look at and review the permanent electronic groups, which I'm going to call peg, P E. G. And, you know, we weren't sure what exactly we were working with. But we took the time I sent it out to all of the committee members prior because we had just had a meeting. So, I sent off the policy to them to look at come up for their own questions or opinions for our next meeting, which was then in April, and we took an hour and a half of that meeting just talking about it. And we made a recommendation back to the task force in regard to the PEG document, and we use these three bullets from our World Service Manual that any work group thought for his task force, their body's objective is to complete its activity and present it to the originating body, which was not us, we were the policy committee. And then to move forward with what the originating body wishes, members need access to all the information about the issue, clarity and what their discussions hope to accomplish and trust each other's motives and capabilities. Committee decisions take time. And that means the assembly as a committee, the policy as a committee, the officers as a committee, each one of us has to take the time that we need, it is necessary to take the time to hear from all members who want to participate so that an informed group conscience evolves. So, the policy committee returned that accepting electronic groups to Hawai'i back to the task force, and asked for the supporting documents to be distributed through their through your district reps, and then to you as G ours. And then ideally, you take that back to your group, and you talk to your members, because it's not, it's not us, it's our group our membership that makes these decisions. So, um, and then we asked the PG to please do a presentation, I think that's what's gonna follow to the assembly, including the KBDM questions. Now, if you're not familiar with KBDM, knowledge based decision making, it's all about all of us having all the information so that we can make that informed group conscience. So, I'm looking forward to hearing what they have to say. And we felt if it was necessary, that we would ourselves as a policy committee, possibly do the KBDM questions tomorrow, so that you guys will all understand, you know, what it means to accept permanent electronic groups into Hawai'i. And with that being said, I am part of the global electronic area, and we don't have district reps. So, we're really missing. Now, link of communication that is really important. Because it's not about any one person in the service position. It's about the general membership. So, would anybody from my committee care to say anything? Thank you. Okay, so that was our committee. Here's Tom,

Tom: I just wanted to bring attention to a warranty three, that's talks about any action needs to have discussion, vote. And then what's the last part? Anyway, discussion is the most important. So. So every I understand the appreciate the task force for coming up with a draft policy, and answering questions. But what I found is during our discussion, I generated a lot more questions. I don't know what questions to ask. And then somebody brought up something and I said, Oh, yeah, I wonder what that's about. And then we can pursue the answer. For

instance, I thought, well, electronic grooves? Well, that means zoom. But somebody pointed out, no, not necessarily. It could be a phone meeting, it could, you know, we don't have to have a camera. Perhaps the meetings I am in do have a camera and speaker and things but doesn't have to be it could be much simpler than that. So, a lot of questions did come up during the discussion. So that's what I'm, I would like to propose that we have more discussion on the issues.

So, at this time, because we're short of time, I'm not going to ask her any questions. I'm just going to thank you all for letting me be of service to the Hawai'i area.

Mary presents the Policy on Electronic Groups:

I want to start by explaining there are electronic groups that consist of phone meetings, Zoom meetings, RingCentral meetings, but they're 100% electronic. There are also in-person meetings, which are either 100% in person or they're in person with an electronic component. What we're talking about is the 100% electronic meeting. There's no in person portion. Concept One states the ultimate responsibility and authority for AI Anon world services belongs to the AI Anon groups. That's what you as GRs and Alternate GRs are here to represent both to gain information here and be able to take it back to your groups, whether it's at this meeting or from your DR throughout the week. But it's a link of communication as Penni was explaining between the groups and the district in the area. So, in June or July of 2022 the PEG workgroup, which we renamed we took out permanent because we're talking about electronic workgroups was formed and discussions during workgroup meetings covered the four KBDM questions. What we knew of our members' wants, needs and preferences related to electronic groups in Hawai'i. What we knew of the capacity of our AI Anon groups, the current realities and the evolving dynamics associated with electronic groups and their continued existence in Hawai'i since the pandemic, and what pros and cons there might be from our decisions. The fifth KBDM question, what we didn't know we asked in a survey emailed to members and posted on our website in August of 2022. From this we prepared a presentation and recommendations to Area and in the fall of 2022. At the assembly, you voted to accept electronic groups into the white area. With that, the parent task force was created immediately after assembly. So the work group originally consisted of myself, Akemi, Penni, Eugene and Michelle. When we became the task force we now consist of Akemi, Penni, Patti, myself, Michelle and Sandy.

