

THE 2019 VIRGINIA AREA AL-ANON FALL ASSEMBLY MINUTES

October 19-20, 2019

DoubleTree by Hilton, 1021 Koger Center Blvd., Richmond - Midlothian

“Action is Attraction – There is No Growth in the Comfort Zone”

S A T U R D A Y

OPENING

- Tom S., Area Chair, opened the meeting with the Serenity Prayer, followed by announcements, thanks to Stephanie P., Assembly Coordinator, and the Roanoke registration committee. He also mentioned the need of the Area to fill two vacant officer positions, the Alternate Secretary and the Alternate Treasurer. The reading of the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, and Twelve Concepts of Service by Allyson M., Ellie F., and Joyce M., respectively, followed.
- Introduction of new groups - Tom introduced 5 new groups, one of which is an Alateen group. Two of the new groups are represented at Assembly.
- Introduction of Past Delegates, Trustees and Visitors - Tom S. introduced Don F., Panel 47, and Duane F., Panel 56, Past Delegates in attendance. Kerri K. WSO, Associate Director of International Services, is here with her mother.
- Introduction of Area Officers, Coordinators, Committee and Service Center Chairs by Tom S.
- Spring Assembly had 73 out of 175 attendees turn in an evaluation. Please participate in the evaluation process so we can make the Assembly work for you. Vali F., WSO Executive Director, was a hit, as was the additional coffee.
- Tom S. shared slides “Area Update” and “Area Fun Facts”.
- Concept 3 was read by Tom S.
- Recognition of, and gratitude for, Christy B. and the 2019 Convention Committee was expressed by Tom S.

ATTENDANCE AND REGISTRATION

- Registration Committee Report - The committee reported that 146 registered for Assembly. We added an option for guest meals this time. 350 registration packets were mailed. Most were completed online, with only 25 sent in on paper.
- Nansmond District will handle registration for 2020 Spring Assembly.
- VAWSC members present: Terry Woodside, Tom Spillman, Stacy Lewis, Rick Arsenault, Laura Lovern, Bruce Burrows, Valerie Palamountain, Sue Vencill, Leslie Kruger, Debi Harrop, Barbara Mulvaney, Stephanie Page, Wendy Rowden, Christy Boone, Phyllis Fabian, Ami Smith, Yasi Sherbaf, Lisa Ensign, Don Feick, Duane Faircloth, Katherine Pabody, Mahender Dudani, Kathryn Holland, David Dickinson, Chris Batchelder, Rosemary Reed, Sean Millington, Ellie Fetterly, Paula Stallard, Debbie Polston, Jenks Hobson, Cherie Redlinger, Debbie Teer, Joyce Maxwell, Becky Dimon, Sheri Turner, Regan Knutson, Fran Brune, Ginny Kelly, Dominic Brognano for Shannon Howard, Patty Michalak for Randi Murdock

- Not Present: Sue Anker, Ann Fletcher, Justin Lecaroz, Bob Adney, Samantha Harden, Ann Gorrell, Alice Jones, Tina Estes, Jenna Miilu, Lisanne Sunday, Joanna Charlton,

ASSEMBLY MINUTES: Laura L.

- Minutes from 2019 Spring Assembly were emailed to the Registration Committee for inclusion in the registration packets.

MOTION

Made by: Wendy R.
Second by: Paula S.

That the 2019 Spring Assembly Minutes be approved.

Motion Passed: voice vote

OFFICER REPORTS

- Treasurer Report: Bruce B. (report available upon request)
- We are right where we should be at this time of year.
- Balance is a little high because of Convention funds, and because registration fees for Assembly have been collected, but our bill has not been paid to the hotel.
- Contributions are coming in nicely from groups and districts. We are where we should be this time of the year.
- The 2019 Spring Assembly cost the Area about \$8,000. The 2019 Fall Assembly should be less - approximately \$6,500 - \$7,000 because it is smaller.
- Budget Discussion: Discussion was held about the cost of the Assembly to the Area over the last two years. Some confusion about terminology was expressed and a better wording will be used going forward. Bottom line, the Assembly always costs the Area money. Our registration fees do not cover the cost of the Assembly.

MOTION

Made by: Patty S.
Second by: Christy J.

That the Treasurer's report be accepted.

Motion Passed: voice vote

- Delegate Report - Terry W. (report available upon request)
- Terry explained Panel numbers and how they work, what occurs at the World Service Conference, what her responsibilities are as our Delegate, and how she works with Al-Anon Trustees.
- Our new theme for next year is *Dreaming Big with a 20/20 Vision*. 2019 was our first trilingual WSC.
- The Southeast Region, of which Virginia is a member, has a Regional Trustee vacancy for the second year in a row now.

- There are three conventions coming up - 2020 AA International Convention in Detroit, 2021 Virginia Area Convention, and 2023 Al-Anon/Alateen International Convention in Albuquerque, NM
- Policy Committee Discussion
 - A conversation is starting about prior AA members and their participation in Al-Anon service.
 - There are currently text revisions going on for our 2022 Service Manual, in order to edit/remove text that is procedural in nature, not policy related.
 - “Open” and “closed” terminology for our meetings is being changed to “Families, Friends, and Observers Welcome” and “Families and Friends Only”, respectively.

