

**THE 2022 VIRGINIA AREA AL-ANON FALL ASSEMBLY  
MINUTES  
October 15-16, 2022  
Hybrid Meeting (In-Person DoubleTree, Midlothian VA and Webex)**

**“Back to Basics – Panel 62”**

**S A T U R D A Y, October 15, 1:00 PM**

**GENERAL SESSION**

**Welcome (Debbie P.)**

- Covid comfort dots, green, yellow, red.
- The general session was opened with the Serenity Prayer and reading of the Assembly Purpose from the Service Manual, pg. 67.
- Thanks was expressed to the Tech Team for their work.

**Notes/Reminders (Debbie P.)**

- Those on Webex should mute and use the virtual raise hand feature.
- Assembly materials are on the Area website under 2022 Fall Assembly.
- Opportunities for service: Public Outreach.
- We will review the 2023 proposed Area Budget, with discussion and voting on Sunday.
- Silence cell phones.
- Tidewater Service Center is selling literature.

**Fun Facts/Area Updates:**

- Meetings still have a hybrid option.
- DR 101 (info on the Area website under Members).
- GR get togethers meet on WebEx 2-3 times per year.
- GR-101.2 Ellie on website under Members.
- Cecily is offering Webex training to open/close meetings.
- Next convention committee in place – Wendy R. and Diana A.
- Face-to-face meetings since Spring Assembly-121 up 11; hybrid-61 up 15; Beginners – 11; Alateen-23.
- Number of Districts - 25; registered groups - 248, number of meetings - 265.
- Richmond N and Peninsula are tied for the most registered groups.
- 15 active Alateen Groups, 2 Al-Anon Assemblies; 1 Al-Anon Convention; 2 Alateen conferences
- 8 Coordinators
- Standing committee – 1 LRPC.
- Oldest group – Central AFG in Roanoke.

**12 Steps – Ed W.**

**12 Traditions – Emily M.**

**12 Concepts of Service – Sophie L.** Attendees shouted out the 4<sup>th</sup> concept.

**New Groups (Debbie P.)** Seeking Serenity, District 29; Hope Seekers, District 23; This Too Shall Pass, District 20; Newcomers at Noon, District 7.

**Introductions (Debbie P.)** All past Delegates, guests, Officers and Coordinators were introduced.

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**DR AND GR ROLL CALL (Deb T.)** Attendance was taken using the list of those registered, both in-person and virtual attendees with a verbal response.

**APPROVAL OF 2022 SPRING ASSEMBLY MINUTES (Deb T.)** Minutes posted on Area website.

Changes noted:

- Under Upcoming Dates of Importance 2023: change the Spring Assembly dates to May 12-14.
- Terry W. –
  - Area Delegate Report Q & A (pg. 2): Question changed to read, Wendy R. – What were some of the other Chosen Agenda Items (CAI)?
  - Transforming Electronic Groups Policy, Q & A (pg. 3): Sharon, statement added; (Addendum: The passing of the Area Transforming Electronic Groups Policy invalidated this statement. Virtual groups may register and stay a part of the VA Area. No petition to the Area is needed.)

### **MOTION:**

***That the 2022 Spring Assembly Minutes be approved as corrected.***

***Made by:*** Tara J.

***Second by:*** Sarah

***Voting results:*** majority approved with standing in-person vote and Webex poll.

**AREA DELEGATE'S REPORT (Stacy L.)** Report posted on Area website.

- Literature sales up slightly by \$8900. Contributions are still below expectations.
- Finance Board meetings will be virtual.
- Remaining printed books will become ebooks by end of year.
- Board did group inventory.
- Thought forces/task forces – diversity and inclusivity will continue but not as official task forces.
- WSO working on new daily reader that will be available at the International Convention, June 29-July 2, 2023 in Albuquerque, NM.
- Quarterly appeal letter – important to read to group.
- World Service Conference (WSC) Summary is available in print and online. Area has purchased the summary for VAWSC members.
- Next WSC is 4/20-23 in VA Beach.
- WSO discussing social media. Should WSO correct misinformation on social media? Reading Warranty 4, Tradition 10, WSO decided not to be responsible. Groups need to be sure groups are putting out correct information.
- Attended District meetings. May make it annual. WSO did a presentation at VA Beach District Meeting on the WSO website, encouraged to go to WSO/members/wsc/chosen agenda item index, you'll find discussion topics. New term: In-reach vs out-reach - keeping members coming back.
- District meeting ideas: meeting list bookmark/QR code for newcomer packet; use Alateen literature in meetings; provide Alateen information, list of books to purchase, Forum subscription in newcomer packet; give new groups literature and support new meetings; have get togethers outside of your meeting; encourage AA participation; have an AA liaison; virtual and hybrid meetings should support service arms; WSO pays \$281 to support all types of meetings; have a men's meeting; create a chat group (on phone) to share about daily readings etc.; make Public Outreach simple, focus on one type of outreach and get everyone involved.

