

THE 2021 VIRGINIA AREA AL-ANON FALL ASSEMBLY MINUTES

October 16-17, 2021
Virtual Meeting by WebEx

“Moving Forward with Unity, Courage and Perseverance”

S A T U R D A Y

OPENING

- Tom S., Area Chair, opened the meeting with the Serenity Prayer, followed by an expression of gratitude for all of the work put into this unique Assembly. The 12 Steps, 12 Traditions, and 12 Concepts were read by Sean M., Regan K., and Phyllis F., respectively.
- Introduction of new groups - We have registered 7 new groups since the Spring 2021 Assembly
- Introduction of Past Delegates and Visitors - Duane F., past Delegate, registered for the Assembly
- Tom S. introduced the Area Officers
- Concept 3 and the Area Assembly Purpose were read by Tom S.

ATTENDANCE AND REGISTRATION

- Virtual attendance was taken by Becky through the polling feature.
- VAWSC members present:
- Not Present:
- Registration Committee Report - Stephanie P. - 160 registrants for Assembly; 23 of the 25 Districts represented; 102 voting GRs registered

AREA UPDATES AND HIGHLIGHTS

- Job Descriptions were revised
- Area Convention will be August 2022 in Charlottesville
- This is an election Assembly for Panel 62 Officers
- Tom S. reported on number of hybrid, virtual and face to face meetings
- We have 299 registered groups in the Area; 323 meetings
- Virginia Area started in 1952
- Panel 59's list of goals and progress made on each is posted on the Area Website; The Covid pandemic really tested our ability to adapt

ASSEMBLY MINUTES: Becky D.

- Minutes from 2021 Spring Assembly were emailed to the Assembly attendants prior to Assembly for their review.

MOTION

Made by: Sophie L.
Second by: Patty M.

That the 2021 Spring Assembly Minutes be approved as amended.

Motion Passed: By virtual vote through WebEx polling feature; 93% approved, 7% abstained

OFFICER REPORTS

Treasurer Report: Bruce B. (report available upon request)

- \$61,000 bank balance at the end of Q3-21
- Income is at 50% of projected for the year, and should be at 75%
- Contributions are down significantly, likely due to lack of face to face meetings
- IRS is considering our explanation of an administrative error causing a problem with our tax ID number, and we should know more by the end of the year
- Delegate expenses and Alateen expenses will likely increase next year as we return to more face to face meetings
- Discussion took place about the need for increased electronic donations
- Bruce reminded attendees to make sure all donations include a group number

MOTION

Made by: Patty M.
Second by: Sharon O.

That the Treasurer's report be approved.

Motion Passed: By virtual vote through WebEx polling feature; 92% approved, 8% abstained

MOTION

Made by: Maureen M.
Second by: Kathleen M.

That the 2022 budget be approved.

Motion Passed: By virtual vote through WebEx polling feature; 99% approved, 1% abstained

Delegate Report: Terry W. (report available upon request)

- Terry W. shared insight into what a World Service Delegate does as the liaison between WSO and the groups in the Virginia Area
- WSC is a policy making group and WSO is administrative
- The 2022 WSC theme will be “Enhancing our Recovery through Abundance, Unity, and Understanding”
- Our demographics remain largely the same, despite our efforts at diversity
- The 2022 WSC will visit Stepping Stones, the home of Bill W. and Lois W., in Tarrytown, NY
- Val P. is our first ever nominee for Southeast Regional Trustee
- Delegates will be meeting virtually with the Board of Trustees on November 6, 2021 for their quarterly meeting
- Terry encouraged the use of the 2018 Bias Inventory presentation, posted on the website under 2021 Spring Assembly Dialogue with the Delegate
- The 2021 WSC Summary is now available online and by hardcopy
- The Service Manual will be updated in 2022 - it includes policy changes; everyone needs a copy
- Terry will be hosting 3 virtual DR 101 orientation sessions this fall
- Terry outlined the need for a Task Force to create a policy transforming our electronic meetings to AFG meetings

VOTING ITEMS AND DISCUSSION

- **Electronic Meeting Policy** (Report available upon request)
 - All we are voting on at this Assembly is to give the Task Force permission to develop a policy
 - The hope is that the policy will be ready for the Virginia Area 2022 Spring Assembly to vote on its approval
 - Currently, electronic meetings do not have a DR or any structure - AFG meetings do
 - Terry touched on some of the pros and cons of our choices, what we do know and what we don't know
 - The Task Force will hold WebEx Town Hall meetings for any interested Area Assembly members who would like to participate
 - The Motion was reviewed and will be voted on tomorrow
- **New and Revised Job Descriptions** (Available upon request)
 - Area Communications Coordinator - new
 - Area Treasurer's Assistant - new
 - Area Assembly Coordinator - revision to include voting rights

COORDINATOR REPORTS (most available upon request)

- Convention - Ed W. - August 12-14, 2022; registration will begin in January
- Literature/Forum - Ann F. - We have lost Forum subscriptions during the pandemic
- Group Records - Chris B. -
- AAPP - Stacy L. - There is a new Alateen meeting in Ashland starting in November

