



Virginia Area World Service Committee (VAWSC) Meeting Minutes

WebEx - Hosted by Becky D.

March 5, 2022

9:00 am to 1:45 pm

Opening:

- Area Chair, Debbie P., opened the meeting with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer, reading of Concept One, and reading of the Purpose of VAWSC (Service Manual, pg. 155).

Welcome and Introductions:

Debbie P. introduced herself as the new Area Chairperson, followed by the Officers and Coordinators.

Roll Call was completed through WebEx polling. Note: need to troubleshoot members that sign in as

VAWSC-1. VAWSC Members present:

- Officers: Stacy Lewis, Ellie Fetterly, Debbie Polston, Duane Faircloth, Deb Teer, Christy Boone, Laura Lovern, Wendy Rowden
- Area Coordinator/Liaison: Lisa Reedy, Margaret Ramsey, Bruce Burrows, Cheryl Lee, Patty Michalak, Sue Vencill, Terry Woodside, Sean Millington
- District Reps: Ed Webster, Chris Bachelder, Sophie Luu, Lisa Carmines, Maria Nobile, Emily McPhie, Meg Page, Candy Doane, Robynn Bevelacqua, Janice Grimm, Gail Kropf, Amanda Roy, Billie Carroll, Diana Austin, Katherine Paine, Cindy Robins Lamm, Becky Branham Dimon, Ava Borden, Sue Tait
- Other Attendees: Sheila Walsh, Sheffi Sachs

Note: All reports and documents discussed and referenced in these minutes can be found on the VA Area website at <https://www.vaalanon.org/vawsc>

Approval of August 7, 2021 VAWSC Minutes: (Minutes file: Minutes VAWSC Aug 7 2021 amended 3-5-22 Final) Corrections were made to Welcome and Introductions, third bullet to breakout: VAWSC Members present; Tech Team Members; and Other Attendees.

Motion: made by Patty M., AAPP, and seconded by Sheffi S. to approve the August 7, 2021 VAWSC Minutes as corrected on March 5, 2022. MOTION CARRIED unanimously by poll vote. Yes- 97%; No- 0%; Abstain- 3%

Treasurer's Report: Laura L. (Bruce B., Panel 59 Treasurer, reported as the report's author). (Report file: treasurer's_report_2022-01-20_4Q). Bruce reminded DRs to review the Groups Contributions Report (Report Attachment C). Not in report is the \$6300 estimate from 3waves (Area web host) to keep the Area's website running on a secure platform.

Laura L. - Most of this year's contributions by check have noted the group number but PayPal has been inconsistent. On PayPal you need to "Add note" to include the District/Group #. On February 5, the Area bank accounts were changed to reflect the new Officers. Laura is still working on having all cards changed over to the new Officers.

Discussion:

- Ava – Is the \$6300 estimate to upgrade the website budgeted? Bruce stated we did not know this needed to be done until contacted by 3Waves.

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- Patty M.- Four checks from District 20 are not shown, were they received? If the district number was not noted on the check, the amount was put in Other category.
- Ellie F. – Should we have paid interest on IRS issue since we are appealing? Bruce stated that he will contribute the interest money to the Area if not refunded by the IRS. Penalties and interest should be refunded.
- Diana A. - Could the new Treasurer send an introductory letter as a reminder to send group contributions to the Area? Laura stated that she could do that.
- Sheffi S. - Should we inform our groups to start contributing to Area again? Bruce stated we used to do semi-annual appeal that was stopped because we had money. May be time to start again.
- Janice - We have imbalance with the availability of technology (online meetings). We need to bring back Area appeals to be read in meetings. Sustaining participation has been difficult in her district.

Motion was made by Sheffi S. and seconded by Ellie F., Alt Delegate, to accept the treasurer's report.

MOTION CARRIED – poll vote. Yes-100%

Delegate's Report: Stacy L. – Stacy gave highlights of her report (Report file: Delegate Report VAWSC Meeting 030522). Stacy will attend the next World Service Conference (WSC), April 25-30, 2022.