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- Only 16 conference approved slogans, can see on WSO website.
- WSO is open for tours.
- A District, Area, WSO, Service Center are all service arms. A District, as a service arms, does not support other service arms. S-21 pamphlet on 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition and talks about service arms. Members support service arms. Districts use money to support groups not service arms. Think about ways to spend money and break-the-buck barrier. Read warranty one.

Questions: Lynn F. - does WSO get ½ of its operating money from literature sales. Stacy – Yes, probably more than that.

**APPROVAL OF TREASURER’S REPORT FOR THE THIRD QUARTER OF 2022 (Laura L.)** Report posted on Area website. As of September 30, 2022:

- Checking account balance is high due to assembly money taken in but have not yet paid for Assembly expenses.
- We have received 76% of budgeted contributions.
- Reminder to use group # on contributions.
- Expenses are all within budgeted amounts.

### Questions

- Lee: Were costs for assembly reduced because of less hotel usage? Costs were reduced because of in-person and virtual folks paying registration fee.
- Peter M.: sent Laura 4 questions by email, which all but one was answered. Can we look into investing our reserve account? Laura: Reserve account holds 1 year of expense. Add to officer’s meeting agenda to do something with reserve account to earn more interest.
- Cindy L.: if assembly cost is lower can we reduce amount for virtual attendance? Laura: we are all equal and pay the same registration fees. Area does have money for scholarships if Districts cannot provide the money. There is not a surplus of monies leftover from Assembly. Assemblies always cost the Area additional money, not covered by registration fees. The Spring Assembly cost the Area less than prior Assemblies.
- Rhonda A.: Bank account for hybrid meetings, meetings are not tax exempt, is this correct? Laura: Area is non-profit but groups are not.
- Barb L.: Area, WSO and Service Centers are 501c3. Groups are not tax exempt. Groups would have to apply to IRS to become tax-exempt.
- Sally: would like to have policy from Area and WSO about having group bank accounts, especially for hybrid meetings. Presently, someone must provide an SSN to open an account. Ellie F.: apply for TIN. Sally: still comes back to needing an individual SSN to apply for a TIN. Guidance in this matter would be helpful.
- Don F.: pg 57 of service manual covers this in detail.
- Terry W.: on Area website, Resources page, DR-101, 2<sup>nd</sup> session covered money.

**MOTION:** *That the Treasurer’s report, prepared for the Third Quarter 2022, be approved as written.*

**Made by:** Rick A.

**Second by:** Barb L.

**Voting results:** *majority approved with standing in-person vote and Webex poll.*

## COORDINATOR AND LIAISON REPORTS

- Assembly (Sue V.) - Report on website. 77 responses were overwhelmingly positive. Increase networking between in-person and virtual; emails were given to all attendees (when permission was granted) to encourage more contact. Emails were sent providing Assembly information. Hospitality suite is new for this Assembly.
- Literature / The Forum (Ann S.) - New introduction for ODAT being printed. New forward to Dilemma of Alcoholic Marriage. Need sharings on literature and legacies. New daily reader will be available at the 2023 International Convention. Encourage groups to get the Forum.
- Tidewater Service Center (Sean M.) - New office manager – Troy. Picnic and Gratitude Breakfast are their 2 annual events. Sold literature at convention. DRs may contact Troy to speak at their District meeting.
- LRPC (Terry W.) - Report on website. Working on website update, voted to recommend to area officers to pay 3Waves to update Drupal v7 to v9 to keep current. Goals: District and Area boundary development; Document storage and retrieval; Policy guideline for Area. Adding Convention revamp to make more accessible and less expensive to LRPC Goals – will not affect the current Convention Committee goals.
  - Debbie P. Recommendation letter was brought to last night's Officer Meeting, 3Waves cut cost in half. Officers have approved upgrade, cost \$4440.
- Communications (Becky B.) - Report on website. Wanting to have groups that use Webex open/close their own meetings. Training is available.
- Website (Becky B.) - Report on website. Can post events on Area website by sending flyer to email on calendar page (events@vaalanon.org).
- AAPP/Alateen (Lisa R.) - 95 AMIAS, 6 need to be recertified. 23 groups, 15 are active. December 10 next virtual workshop. Looking to start a chat group for AMIASs. SAC coming in November.
- Archives (Margaret R.) – this year is the 60<sup>th</sup> year of Assembly. Table in the room with info on Assemblies.
- Area Convention (Val P.) - Report on website. Close to submitting a final report. 260 registered.