We began looking at policies and procedures from other areas to determine what would or would not work. Our delegate, Penni, being a part of our group has access to a variety of other states who have already gone before us and made their policies and procedures so we could look at theirs. We could look at Hawai'i area and see what would work for us. And as a group, we continue to have meetings and conversations. And we also used your responses from the original survey. Because in the original survey, we asked questions like, do you want to have an electronic district? Which?

So, the vast majority of people who responded to the question of do you want electronic district decided no.

Another thing that was asked in the original surveys, do you want to require that either the electronic group rep or the alternate GR lives in Hawai'i? And the fourth one was, would you like to offer a one-year trial period for registering electronic groups in Hawai'i? And then we asked the question to make sure that we got a broad response from across Hawai'i: What

district Do you live in? And so we use these responses, as we looked at how to write the policy procedure for accepting electronic or electronic groups into the Hawai'i area.

Then we further followed up. When we posted this online, we also gave an opportunity for questions. When we received more questions we met as a task force again and, after discussion, made the recommended changes. These revised documents were posted online to everybody who registered for the Assembly after we had convened and discuss the questions that you sent in. We are presenting this information to you right now.

Consent Agenda Vote

The Consent Agenda for this Spring Assembly is very simple: The DR and Coordinator Reports, The Minutes from the Fall 2022 Assembly, and the HALC annual report, all of which have been posted online and in our group emails.

The Secretary requests a vote by hand to accept the Consent Agenda. We have 28 yes, the Consent Agenda is accepted.

After a lunch break and seeing that we were far behind our agenda schedule, David proposed that we postpone the discussion and vote on the "Accepting Electronic Groups into the Hawai'i Area Policy" tomorrow.

Much discussion followed.

It was voiced that some of the GRs had scheduled to attend Assembly on Saturday and not Sunday because they wanted to vote on the policy. David recommends that we hear the DR reports now and postpone the discussion and vote to tomorrow.

Jennifer makes the motion that we change the schedule today so we can continue with Policy discussion and vote.

David says that is not the way the process works in an assembly, he does not have time left on the agenda to do that.

Candice asks how many GRs feel that it's necessary to engage in the Knowledge based decision making process prior to vote, can we just vote now, do we need more discussion? I feel well prepared to make a vote now.

Julie proposes that we proceed with the discussion and have the vote today.

Penny makes a procedural request. The originating body is this group of GRs who gave a work force the task of coming up with procedures. The Work Group has done what they were asked. And they have gone through the steps of KBDM, the results of which were mailed to each and every one of you. And are on display on the screen. And then were clarified further by Mary the chairperson. And I

want to know why one person on the area committee can choose to change this process without checking with fellow officers. Because we, as the panel of officers make those kinds of decisions

together when we are following procedure. This feels like a procedure that is dishonouring the work of that Work Group.

Dana Rae: What I would like to say is that this policy was handed over to the policy committee and we were asked to put a rush on it so it could be voted on here at the spring assembly? Things take time in Al-Anon. We don't rush through anything. So, the policy committee, which is four past delegates and a DR, were asked to review. I, as chairperson, asked for documentation to show me how they got to this policy. I got nothing. I wanted to see their process of doing KBDM, and they gave me a timeline. Well, that timeline did not answer the KBDM questions. So as a policy committee, we returned the policy and we asked them to get it to the DRS and GRS, to get it to your members. There wasn't enough time. So as a policy committee, we really felt like, if we had questions, then what questions do the members have about this policy? And even if it's on a trial basis for a year. But did we really take the time to examine it? I didn't look at any other area policies, and they didn't tell me what area policies they looked at, so I couldn't look at where they got their information. And I feel like that's not being transparent. In an Al Anon we're transparent, everyone has all the information at the same time. And I feel like I didn't get the information. I feel the need for extensive discussion about this. And if we don't vote on it today, what is going to change in the world? We still have Al-Anon meetings, we still have members, we still go to meetings. So, I don't understand what the rush is. So, I don't know if that made more questions. Or if that explains why the policy committee returned the policy and said we need more information.

Kathy observes that we still have three hours, can we not go ahead and have discussion and vote this afternoon?