Discussion:

- Sophie L. – Was this survey done worldwide? It was WSO members: US, Canada, Puerto Rico and Bermuda.
- Lisa C. - What are love gifts and the road trip? Love gifts are items made by groups for the Delegate to take to WSC. Terry W.- Love gifts were usually mailed to the hotel or delivered to her. Delegates who fly can't carry a lot of it and extra things were discarded. Cards mean a lot. The Road Trip is a one-day event where Trustees and Board of Directors shares information about WSO, goals, etc.
- Billie C. – What does barrier-free meetings mean and is it applicable to each group? Making sure AI-anon is available to anyone, anywhere, anytime. Covers wide range, to make sure no one is excluded. For example, groups that are not handicapped accessible could make the meeting available electronically. Making sure you have meetings available for your members, whatever their needs.
- Ava. B. - Does the Area have mission/vision statement? We do not, we use the WSO statement. We also use the WSC theme, shown on the VAWSC Agenda.

VAWSC Discussion:

- **Motion for Transforming Electronic Groups to AFGs** (Motion file: TransformingElecMtgsmotiontoVAWSC030522)

Motion: The Virginia Area Officers recommend that the VAWSC approve the Policy prepared by the Transforming Electronic Groups to AFGs Task Force for admitting petitioning Electronic Groups into the Virginia Area, and send it to the 2022 Spring Assembly for their approval in May 2022.

Made by Terry W., seconded by Patty M., as revised for presentation to the 2022 Spring Assembly. Polled – approved. Yes-100%.

- **Transforming Electronic Groups to AFGs – Virginia Area Policy** (File: TransformingElectronicMeetingsnewpolicy1211821)

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Terry W. – Recommendations made at the January 8 Officers meeting, regarding an appeal process and superseding any existing VA Area motion(s) is redundant and not needed. The Area follows the most recent motion, we don't need precedent of superseding previous motions. Additionally, we don't need to say that groups have the right to appeal, Concept 5 says they do. This resulted in striking the following from page 4, last two topics of the Policy:

Revisions from the Jan. 8, 2022 Officers' Meeting

This policy supersedes any existing VA Area motion or motions on moving groups or districts within the VA Area or between the VA Area and any other contiguous Area.

Appeal Process

The *2018-2021 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual* states, on page 51-52, under "Group Conscience," that "Concept Five tells us that members have the right of appeal." It then describes the process by which a decision can be appealed for reconsideration by the body that made the decision. The VA Area is guided in all its decisions by the spiritual principles in the Three Legacies, the Steps, the Traditions, and the Concepts of Service. In the matter of accepting or rejecting a petitioning electronic group into the VA Area, these principles will be adhered to by the VA Area.

Discussion:

- Patty M. - Can hybrid meetings stay in their District? Yes, they can maintain their affiliation with District.
 - Cheryl L. – Can a hybrid meeting be a part of the Electronic Area? Terry W. - If the meeting wants to leave geographical Area, we can say yes/no. It is up to Electronic Area to accept/reject. Our policy makes provisions for all types of meetings to be in Area. Hybrid status is a group records matter. Today we vote on whether the VAWSC advances the new policy to Assembly. The Policy is to accept groups outside of VA and makes possible for electronic meeting to stay in VA. Electronic groups already in VA (but are not registered) can register as electronic and have membership in the VA Area.
 - Gail K. – Can virtual meetings stay in VA Area? Terry W. – yes, once the policy is approved at the 2022 Spring Assembly a virtual meeting will be able to stay in the VA Area.
 - Margaret R. - Concerned about the financial impacts and ways to address anonymity in electronic meetings? Terry – service manual addresses anonymity. Those concerned with anonymity in electronic meetings, don't have to attend them. Don't know of financial impacts of passing this Policy, we won't know until we enact Policy.
 - Ellie F. – we have to move this Policy to Assembly for vote, it is for the groups to decide.
 - Janice G. – changed her vote from opposed to in-favor because she agrees that the groups should determine whether the Policy is accepted.
 - Sheffi S. – allow time at Assembly for discussion. Terry W. mentioned the upcoming March 27 Town Hall on this subject.
 - Stacy L. – WSC has said that Areas need to create policy.
 - Gail K. – would FAQs help DRs present this information to Grs. Terry hoped KBDM questions included in the Motion would do that. Let her know if we feel we need more.
- **LRPC Motion** – this motion was approved, at the January 8, 2022 Officer's Meeting, to be presented for vote to the VAWSC. (Motion file: LRPCmotiontoVAWSC030522)

