

**Area 55 Fall Assembly
September 30, 2017
Millcreek, Utah
Panel 57**

In attendance: Area: Nancy W – Delegate, Patrick Murphy – Area Chair, Chris C – Acting Recording Secretary, Cory O - Group Records, Kevin B – Treasurer, Sheldon W - Alateen Coordinator, Beverly J – Alateen Process Person, Jacklyn J – Archives Coordinator, Bob H – Forum Coordinator, Chris S – Guidelines Coordinator, Tiffany M – Literature Coordinator, Dawn M – Public Outreach Coordinator, Dave B – AAIS Coordinator, Stanna B – AAIS, Jason C – Website Coordinator, and Mary Y – Past Delegate. **District 1:** Robert D – DR, Pam L – Sunday Serenity, Jeff K – Courage to Change GR, Jeannie O – Tri-C GR, Sheldon W – CALM GR, John M – Letting Go in Logan GR, Cory O – Speaker Meeting GR, Sherri W - Serenity Here We Are GR, Jane M - Hope at High Noon GR, Beth S – Sunday 4 Serenity GR, Matt B – Live & Let Live GR, Steffani P – Live & Let Live Alt GR, Sandy C – Staying Alive GR, Joanne S – Public Outreach Coordinator and Janet V – Public Outreach Coordinator. **District 3:** Celestia G – DR, Dresden M – District Alateen Coordinator, Lori – Begin Here Inventory GR, Denise L – Let It Begin with Me GR, Darla K – Step by Step GR, Paul – Living & Learning GR, Gale – Is AFG for You GR, Tracy – District 3 Schedule Coordinator and Wednesday Nite Lost & Found GR, Bob – Wednesday Serenity Seekers GR, Lynette Y – Friday Night Serenity GR, Ked K – Wednesday Step Study GR, Julie W – Paths to Recovery GR, Rachel L – Monday Morning Miracles GR, Russ P – Sunday Spirit Quest GR, Guy K – Wednesday Lunch Bunch Alt GR, Faith Y – Bountiful Easy Does It GR, Michele A – Mountain Miracles GR, Michelle E – Midway Miracles GR, Dave E – Saturday Step GR, Charlie H – Thursday 101 & Beyond GR, Gerry R – New Beginnings GR, Carol H – Public Outreach Coordinator. Interested Al-Anons – Pat D, Marsha L, Swendy W, Richard Y, Michael G, Maxine L, and Pete H. **District 6:** Lou Ann T – DR and Provo Step Study GR, Marci C – Payson Hula Hoop GR & District 6 Treasurer, Spring – Wednesday Night Orem GR, and June T – Interested Al-Anon. **District 8:** Heather B – DR, Gail N – Monday Noon GR, Sheri H – District Alateen Rep, Leslie T – Friday Serenity GR, Terri S – Friday Serenity Secretary, Tammy H – St George Tuesday Night GR, and Pat Y – Parowan Tuesday Night GR.

Saturday Morning Kick Off Panel: Heather, Celestia and Robert led a panel discussion about how to welcome newcomers, how to teach newcomers the Al-Anon focus and welcoming AA members who need Al-Anon recovery. Here are some of the suggestions that came from their discussion:

1. Give them a newcomer packet with group members' phone list
2. Be welcoming and ask them to come back
3. Including the reading "Al-Anon Spoken Here" in the readings to remind everyone to keep the focus on Al-Anon. Talk about avoiding sharing from the other program(s) and the nuances of sharing experience, strength and hope. Also remember that these people have come to the room for Al-Anon recovery and should be treated the same as someone not in another program.
4. Use "long timers" (Al-Anon members who have been in the program for a long time) as a resource to help newcomers.

5. Choose not to use the term “qualifier” as it can attach stigma and shame. “I am the one who qualifies me to be in this program.”
6. Do some public outreach to professionals
7. Have refreshments after the meeting and invite the newcomers to stay and chat.
8. One person quoted her husband (AA/Al-Anon member) as saying, “I went to AA to get sober but I went to Al-Anon to get well.” Alcoholics have experience, strength and hope to share with us.