Carolyn asks us to question if we are putting personalities before principles. In Hawai'i we use KBDM. This presentation is not in the 5 question format that we're used to. And (referring to the pie charts) how many members does this represent? We all represent a group. In Hawai'i, we follow the policies and procedures and guidelines of Hawai'i. The reason for that is because Hawai'i has a few things that are unique to Hawai'i. We're a very small area, we have less than 100 meetings, other areas have 300, 400, 600. We need to have procedures that work for our area of Hawai'i. What is the rush? I don't feel like we're making an informed decision. I feel like we're making an emotional decision based on personalities above principles.

A Member: My opinion is this taskforce has worked diligently on this project. We've all known for a long time they've been working on it. We've had plenty of time to go over the policy and bring forward changes if needed. I took it to my personal home group and people are more interested in their personal situations, what's going on in your own home, and they're really not tied into this issue. I don't think it would be a disaster if it was approved today. And then we used it for a year and made another decision.

A GR reports that she did not have enough time to get feedback from her group. She doesn't know what her group thinks.

Candace requests that we vote on her question first. Who requires more time on this before we take a vote. Second by Tom. Paper vote:

Patrick asks that we pause for a few moments and say the Serenity Prayer together.

Henrietta observes how upset she is at the discussion. Requests orderly speaking at the mic.

Sandy shares T H I N K: Thoughtful, Honest, Intelligent, Necessary, and Kind.

Vote Results: 18 yes, 16 no. (Not substantial unanimity) The question doesn't pass.

Jessica reads from the Service Manual, Page 220, Warranty Three: that all decisions be reached by discussion, vote, and whenever possible by unanimity; She goes on to read the text that follows on pages 220-221.

It is asked: How many voting GRs do we have? We have 34 voting GRs, 23 would be a substantial majority. (actually, 22.4).

Motion number two was made by Roslyn, second by Maheshi: that we have a discussion and vote today. Carolyn requests more information. Patti responds that the motion would be on "accepting the Policy for Accepting Electronic Groups in Hawai'i Area" today.

Discussion on the difference between Global Electronic Groups and what we have in Hawai'i now. Groups that are already registered as in-person, whether or not with electronic component, even if they are only meeting electronically, remain in-person, in Hawai'i. Do we have electronic groups from other places that want to be part of Hawai'i Area? No. Do we have Hawai'i groups that want to join Global Electronic Area? No.

Dana asks if a group is already registered, why do we need this vote? We are already a registered group.

Patti as Group Records Coordinator. She reports that WSO notifies her immediately if there is

a report about a group. She receives 3 – 4 reports each month on a group that was reported to WSO as “Not Meeting”. People who went to a physical location and there was no meeting. Sometimes it is a group that has not updated their location information, sometimes it is the person not reading the meeting location information completely. It is more an issue for Hawai'i groups that are choosing to move into only electronic meeting that want to have a very clear registration with World Service.

Dana says that it is the “autonomous” responsibility of the group, not the Area, to have current accurate information.

The vote: 29 yes, 5 no.

Break

Mary reads the Policy out loud to the Assembly.

Tom: Does not understand the issue of an electronic group not being able to register in a district that does not offer electronic participation in district meetings. There is an electronic group on Maui that sends its GR to district meeting, no problem. This seems like an issue between the group and the district, not an Area concern.

Member: A-5. Electronic Groups are required to meet WSO Criteria and accept all all AI-Anon Members. Does this mean that groups with special populations would not be allowed. Also some confusion about District obligations to have their own policies. *Response: to district question, this is an Area policy. It covers your district, but each district is autonomous, so may create policies for that district. We will clarify the language in the Policy to ensure that groups that cater to a specific population may continue to do so.*

Patti responds to Tom's question about Districts needing to offer electronic option for district meetings if they want electronic groups to register in their district. Yes, a local GR may attend a district meeting in-person, but the electronic group may, at some point, elect a GR from another island. We thought about this a great deal, it may not be satisfactory to everyone, but this solution is offered so a group can have a stable place in the service structure, regardless of which district their GR lives in.

Kirk asks why only Oahu has included the AIS in their communication link for posting meeting schedules. *Response: Oahu has its own Information Service and they are responsible for maintaining and disseminating the meeting schedules for all three Oahu districts.*

Helen addresses concern that she would miss members if they no longer participated in the District or Area. Penni asks for clarification. *We have already voted to accept electronic groups into Hawai'i. So, we already have decided to keep our electronic groups in Hawai'i. It's a done deal.*

Eugene: Wants to speak in favor of the policy. On Kauai they have in-person, hybrid, and electronic meetings. Thinks this policy encompasses these formats. Also remember, we have the policy to, after one year, review and change or abandon this policy.