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Motion: The Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) members shall be appointed by the LRPC Chairperson, based on the consultation with and agreement of the Virginia Area Chairperson and the LRPC Chairperson. Members for the Committee shall be chosen with regard to the goals for the committee as determined by the Area Chairperson and selected from within the VA Area fellowship. The Committee's meeting schedule shall be determined by the LRPC Chairperson so that the Committee's goals are met in a timely fashion.

The Long Range Planning Committee Chairperson shall be a voting member of the Virginia Area World Service Committee (VAWSC). The LRPC Chairperson will report regularly, with a written report, to the VAWSC meetings, the Virginia Area Assembly, and at any other time requested by the Virginia Area Chairperson.

Made by Terry W., seconded by Janice G. Polled – approved. Yes-100%

- **LRPC job Description – Terry W.** (file: LRPCChairJobDescription010222)

Motion: approve the LRPC Chairperson Job Description as presented made by Terry W., seconded by Laura L. Polled – approved. Yes-100%

- **Survey Results for Spring Assembly**

Debbie P. - 100 responses were received. 43% would attend in-person, 57% virtual. The Officers voted at the January 8, 2022 meeting, to move the 2022 Spring Assembly to hybrid due to the Hotel contract deadline. The Hotel contract for the Spring Assembly has been revised, the requirements for food and rooms has been lowered. The Officers agreed that a professional company was needed to handle setup for the hybrid Assembly. Research determined that using the company associated with the Hotel was the best option. Estimated minimum cost: Hotel - 64 rooms and food = \$14,034; Encore Event Technologies - \$5,190; Total - \$19, 224. Assembly cost per person - \$140. Question – how much should virtual attendees pay?

Discussion:

- Duane F. – The Officers did vote to equalize cost. Encore's fee, divided by 57 people (the percentage of people who stated they would attend virtually) would be approximately \$100 per person.
- Laura L. – Delegates pay equalized costs. We are all equal. Every group has representation however they decide to attend.
- Patty M. – The cost would be \$140 for virtual and in-person? Yes, for Spring Assembly only. We will reassess once we hold the Assembly and see what works.
- Gail K. – Groups are responsible for paying for the GR to attend, do Districts pay for DRs to go to Assembly? Debbie P. – District pays for DR and there are scholarships for GRs from District.
- Christy B. – brought up equalized cost to her group, members didn't think it fair. Equalized cost encourages people to attend in-person.
- Debbie P. – Having a reduced virtual cost affects overall assembly costs.
- Billie C. – I live in Richmond, didn't stay at hotel and paid the same. Some are afraid to attend Assembly with double occupancy because of covid. Debbie P. – There is a single rate of \$193. Billie - Is there a limited number of single rooms. Debbie P. – No.
- Stacy L. – GRs are responsible for attending Assembly.
- Sophie L. – will the cost breakdown be sent out so we can explain it to our groups? Yes, it will be sent out with the registration info.

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- Sheffi S. – I am attending as a coordinator and GR, who pays for my attendance. Covered by Area as a coordinator. If you want a single room would have to pay the difference between the double and single cost.
- Terry W. – The Area paid a \$6300 penalty for not holding Assembly last fall. Fees never cover the full cost of the Assembly, the Area pays the portion not covered by fees.
- Sue V. – The increased price of single occupancy registration was voted on before.

Motion: Approve the cost of \$140 for virtual attendance at the 2022 Spring Assembly, in conjunction with the double occupancy in-person rate, in order to meet our hybrid costs and financial contract with the hotel.

Motion made by Debbie P., seconded by Cheryl L. Polled – approved. Yes-97%, No-3%

- **Spring 2022 Hybrid Assembly Agenda:** Sue V. - Fall 2021 Fall Assembly evaluation:
 - All Virtual assembly – 155 registered. 20 of 25 DRs.
 - 30 people did evaluations. 50% decrease in completing an evaluation. 76% gave a 5 out of 5.
 - Adequate time for Q & A - most gave a 5.
 - Overwhelming response that we met the goal of Assembly.
 - Most said it was well organized.