Opening: Patrick opened the meeting with the Serenity Prayer.

Welcome: Patrick thanked the host committee and Dawn M, the host committee chair, said a few words.

Traditions: Traditions were read by Pat D.

Concepts & Warranties: These were read by Dresden M.

Introductions: Patrick had members of each of these groups stand and introduce themselves: Host Committee, Alateen, Group Representatives and their alternates, Area World Service Committee, Delegate, Past Delegates, Spanish (none were present at that moment but were in attendance later), District Representatives, and those who have no position but are interested Al-Anon members.

Icebreaker: Cory O led us in an icebreaker she called “Stand Up, Sit Down, Fight, Fight, Fight.” She asked questions and members stood if they applied to their own lives. Examples of the questions were, “Have you only lived in Utah?”, “Have you lived in another country?”, and “Were you born on another planet?” This exercise gave everyone a chance to look around and see if there were other people who had a similar life experience to their own so they would have conversation starters during meals and breaks.

How We Do Business: Patrick proposed how to do business during the course of the event and reviewed the rules of the conference. This information is available in the slides.

Treasurer’s Report and 2018 Budget: Kevin B, our area treasurer, reported on the state our finances and submitted a proposed budget, which we would vote to approve later in the day. With three months to go in this year, our donations are down 15% from where they were last year at this time. He reminded the members of the Area World Service Committee (AWSC) to submit their expenses for the weekend so he can update the numbers for the year. Currently we have \$8,567.36 in checking with \$2,600.25 in ample reserve. Someone asked why there is no line item on the budget for donating to WSO. Kevin responded that we give them what is left over after we’ve paid our expenses.

District 8 Report: Heather reported 5 people have applied to be AMIAS and they have their first official Alateen Coordinator. Public Outreach has been busy placing *Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism* (with schedules tucked inside) in hospitals, treatment centers and police stations. AA’s Dixie Central Office have told her that more people come in needing Al-Anon than AA so they are keeping a supply of *Al-Anon Faces*

Alcoholism on hand. She is hopeful that in the future, perhaps 5 years, they will be able to open an AIC in the District 8 area.

District 1 Report: Robert reported that they have 12 active Al-Anon groups and 3 Alateen groups. They are having trouble finding Alateen Sponsors to serve so frequently the Monday night Alateen meetings need to merge into one (older and younger teens together). They had some trouble getting a budget approved this year so he would like to thank Kevin B, who attended one of their meetings and helped them put things in the proper perspective so they could move forward. They held two workshops this year: a service workshop in February for the new GRs and an AMIAS workshop in April. Public Outreach continues to be strong in this district thanks to Janet V and Joanne S, who have affectionately been nicknamed "The J-mazing Duo." They are taking meetings into treatment centers and recycling old *Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism* magazines by covering the year with a sticker that says, "FREE!"

District 3 Report: Celestia announced that their district now has 8 Spanish meetings! Their treasurer, Jeff, has reported to her that their budget is abundant. They will be holding their annual "Holiday Boutique" the first Saturday in December. She had an opportunity to sit the Public Outreach table at Recovery Days at the Gallivan Center this year and was amazed at the attendance.

District 6 Report: Lou Ann reported that their district has 6 active groups. They hosted 56 registrants at the Delegate's Day in June and earlier in September had a BBQ at Elsa M's house. Dawn and Patrick were their speakers. They will hold their district elections this November.

Alateen Reports: Beverly J, Area Alateen Process Person (AAPP), reported that there are currently 43 AMIAS registered and 4 ACTIVE groups (out of 7). She reviewed the rules of being AMIAS and a copy is in her report.

Sheldon, Area Alateen Coordinator, did a slide presentation on his thoughts about the health of the Alateen program in Utah. The slides will be included in the archives in lieu of a written report.