- Alateen - Ginny K. -
- Website - Sue V. -
 - Group contact information can be added for each group
 - Advanced find features have been added by Districts
 - Created a dedicated page for job descriptions

DR INTRODUCTIONS

ELECTION METHOD AND DISCUSSION

- Tom reviewed the election process as it is described in our Service Manual, and how it will work virtually
- DR Roll Call was taken to ask which Districts have elected an incoming DR
- The following Districts did not have an incoming DR and were sent to break out rooms to caucus: Springfield/Annandale, Blue Ridge, Central Valley, Falls Church, New River, Peninsula, Roanoke/Alleghany. After the second caucus, Springfield/Annandale and New River remained without a DR and were asked to come up with an interim until the Spring Assembly
- Northern Neck and Triangle were not represented at Assembly

AREA PANEL NOMINATIONS – each eligible candidate was provided the opportunity to stand for each of the 8 Officer positions.

Q&A

S U N D A Y

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

SPIRITUAL SPEAKER – Irene T., Massachusetts Area Delegate, Panel 59

VAWSC Voting Items:

DR Roll Call – Laura L. took the DR Roll Call verbally

GR Roll Call – GR Roll call was taken by WebEx polling feature

MOTION

Made by: Laura L.
Second by: Joyce K.

The VAWSC recommends that the VA Area Assembly approve the creation of a Task Force to develop a Policy for the Virginia Area to accommodate the transformation of Electronic meetings to Al-Anon Family Groups, beginning sometime in 2022, in accordance with World Service Conference guidance.

The Task Force will keep the VA Area members informed and allow for questions, comments, and feedback from VA Area members while the Policy is being developed. The Task Force will plan on having the new Policy ready for VA Area Assembly vote at the 2022 Spring Assembly, depending on guidance from VA Area Officers and the VAWSC.

Motion Passed: By virtual vote through WebEx polling feature; 99% in favor, 1% abstaining, 0 opposed

MOTION

Made by: Sheffi S.
Second by: Kathy K.

The VAWSC recommends that the VA Area Assembly approve the job description for the Virginia Area Communications Coordinator, a new position to provide the Area with the necessary support and flexibility to meet the changing requirements of the Area.

Motion Passed: By virtual vote through WebEx polling feature; 100% in favor, 0 abstaining, 0 opposed

MOTION

Made by: Cecily M.
Second by: Sophie L.

The VAWSC recommends that the VA Area Assembly approve the job description for the Virginia Area Treasurer's Assistant, a new position to provide the Area with the necessary support and flexibility to meet the changing requirements of the Area.

Motion Passed: By virtual vote through WebEx polling feature; 67% in favor, 7% abstaining, 26% opposed

MOTION

Made by: Barbara V.
Second by: Peter M.

The VAWSC recommends that the VA Area Assembly approve the revised job description for the Assembly Coordinator position, which has been updated in duties and will be a voting member of the VAWSC and will provide the Area with the necessary support and flexibility to meet the changing requirements of the Area.

Motion Passed: By virtual vote through WebEx polling feature; 97% in favor, 1% abstaining, 1% opposed

AREA PANEL NOMINATIONS –

- Time was allowed for any additional candidates to be nominated
- Each candidate shared about their experience and qualifications, and time was allowed for questions

AREA OFFICER ELECTIONS, PANEL 62

2022-2024 Panel of Officers Elected:

DELEGATE: Stacy Lewis
ALTERNATE DELEGATE: Ellie Fetterly
CHAIR: Debbie Polston
ALTERNATE CHAIR: Duane Faircloth
SECRETARY: Debbie Teer
ALTERNATE SECRETARY: Christy Boone
TREASURER: Laura Lovern
ALTERNATE TREASURER: Wendy Rowden

COORDINATOR REPORTS cont'd

- Northern Virginia Service Center - Marie M. -
- Tidewater Service Center - Regan K. -
- LRPC - Wendy R. -
- MEAC - Wendy R. - There have been no meetings for a couple of years
- ESAC - Regan K. - There have been no meetings for a couple of years
- Public Outreach - Val P. -

EVALUATIONS - Stephanie P., Assembly Coordinator - Please access the evaluation link on the Area website. Evaluation results are extremely meaningful for the planning of future assemblies.

FINAL COMMENTS BY AREA OFFICERS -

CLOSING REMARKS

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Lovern
Area Secretary

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: 2021-2022

2021		
October 16-17th	Fall Assembly (Election of New Officers)	WebEx
October 21st	Fall Assembly Recap Meeting	WebEx
2022		
January 8th	Area Officer's Meeting	Doubletree, Midlothian
March 5th	VAWSC	WebEx
April 26-30th	WSC	Tarrytown, NY
May 13-15th	Spring Assembly	(Format TBD)

June 4th	Area Officer's Meeting	WebEx
August 6th	VAWSC	WebEx
August 12-13th	Area Convention	Doubletree, Charlottesville
October 14-16th	Fall Assembly	(Format TBD)