2022 Spring Assembly Agenda: Following are Agenda items changed and/or assigned:

12 Steps - Patty M

12 Traditions – Sheffi S.

12 Concepts – Cheryl L.

Concept 3 – Laura L.

VAWSC Voting Items: Terry W. Remove Long Range Planning Committee.

During Dinner, give those attending virtually opportunity to breakout per District.

Workshops: Debbie P. stated that the workshop presentation should be the same for both virtual and in-person attendees. A poll was taken as to how many workshops should be presented, 2, 3 or 4. Polled - majority voted for 2 topics. Polled: top 2 topics by majority; Encouraging Service - 25 (presenters – Sheffi S. in-person, Billie C. – virtual). CAL - 21 (Chris B. - in-person).

Night Owl Meeting – Sean M. in-person (will use WebEx for a hybrid meeting).

Early Bird Meeting - Diana A. in-person (will use WebEx for a hybrid meeting).

Spiritual Speaker – Duane F. getting in-person speaker.

Voting: Transforming Electronic Meetings only. Sue V. asked for ideas for distinguishing between GR and DR when voting.

Seventh Tradition – PayPal for virtual

Discussion:

- Terry W. will present on the Long Range Planning Committee.
- Gail K – are we requiring vaccination or testing? Debbie P. - no qualifications now but may change.
- Sheffi S. volunteered to lead a workshop on encouraging service.
- Terry W. – The workshops should be service not recovery related. DRs do workshops.
- Billie C. – is attending virtually and is willing to do a workshop on healthy groups.
- Stacy – topics are picked based on previous evaluations.
- Chris B. volunteered to do a workshop on CAL.

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- Christy B. – can in-person attendee do a virtual workshop? Sue V. - would have to log into the virtual meeting through a personal device.

• Area Update Reports:

Group Records - Cheryl L. (Report file: Group Records VAWSC 3.5.22) Shared a PowerPoint presentation (not included), highlights follow:

- o DRs need to be aware of GR changes.
- o Group changes should be reported by DR or the District Group Records Coordinator to the Area Group Records Coordinator (ACRC) at grouprecords@vaalanon.org.
- o Alateen meeting changes are reported to the AAPP.
- o If District is affiliated with AIS submit changes through the AIS.
- o If changes are submitted directly to WSO, WSO just sends them to the ACRC.
- o Cheryl sent spreadsheets of meeting information to DRs for review.
- o Group #s are available on Area website.
- o Inactive meetings can be listed as temporarily suspended or permanently closed. Cheryl has criteria to determine which fits.
- o Information for Others – public-facing information should have 1 or 2 contacts with phone number(s). Only use the last initial; group email; location instructions. If the meeting is virtual, recommend putting the virtual ID and password.
- o Must have a CMA. Full name and address. Email and phone optional.

Discussion:

- Maria N. – 2 meetings in her District are listed as inactive but can't get anyone to respond to her contacts. Cheryl suggests listing them as temporarily suspended.
- Terry W. – Districts are responsible for notifying AIS of group changes? Cheryl L. – confusion about those affiliated with AIS. To clarify, Districts should work in conjunction and AIS should know what's happening.
- Gail K. – thought Area would contact AIS with changes? Cheryl, correct. Area/AIS is autonomous. AIS are not in links of service.

Area Convention – Wendy R. (Report file: Area Convention Report - VAWSC 030522) The Area Convention is August 12-14, 2022 in Charlottesville at DoubleTree Hotel. Need someone in Charlottesville to work as hotel liaison.

Discussion:

- Terry W. – In-person only. Remove hybrid from Assembly agenda upcoming dates.
- Laura L. – Convention is about recovery and fellowship, not business.
- Meg P. – Are refunds allowed? Stacy believes that we do not issue refunds.
- Gail K. – How many can attend? Wendy about 270. Planning for 300.

Communications – Becky D. (Report file: Area-CommunicationsCoordinator-Report-VAWSC0-2-19-2022) Becky has about 145 meetings in WebEx schedule. Becky handles vaalanon.org emails, i.e., techcom@vaalanon.org; altdelegate@vaalanon.org.