Patrick will be creating an Alateen Task Force to look at what's not working and how to fix it. He would like a guidelines committee member to serve on it since the Alateen Safety Guidelines is one of the things that need to be updated.

Dresden, District 3 Alateen Coordinator, and her daughter, Samara, led us in playing some Alateen sharing games so we could get a glimpse at some of the things the children do in their meetings.

Delegate's Time: Nancy talked about upcoming events in the area.

Area Recording Secretary: Chris C that she felt moved to volunteer for this position when Elaine had to step down. She loves taking minutes and organizing stuff.

Group Records Coordinator: Cory reported that there are currently 59 active groups in the area and reminded everyone to contact her if there are any changes.

Al-Anon Area Information Services (AAIS): Dave reported that they are doing well in selling literature, taking phone calls, and offering experience, strength, and hope as needed. The Chili Dinner Fundraiser was a big hit again with line dancing and dessert auction. They also, with District 3, hosted a very successful “Evening in Al-Anon” event, which was well attended. The best part is they now have new members helping at the AAIS office. He thanked everyone who has contributed to their success, be it the past and current volunteers, the AAIS Board and the many who support them financially.

Literature Coordinator: Tiffany updated us on what’s new in literature. She would like to hold a periodic conference call to hear from the districts and to share information. She announced that there is now a link from WSO to order Conference Approved Literature (CAL) in electronic format to the sites that are allowed to sell it.

Forum Coordinator: Bob shared the good news that subscriptions are up from 103 last year to 107 this year. He is putting a subscription form in the Alanews now. He has conducted several writing seminars to write articles for the Forum and Alanews. He will publicly acknowledge anyone who has their article published. He is still encouraging groups to pass a can to take a collection for Forum subscriptions and hold drawings to gift subscriptions to the winner.

Web Coordinator Report: Jason has been spending time updating the site to Drupal 8, which is a big job. At this point, to do electronic registrations and to create a version that will work on cell phones, we will need to change the look of the website. This is good just from the standpoint of having a fresh look too. Celestia volunteered to do this project. Jason showed us the new “find a meeting” app that he is developing. It will be interactive with the meeting locations showing up on the map with a pin. When you click it, it gives the meeting info and address. The members asked for a link to take you to something like Google maps that will give the driving instructions.

Public Outreach Coordinator: Dawn showed the latest Public Service Announcements (PSA) for Al-Anon and Alateen in both English and Spanish. She shared statistics WSO gave her on the television and radio stations showing PSAs. The members were then asked to write thank you letters to the stations for their support. She then showed a slideshow on the *Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism* magazine that is out for 2018.

Alanews Report: (Rachel was unable to attend the assembly but she asked Patrick to relay the following information.) She has revamped the look of the newsletter and has taken it from paper to electronic. To date she has had NO requests for paper editions. Going forward she will post the newsletter on the web and print some paper copies to be available at the AAIS.

Patrick explained the problem with the paper mailings is that they must send out over 200 copies to qualify for the bulk mailing rate. In order to do that, they had to send 2 copies to each GR and multiple copies to AAIS. This was not cost effective.

Utah Al-Anon Convention: One of the dreams for our area, as stated at a 2015 event, was to hold a “UTAC for Grownups” type of convention, which would be a weekend of fun and recovery. Cory had us do a brief survey to see what kind of things the membership would be interested in doing during such a convention. During the voting section, the GRs would be asked to vote for whether the area should test

the feasibility of holding an annual area convention. Cory suggested the name “Utah Fellowship and Fun Connection.”