Roslyn: Lives here part time, can she still be a GR? Yes. Who decides if a district does not want to offer an electronic option for district meetings? GRs

Michelle clarifies that if a district does not want to offer an electronic option for their district meeting, the group may select another district as their home district that does offer the option. This means that a group's Seventh Tradition split goes to their home district. What if your district covers the expense of your electronic meeting service (Zoom, Ring Central). It seems appropriate that you are fully self-supporting by helping your district to cover the expense of your video/phone conferencing service.

Marilyn shares that her electronic group saved her life. Strongly support this policy and remember people with disabilities need these options.

Nathan: If an in-person group decides to become electronic, then later decides to revert back to in-person or hybrid, may they do that? *Response: Yes, just notify your group records coordinator to update your WSO meeting information and your DR to update your district meeting schedule. The only instance where it is more complicated is if a group wants to leave Hawai'i Area and become part of the Global Electronic Area. They would need to request to leave this Area and request to join the GEA.*

Janet: We have a small electronic group that does not have a GR. One member is a member of another group so they get information, but they are not part of the links of communication in our district. Is there a time limit for going without a GR? *Response: A group is not required to have a GR. Groups can struggle their entire history without representation, but we sit here in this room and we understand how important it is to be part of the service structure. But, it is their choice. The only requirement is that they have a Current Mailing Address (CMA).*

Janet: In my reading of this policy it says if you do not have a gr, you cannot be an electronic meeting. *We will clarify the policy language to reflect that a group is not required to have a GR.*

Carolyn: A-1. Why do we use the language "founded"? And what is the reasoning for this guideline? *Response mostly it has to do with registration. Where we wanted to point to the group services, what we've been what's been recommended, is that we don't want the groups to reregister every time the GR changes districts, that's the wording that the other areas are using.*

Carolyn: Second question. What happens when a group changes from in-person to electronic and/or back again? Do they keep the same number? Do we need to clarify language? *Yes, they keep the same group number, stresses the importance of keeping group records current.*

Carolyn: Observation: I went on WSO site and the meeting information is not current. Who do they change with? *Response: I am just about to send out meeting update info to the DRs. Windward does not have a DR so they won't be part of that link of communication. Meeting information is in three*

places, your local district meeting schedule, the Hawai'i Al-Anon website (changes go to your DR) and WSO site, changes are made by group records coordinator. You may contact the Secretary directly or go through your DR.

Carolyn: electronic can also be phone, what happens if there is no connectivity at the location of a district meeting. Can we change the update language in the policy to be three years rather than two years?

Julia: Only 300+ of the GEA groups have a GR, and only 100 of those showed up to the Area Assembly.

Kaui: A-6. If groups are not required to have officers or GR, how do they manage to collect a Seventh Tradition? *Response: Touched on in Spring Workshop on Seventh Tradition, use various means, chat, email. How does your group communicate with each other now, email list, phone only. Provide mailing address for checks, venmo, paypal. On website, there is a document with suggested "splits" and mailing and electronic addresses. If your district finances your zoom/ring central, you should help support that cost.*

Dana: G: Electronic component could be a phone in the middle of the room. It is not true that a group cannot be a part of a district that does not offer electronic option for district meeting, Maui has an electronic group and the GR just physically attends the district meeting. Do we need to change the language?

Tom: If a group goes to another district and they are not accepted by that district, do they just keep moving around? *Response: Presuming goodwill, this policy reflects the work of Areas all over the Conference, we have included your questions and concerns, we have included the option to adjust the policy. It's all new, thank you for your understanding.*

Are we ready to vote? Are we ready to have a motion on the floor?

The amended Policy is displayed on the screen, and read aloud.

Patrick makes the motion: To accept the Electronic Group Policy and Procedure for Hawai'i Area, as amended, and to notify World Service that the Hawai'i Area has affirmed that it will accept electronic groups to the Hawai'i Area, and we have approved a policy to do so. This Policy and Procedure will be evaluated after one year and may be amended or abandoned, as approved by an Assembly vote. Second by Jo-Anne.

Vote: 32 yes, 1 no, 1 abstain. The motion is approved.