COORDINATOR REPORTS (most available upon request)

- Public Outreach - Val P. - NVSC has decided not to purchase translation equipment; it is much more economical to rent it. We sold about 100 bilingual calendars at Convention. PSA's can be downloaded from WSO website. We have a new fact sheet for professionals for those districts participating in Adopt-A-Doc outreach service. Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism is now going to be kept continually in circulation, not just available once per year.
- Literature/Forum - Tom S. for Ann F. - Sharings are needed. Please encourage all groups to subscribe to The Forum. Currently only 50 groups subscribe. The cost is only \$11/year.
- Group Records - Leslie K. - Copy of group records process was included in everyone's packet. It's a simple three step process. Contact DR, DR submits changes, Group Records Coordinator updates the database, which also updates WSO's database.
- AAPP - Debi H. - Alateen is Al-Anon's largest vulnerability. We deactivated 60 AMIAS's. We have 12 districts with Alateen meetings, but 19 districts with at least one AMIAS sponsor. Debi encourages all DR's to stay on top of the sponsors in their district. MEAC and ESAC were both held this year.
- Alateen - Ginny K. - Bull Run will hold the next Alateen workshop in November. Hoping to be in Roanoke in January.
- 2019 Convention - Christy B. - The speakers were phenomenal. 88 silent auction baskets were donated; the event made \$4,000. Workshop handouts are on the area website.
- 2021 Convention - Val P. - There will be a meeting tomorrow immediately after Assembly to recruit committee chairs. Filled hotel liaison, registration on the spot. Need merchandise chair. Brooke volunteered to help procure speakers. Need workshop help (maybe 2-3 people), silent auction help, boutique help, Spanish participation help, etc. Wendy W. has agreed to be Convention treasurer again.

WSO Presentation - Kerri K., Associate Director of International Services

Website Update (New Committee) - Sue V.

- Sue got help! Becky D. is going to help with Webex
- The calendar view now works on mobile devices
- Sue has set up a fully functioning “play” area for experimenting on the website
- A new database is being created and will be linked directly to the website

- We need to pick a place other than the website to store our documents
- “Open” and “Closed” wording will be changed on the meeting lists
- We are focusing mostly on the member experience, and would like to move on to our guests and visitors
- We will start a Delegate’s Corner on the website

DR Highlights: (available upon request, if turned in)

VAWSC Voting Items:

- **Bylaw Revision** – A concern has been raised in the last week or so over the statement that GRs can’t vote at Assembly if there is no DR in the district. The officers would like to strike the comment and have an ad hoc VAWSC vote to approve a revised amended motion.

VAWSC meeting held Saturday, October 19, 2019 at 8:30pm – see VAWSC Minutes

SUNDAY

- Tom opened the second day of Assembly with the Serenity Prayer
- Our spiritual speaker was introduced by Terry W.

SPIRITUAL SPEAKER – Kerri K., WSO, Director of International Services

VAWSC Voting Items:

GR Roll Call – Laura L.

Bylaws Revision: Tom S.

- The floor was opened for discussion and questions

MOTION

Made by: Christy J.

Second by: Tim C.

That the Virginia Area Assembly vote to approve the modified revised Virginia Area Al-Anon and Alateen Bylaws identified as Version 2.1, March 2, 2019.

Motion Passed: by show of hands, 91 in favor, with none opposing and 1 abstaining

COORDINATOR REPORTS cont’d

- Northern Virginia Service Center – Phyllis F. – 4 people on staff; heavy emphasis on outreach to the Spanish population
- Tidewater Service Center – Ami S. – need 93 people to commit to \$8/month contribution to produce the income they need to operate. Participated in the Neptune Festival locally. Two fundraisers planned for 2020.
- LRPC – Wendy R. – Helping with the website to test some new ideas out; also talking about insurance needs from Area down to groups, and discussing possible document storage ideas.
- MEAC – Wendy R. – moving MEAC a week later going forward

Workshop Report Backs – one member from each workshop reported briefly on the workshop they attended Saturday night.

DR Highlights continued: (available upon request, if turned in)

7th Tradition basket and Evaluations:

- Delegate Report continued:
- Reiterated the value of group inventories and group consciences in healthy groups
- Encouraged us all to familiarize ourselves with the characteristics of healthy groups, and update our openings and closings, if it’s been a while.
- Concept 9 – p. 194 in the Service Manual. Bill W.’s essay on leadership was cited – suggested as a good read prior to a district meeting
- When someone in Al-Anon asks you to do service, say “yes”!

CLOSING - Tom S. closed the Assembly with the Al-Anon Declaration, after reminders about completing Assembly evaluations, and the need for an Alternate Secretary and Alternate Treasurer.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Lovern
Area Secretary

Tom Spillman
Area Chair

Let it Begin with Me

When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, let the hand of Al-Anon and Alateen always be there, and let it begin with me.

Upcoming Dates: 2019

October 19-20	Fall Assembly	DoubleTree, Midlothian
December 7	Area Officer’s Meeting	North Courthouse Rd Library
2020		
March 7	VAWSC	Johnson-Willis Hospital
April 20-24	World Service Conference	Virginia Beach, VA
May 16-17	Spring Assembly	DoubleTree, Midlothian
June 6	Area Officers’ Meeting	TBD
August 1	VAWSC	Johnson-Willis Hospital
October 10-11	Fall Assembly	DoubleTree, Midlothian
2021		
May 15-16	Spring Assembly	DoubleTree, Midlothian
August XX-XX	Virginia Area Convention	(Location TBD)
October 16-17	Fall Assembly	DoubleTree, Midlothian