Archive Report: Jacklyn reported that the Archive Committee has moved forward with digitizing area archives. A DropBox account was created and Chris C gave a demonstration of what it looks like. Chris has started moving digital documents to it. Chris also scanned all of the District 1 archives (2 or 3 binders) to get a sense of what time commitment would be involved in scanning. It took her four days. The next leg in the journey is for the archives committee to answer some of the questions that popped up during this discussion, working with the guidelines committee to include them in the archives guideline, and to put together a scanning team. Jacklyn asked for volunteers to help. Please go back to your groups and see if you can find members who would be interested in this type of service.

Guidelines Committee Report: Chris S presented the modified version of the Archives Guideline, including things that were requested at the Spring Assembly, plus some naming convention items that Chris C asked for recently as she gain experience in scanning. Such changes would make it easier to search for documents without an elaborate indexing tool. There was much discussion on some of the finer points of the guideline but it was eventually agreed to vote on it as is, with the understanding that it will probably reappear at the next assembly with some modifications.

Chris S also reported that three more guidelines are on his list for update for the next assembly with members to help him in parenthesis: The Alateen Safety Guideline (Alateen Task Force), Reimbursement to AWSC for Events (Kevin B), and the Hosting Assemblies (Denise L).

For the record, he would like us to use the term “digital” instead of “electronic” in the future when referring to documents that are not paper only.

VOTING:

Motion 1: Shall the minutes of the 2017 Spring Assembly be approved as published/corrected?

Number of GRs = 35, 35 For/ 0 Against, Motion carries

Motion 2: Shall the 2018 budget be approved as presented?

Number of GRs = 35, 32 For/ 3 Against, Motion carries

Motion 3: Shall the area pay the full amount (rather than the equalizer expense) to send our delegate to the World Service Conference (WSC)?

Number of GRs = 35, 34 For/ 1 Against, Motion carries

Motion 4: Shall the area pay the registration, meal and hotel expenses to send our area chair to Southwest Regional Delegates Meeting (SWRDM) 2018?

Number of GRs = 35, 35 For/ 0 Against, Motion carries

Motion 5: Shall Rachel M be given a vote of confidence to fill the position of Alanews Coordinator/Editor on the area panel?

Number of GRs = 35, 35 For/ 0 Against, Motion carries

Motion 5A: Shall Chris C be given a vote of confidence to fill the position of Area Recording Secretary on the area panel?

Number of GRs = 35, 35 For/ 0 Against, Motion carries

Motion 6: Shall the Archives Guideline be accepted as presented?

Number of GRs = 35, 35 For/ 0 Against, Motion carries

Motion 8: Shall the area test the feasibility of holding the annual area convention?

Number of GRs = 35, 31 For/ 1 Against, 3 Abstain, Motion carries

Delegate's Time: Nancy explained what a trustee does and what the requirements are to serve. Joyce B is approaching the end of her term so we will need people to stand for the position.

Technology Workgroup: Patrick asked for those members who are technologically inclined to see him about serving in some capacity. Some of the items we need help with are: 1) What is the best platform for us to use to hold long distance meetings? 2) What do we need to do to assure clear long distance communication, and 3) What specific audio/visual equipment will meet our current future needs?

Planning Ahead: Patrick talked about the events coming up in our area in the future.

- Fellowship of the Spirit of Utah Oct 6-8, 2017 Park City, UT
- You & Your Board Connect Oct 21, 2017 Aurora, CO
- Fall Fellowship Weekend Oct 27-29, 2017 Ogden, UT
- PRAASA Mar 2-4, 2018 Reno, NV
- SWRDM Mar 9-11, 2018 Reno, NV
- Spring Assembly 2018 Mar 2018 St George, UT (District 8 hosting)
- Delegate's Day 2018 TBD
- Day of Connecting Jul 5, 2018 Baltimore, MD
- 6th International Conference Jul 6-9, 2018 Baltimore, MD
- Fall Assembly 2018 Sep 2018 SLC, UT (District 3 hosting)
- Fall Assembly 2019 (Election Year) Sep 2019 TBD, District 1 hosting

Closing: Patrick led the assembly in closing with the Responsibility Statement. Thank you to all who participated!