Delegate's Report, Part II (Accompanies these minutes)

Penni shares about the amount of work is involved in accepting electronic groups and the further question of how are we going to keep our Alateens safe in an electronic world. Also shares about the App, which is growing.

The Road Trip: newest version of "TEAM".

Now that we have accepted our procedures for accepting electronic groups in Hawai'i Area, Penni, as

delegate, will notify WSO that we are ready to start our group registration changes.

We are encouraged to go to the Global Electronic search and explores the difficulty of how to identify each kind of meeting. It is expected that the work to make all these changes integrated will take a year or so, so be patient.

“Alateen Electronic Group Feasibility Project” The scope is to evaluate the implications of and gain agreement on cohesive approach for expanding online Alateen meetings, not including Alateen events,

available through Al-Anon mobile groups and other electronic platforms. Explores the complexities, mandated reporting, different rules and regulations in other countries. Penni will keep us updated. Mobie App has 148,000 members, 46 groups that call Mobile App home, hosting over 118 groups each week. Penni shares that the Mobile App is much updated and user friendly. Easy to use. Town hall meetings.

Penni shares quote: Helping, Fixing and Serving represent three different ways of seeing life, when you help, you see life as weak, when you fix you see life as broken, when you serve, you see life as whole.

Road Trip: You and your board connect. The whole board goes to an Area and have their board meeting and at the end of the week the board attends the Area Assembly, and there is no cost for the Area. Do we want to do this? Collect information and send to WSO. They decide the top three and these are put in hat, drawing between top three. If you are interested, let Penni know and we can investigate a thought force. What does best idea mean? Feasible location, local airport, etc.

Who is the Board? And who pays for the visit?

Executive Director, Vali F, different associate directors who have places on the board, 3 staff members who are there to serve, all the trustees, regional and at-large.

World Service Conference is the assembly of the delegates. Responsible for updating the Service Manual. Penni shares about a misprinted edition: In the Steps “God, as we understood Him” was all italicized, but “God” is not supposed to be in italics, only the “as we understood Him”. It will be fixed in the next edition.

Penni shares that the Treasurer, Cindy, recommends that all of the groups, districts, and areas create their own budget. A simple one, what are our expenses? And include a monthly donation to your local literature depot. It would make us more self-supporting. The literature depot has monthly rent, Do we want to contribute towards that?

HALC is setting up Venmo which will make it easier for all of us to purchase literature.

Coordinator Reports (accompany these minutes)

Archives – Henrietta

Alateen – Penni

Literature – Dianna

Public Outreach – Sophie

Website – Michelle

Saturday Night Speaker – Michelle J

SUNDAY – MAY 21, 2023

Spiritual Speaker – Penni S

Speed Dating Workshop:

A 10 minute skit with “Al-Aninder” service position dating app. DRs, Coordinators, and Officers each give a three minute presentation outlining the service positions, benefits, responsibilities, etc.

The Assembly participants break into three groups and the Officers, Coordinators, and DRs move from group to group at fifteen minutes intervals. They go into more depth about their service positions and respond to questions from participants. The workshop completes with a brief wrap-up.

Fall Assembly Update - Sandy

Sandy explains that the Maui room rates are very high \$374.00 per night, double occupancy. They have reserved 10 rooms for Friday night and 20 rooms for Saturday night. These reservations must be paid in full in August 20, 2023.

Kristy observes that due to the great expense there will be a number of folks who will be coming in on Saturday morning and we may need to make the agenda conform to the Saturday arrival times.

If not all of the rooms are reserved we do not pay for the unreserved rooms, they just go back to the hotel. Our members are welcome to seek more affordable accommodations if they would like, but they will be responsible for their own transportation.

The Assembly itself, with meals, will be held at the Maui College. The staff there are not working well with us, we are re-negotiating the terms again as they have new management.

Dana comments on the huge expense, we should consider more people per room, a little uncomfortable, but we can do it to bring costs down. We are asking our Groups to pay for this.

Hot Topics: Penni & Kai

We have three “Hot Topics” Bringing to you for your input and consideration, no vote involve.

1. Kai: 2023 Al-Anon International Convention. Several of our Assembly are registered, Lori C, Susan R, David D, Dianna F, Dana Rae, Penni S, Tom N, Kai, Cecily C, Sandy S, Carolyn A, Lani C. You don't get the feeling of the World Wide Fellowship of Al-Anon until you sit in a room with thousands of us. A wonderful experience.