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Discussion:

Ellie F. – Where can you find a list of valanon.org emails? Becky said this information is not posted on the Area website. Can add to roster. altdelegate@vaalanon.org

Website – Bruce B. (Report file: Website Coordinator-Report_2022-02-17) Need to decide by October whether to stay with 3Waves or find a new vendor. Bruce is also looking to possibly consolidate all of VA websites (Area and 2 AIS). Bruce is chairing a subcommittee of the LRPC to study this proposal.

- Wendy R. – The 3Waves price is due to custom codes, primarily in the meeting database. A new vendor may have to recreate these custom codes.

LRPC – Terry W. (Report file: LRPC Report VAWSC 3-5-22) The LRPC is made up of a core group and subcommittees. Important items: Boundary policy, motion log, developing area guidelines for submitting documents.

AAPP – Patty M. (Report file: AAPP VAWSC Meeting Report 3.5.22) WSO mailed an information sheet to each Alateen group to update the CMA. To date, Patty has only received 2 back. Patty emailed DR list of AMIAS, need to have it updated.

Alateen – Lisa R. (Report file: Alateen Coordinator Report - 2-12-22) An AMIAS recertification was held in January. The next AMIAS training will be held March 26 in VA Beach and June 4 in Richmond.

- Janice G., District 17 – Janice would like to restart Alateen. Her District is challenged to get teens.

Literature/Forum – Ann S. (Report file: Lit Coor 3-5-2022 report)

Service Centers

- NVSC – Lisa R. (Report file on VA Area website)
- Tidewater – Sean. The Tidewater Service Center is in need of an officer manager. They have been operating with volunteers. Tidewater will sell literature at the Area Convention.

Archives – no report.

DR reports – (Reports are on VA Area website) The following shared information about their Districts:

- Chris B., Springfield/Annandale – has talked to GRs about the new Electronic Meeting Policy and their District would accept electronic meetings. GRs OK with Assembly cost.
- Amanda R., Rappahannock – planning a potluck in spring. Main concern is creating PayPal for groups to receive contributions, are there any guidelines? Patty M. has used Venmo or PayPal, by either using the gift or friend options, you can bypass the additional fee.
- Terry W. – Similar to the DR 101 sessions, she is planning a DR get together, any interest? This would be virtual and for example, talk over items of interest. Anyone wanting someone from the Electronic Meeting Task Force to come out to speak at your District meeting, etc, contact her.
- Sophie L., Arlington - having meetings every other month.
- Gail K., Alexandria - Val P. will be talking about convention at their next District meeting.

Summary and Closing Remarks

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- Debbie P. thanked everyone for their service.
- Motion on Transforming Electronic Meetings is moved to the 2022 Spring Assembly. The final Town Hall on this topic is March 27, 2:00-4:00 PM.
- Remember to send Stacy L. cards, mailing address is in her report.

Closing – Debbie P closed the meeting with a thank you and the Al-Anon Declaration. Closed at 3:03 pm.

In service,
Deb Teer
Area Secretary, Panel 62

Upcoming Dates: 2022-2023

2022

January 8 th	Area Officer's Meeting	Doubletree, Midlothian
March 5 th	VAWSC	WebEx
May 14-15 th	Spring Assembly	Doubletree, Midlothian WebEx
August 12-14 th	Area Convention	Doubletree, Charlottesville

Agenda Acronyms:

AAPP	Area Alateen Process Person
ADR	Alternate District Representative
AFA	Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism
AIS	Al-Anon Information Service
AGR	Alternate Group Representative
AMIAS	Al-Anon Member Involved in Alateen Service
ASC	Al-Anon Service Center
CAL	Conference Approved Literature
DR	District Representative
ESAC	Eastern Seaboard Alateen Conference
GR	Group Representative
LDC	Literature Distribution Center
LRPC	Long Range Planning Committee
MEAC	Mid-Eastern Alateen Conference
SERDGT	Southeast Regional Delegate Get-Together
VAWSC	Virginia Area World Service Committee
WSO	World Service Office
WSC	World Service Conference