How can Hawai'i best represent ourselves in the Parade? Dress, outreach, love gifts. Kīhei and leipo'o.

- Head dresses,
- Serenity Prayer in Hawaiian.
- Henrietta models the garment. Then we see it modeled by Kirk.
- Lauhala bracelets.
- Can we get a Hawai'i AFG banner.

- Brooke has a tablecloth.
- Also want a Hawai'i flag.
- Packets of mac nuts.

- Flowers and lauhala hat
- Can you dance and walk at the same time?
- Each island is represented by a color. Can the Kīhei reflect the island color and flower?

The convention is available virtually for \$145.

2. Sandy: Invite the WSO to your Area event, or Road Trip. The WSO member will share at the Assembly, but all expenses are up to the Area. If the Board comes for a Road Trip, then they cover the expenses. We are looking at October, 2024 (which will be West Hawai'i).

We vote on the two options, by hand, and select the Road Trip. The Board is the Board of Trustees, Executive Committee, Finance and Policy Committees.

We need to submit our application by September 22, 2023.

3. Penni: As part of historical study a thought force did for SWRDM (South West Regional Delegates Meeting). We have a wealth of experience in our Past Delegates, but no service positions aimed at this wealth of service and experience. Some Areas pay some amount towards the costs for their Past Delegates to attend SWRDM. Is there some way we want to look at starting to fund, even partially, for our past delegates to attend SWRDM. How can we best utilize our Past Delegates, in Areas, Assemblies, Conference? Why isn't a Past Delegate part of setting the Conference agenda. We are very rich in Past Delegates. What do you wish you knew about our Past Delegates?
 - Archives
 - What if new AI-Anons had Past Delegate Mentors
 - California North had a budget for Past Delegates, do we want to consider this?
 - I like having a Past Delegate on Task Force, Thought Force, in helping in Area work, I think it is important to have Past Delegates on our committees.
 - It's pretty impressive when an experienced member attends a meeting and shares ESH.
 - Past Delegates are like our ancestors, we could ask them what they would like to do.
 - World Service has defined the coordinator service positions, can we ask the current delegates to discuss the possibility and ramifications of adding a coordinator position especially designed for Past Delegates?
 - The most important we Past Delegates can do is to participate locally. Carolyn

estimates that WSO invested about \$20,000 in travel and accommodations during her three year panel. A lot is invested in our Delegates and then they are put out to pasture. Past Delegates are not financed to attend Assembly. But, if Past Delegates take a GR or Area position, they will be funded for Assembly, but they will take the experience away from a growing AI-Anon. We have had a scholarship fund for about 30 years. Can we use some of that money to help Past Delegates attend Assembly.

- Maybe change the name to Grand Delegate.
- It takes 7 5 people to make a genius, I like the idea of having Past Delegate to help a new member. It gives a reason to be here, like GR and DR orientation. Committee membership.
- What is the benefit of sending a Past Delegate to SWRDM. *Response: It is where we practice for World Service Conference and keep learning to work together in this program.*
- A shared experience of “old timers” all attending a meeting together and how appreciated it was to have that ESH at the meeting.

DR Reports (accompany these minutes)

Maui – Sandy
 Leeward – Kauai
 Central – Mary
 Kaua'i – Eugene
 West Hawai'i – Kristi
 East Hawai'i – Candice

Concept Seven Skit – Maui

The trustees have legal rights while the rights of the Conference are Traditional.

On the World Service level, Concept 7 clearly describes the difference between the World Service Conference Delegates (WSC) and the Board of Trustees. The Conference is the largest group Conscience made up of delegates from around the US and Canada. The Delegates represent the groups in their Areas. The Board of Trustees Control the legal entity AI-Anon and is ultimately responsible for the funds, service, of our adherence to the law, public relations and the necessary protect of AI-Anon's resources by taken legal action if required.

The skit explores how the Trustees brought forward the legal issues of Alateen safety to the Conference and why it was a legal issue, that our membership in sponsoring and chaperoning Alateens, were crossing over into an area of legal responsibility and that because of the gravity of this responsibility, we need to address legal requirements for having an Alateen program as part of AI-Anon.

Amazing that we are again facing this same issue with electronic Alateen meetings.

Seventh Tradition – Akemi

Assembly Seventh Tradition totals:

Assembly	428.00
Meeting Seventh	170.00
Scholarship Sales	157.00

<u>Alateen Scholarship</u>	<u>179.00</u>
	934.00
<u>Contribution from a group</u>	<u>20.00</u>
Total	\$954.00

Ask-it-Basket

1. How many of our electronic meetings have group representatives currently? *Maui has 3 groups, all with GRs; Kauai has 1 group, with GR; Leeward Oahu has 1 group with GR; West Hawai'i has 2 groups without GRs, 4 groups with GRs; West Hawai'i has 4 groups with GRs.*
2. What is a Service Manual? And how would my group benefit from one? *The Service Manual is Al-Anon publication P24/27 and includes sections on Groups, Policies, the World Service Handbook, the 12 Concepts of Service, the World Service Conference Charter and the Alateen Motion from the Board of Trustees. The first section has everything a group would need to function and is sold separately as "Groups at Work" for \$1. The Service Manual attempts to be the resource for any question you may have about the Al-Anon Program. It is invaluable, inexpensive, and also a free download from the Al-Anon Website.*
3. Has the possibility of GRs representing more than one group been discussed in conjunction with either Electronic or in-person groups? *Some meetings do not have representation. Many groups have "shared" GRs for information reporting. The challenges come when we consider voting. One GR can only vote for one group. Any group may send an alternate or temp alt. GR, just for the Assembly, so that group can have representation and a vote. Similarly, a GR can be a coordinator. Depending on whether the member needs to vote or not, if voting, the group must pay their way. If no voting happens, the Area pays the way for the Coordinator.*
4. What is KBDM and why is it so important to making decisions? *There is a brief discussion in the Service Manual, pages 70-72. And described in depth in the World Service Conference Summaries of 2006, 2008, and 2014. All available on Al-Anon.org for free.*
5. Need suggestions on how to deal with people who come to Al-Anon who are intensely angry, confrontational, and disruptive. *There is no Al-Anon police. This is an issue that requires communication. Talk with your DR and other GRs. Group problems are resolved with communication within the group. Always remember that you are not alone. Other groups have struggled with this. As much as we would like to have an authority come in and straighten out mis-behavior, the ultimate authority in Al-Anon is the group. We have our Traditions and Concepts of Service to guide us, but in the end we need to sit down together, trust HP, and work out a solution. Your DR may be able to connect you with other members who have experience to share or a member who can help your group to talk with each other, reason things out with someone else. Your solution may include adding some text to your meeting welcome/opening script. Some of our groups have added language to their script and you could ask your DR if they could reach out for copies of these scripts. There are two pamphlets available on "Safety In Al-Anon" and you may also use the "Conflict Resolution, Using Our Twelve Traditions" flip book as an aid to talking things out.*
6. Is there any thought on changing the verbiage when talking about God to be more "gender neutral"? *As younger people join and our conscience raises, using God as "He" could turn off younger people or folks who are turned off by "God" (the word). When I*

was new to the program, and I am very open-minded, I was kind of turned off by God being referred to as “He”. *“The Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions are copyrighted literature. It would require a vote of 75% of all of the Al-Anons in the World to change the language, so it is unlikely to ever change. Apologies for the mis-information at the Assembly about the group that allowed participants to use their own language, this is not really allowable, Tradition Four applies here: “Each group should be autonomous, except in matters affecting another group or Al-Anon or AA as a Whole”*

March 2022 from Sue Pérez Associate Director Group Services

On behalf of the clearinghouse, the WSO would like to provide clarity as it relates to this discussion of changing any words in the Twelve Steps, Traditions or Concepts of Service used in Al-Anon and Alateen meetings and events:

Alcoholics Anonymous (A.A.) holds the copyright to the words found in the Twelve Steps of A.A. This includes any translation of those same Steps. Any recovery program that wishes to use and adapt the Twelve Steps of A.A. must request permission to do so from the A.A. GSO. The Twelve Steps are not part of the public domain.

Al-Anon Family Groups Headquarters, Inc. has held the legal copyright to the Al-Anon and Alateen Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions and Concepts of Service since 1996.

Our World Service Conference, which is recognized as the senior conference by all other structures, has deemed it to be prudent to only consider changing these steps through the written consent of three-quarters of Al-Anon groups worldwide. Please see the Al-Anon World Service Conference Charter on page 224 of the 2018-2021 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual (P-24/27) version two (2).

WSO encourages review of page 36 of the 2014 World Service Conference Summary (P-46) where the process is described to effect such a change.

Again, our members are free to interpret the Legacies according to their own perceptions. When in an Al-Anon meeting, our unity is preserved when the Legacies are read aloud as they appear in our Conference Approved Literature (CAL). It is not within the autonomy of the individual group to change the pronouns when reading the Legacies as this affects Al-Anon as a whole. Changing the wording of our Steps and Traditions is very similar to bringing outside literature into our meetings. The consistent reading of our Three Legacies as they are written protects Al-Anon's copyright and assures Al-Anon members that wherever we go throughout the world, Al-Anon's message of help and hope remains clear and consistent.

We hope this is helpful.

...from a former Trustee Dec 21, 2022:

We read the Suggested Al-Anon/Alateen Welcome found on page 11 of our Service Manual, but insert this paragraph between the fourth and fifth paragraphs:

Al-Anon is a spiritual fellowship, not a religious one. Members of any faith, or none at all, are welcome and we make it a point to avoid discussion of specific beliefs. The Al-Anon program is based on the spiritual idea that we can depend on a 'Power greater

than ourselves' for help in solving our problems and achieving peace of mind. We are free to define that power in our own terms, in our own way and in our own time. Even if the language of the 12 steps does not reflect this diversity to you, we want you to know that you are welcome.

I hope both responses are helpful and thank you again for giving me the opportunity to learn something new today.

7. Not a question, a compliment: Penni is a beautiful example and role model for me of “Exquisite-Self-Care”. Thank you Penni for your report which included the spiritual component of our program’s principles. Penni embodies the “Love, Laugh, and Grow Together” Theme.

4:00 Close

After a very brief reflection period, we close the Assembly with the Serenity Prayer.

Minutes submitted by Area Secretary, Patti P.

DRAFT

Bell Ringers – Spring Assembly – May 20-21, 2023

1. Before Al-Anon Family Groups filled the Gap...Chicago Family Group Aims and Principles 1. We Accept and apply A.A. principles for self-betterment. 2 To let A.A. work out the destinies of its members unhindered, while we work out ours in the same manner. 3. We do not give advice on family issues. 4. We try to practice humility and tolerance in our daily living. 5. We never attempt A.A. twelfth step work as such. 6. Anonymity of the alcoholic and family should be at all times respected. Through faith and understanding we hope to accomplish our aims and purposes.

I'm Dianna, and that's the way it was!

First Steps, Al-Anon, 35 years of Beginnings, pg. 20

2. Lois talks from the heart...Early in 1941, she and Bill bought Stepping Stones, Lois was ecstatic. "How wonderful it was to have a home of your own! At that time in our lives a home was first of all a refuge from wanderings. And it gave us a chance to enjoy such interests as music, reading and gardening. All these perfectly normal activities had been denied us for a long time. It gave us the particularly, an opportunity to be alone together and to plan for the future..."

I'm Dianna, and that's the way it was!

First Steps, Al-Anon, 35 years of Beginnings, Lois W. Al-Anon Co-founder, pg 42

3. Years Ago...I was at a meeting where a longtime member bought one of the very early issues of The Forum to introduce a topic. It was about the writer's favorite slogan, "TTT" meaning, 'Things Take Time.' That has been an important lesson for me to learn and apply to my service.

I'm Dianna, and that's the way it was!

World Service Conference Summer 2005, Glen B., Conference Chairperson, Trustee

4. Just for Today...The 1942 version of Alcoholism, The Family Disease also included a version of "Just for Today," as did a local booklet from Arizona Triple A Family Groups. Around this time, the Clearing House also began printing a Just for Today wallet card(M-10). The popular excerpt is in the public domain and its exact origins are unknown, but its philosophy is similar to that of Al-Anon Family Groups. In a very short time, it became strongly associated with the program.

I'm Dianna, and that's the way it was!

Many Voices, One Journey, pg. 60

5. Non-Alcoholic Group...The Alcoholic Foundation, forerunner to A.A.'s General Services Organization (GSO), registered its first Non-Alcoholic Family Group on March 1, 1945. Since Al-Anon was not yet a program that was separate from A.A., this family group was actually an A.A. group, even though its members were "non-alcoholic." The group, which later became the Westside Al-Anon Family Group, located in Long Beach, California published its own pamphlet, which explained the Aims and Purposes of the Non-Alcoholic Group.

I'm Dianna, and that's the way it was!

Many Voices, One Journey, Pg. 24