**AL-ANON HISTORY WORKSHOP (Juanita P., Past Delegate, Panel 35)** Al-Anon History – How We Grew and Changed. Write up of talk submitted to Area Secretary. Presentation recorded.

**PUBLIC OUTREACH WORKSHOP (Heather S., Associate Director of Community Relations, WSO)** Presentation recorded.

## S U N D A Y, October 16

### GENERAL SESSION

- Debbie P. opened the second day of Assembly with the Serenity Prayer
- Our spiritual speaker, Tom S. presented virtually. Presentation recorded.

**GR ROLL CALL (Deb T.)** Roll call was taken using the list of registered both in-person and virtual.

**VAWSC VOTING ITEM - 2023 AREA BUDGET (Laura L.)**

**MOTION:** The August 6, 2022 VAWSC moves forward the 2023 Proposed Treasurer's Budget before the 2022 Fall Area Assembly for approval.

**Made by:** Sophie L.

**Seconded by:** Dottie F.

**Voting results:** Approved; 45 in-person by counted vote; 35 Webex poll. 0 opposed; 0 abstained

**Discussion:**

- Val P.: (1) The Convention line states there is an expected surplus based on 2019 should that be 2022? (2) Budget has Convention seed money at \$2000, previously voted to give \$5000? Laura - Convention monies are based on previous Convention, in this case 2019, because the outcome of the 2022 convention was unknown. Val - Seed money is currently \$15k (\$5k each year for 3 years), budget showing 2k, is this due to surplus of 2019 Convention? Laura - unsure, projected less income from 2022 Convention. No seed \$ provided yet for 2024 convention.
- Sally – the website upgrade is \$4440 and budget item is \$1756, how will upgrade be paid for? Money is coming from 2022 budget.

**COORDINATOR AND LIAISON REPORTS cont'd**

- Public Outreach – vacant
- Group Records (Cheryl L.) -- Report posted to Area website. Many Districts are changing from virtual back to Face-to-Face. NoVA is mostly virtual. WSO ~~doesn't have~~ is still working out their process for registering and listing new electronic meetings-electronic process yet; we are working with groups to be on meeting list all electronic meetings are included on the Area meeting list. A lot of groups don't have a GR. Group changes should go through DR. If you don't have a DR, then you can send changes directly to Cheryl. Cheryl is available to visit virtual meetings.
- Northern Virginia Service Center (Lisa R.) - Report posted to Area website. Meet 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month. Trying to reopen the Service Center, beginning in November, on Friday and Saturday, 12-4, need volunteers. Having a virtual Gratitude event on Nov 5. Working on adding a shopping cart feature to their website.
  - Gayle –Will information on the Gratitude event be put online? Yes.
  - Maureen – How is the Service Center doing financially? They are doing well.
  - Barb – members from her District tried to join the online General Services meeting but couldn't find a link, could you place on web? Yes.
- MEAC/ESAC (Wendy R.) - MEAC has a full board, term 1 year. First board meeting next month. New location Camp Alta Mons. Encourage Districts to sponsor Alateens to MEAC. ESAC did not have a conference, hope to have one next year.

**7<sup>th</sup> Tradition** – Baskets were passed. Use donate button on VA area website.

**ASSEMBLY EVALUATIONS (Sue V.)** The link to the Assembly evaluation is on website. Registration process changed for this Assembly. A lot of hours were used to put the new process (RegFox) in place. They received a lot of positive feedback. Sue thanked all those who worked on improving the registration.

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**DR HIGHLIGHTS** The following DRs gave a 1 minute highlights report. See full report on website. The following DRs gave reports:

1 Albemarle- Ed W.	10 Loudon – Emily M.	21 Roanoke - Wendy R.
2 Springfield/Annandale – Chris B.	12 Nansemond – Meg P.	22 Seven Hills – Katherine P.
3 Arlington - Sophie L.	14 Norfolk - Merrie M.	23 Southside - Cindy L.
4 Blue Ridge – Lisa R.	16 Peninsula – Robert C.	24 Southwest - Becky D.
5 Bull Run – Charlene B	17 Piedmont – Janice G.	27 Virginia Beach - Ava B.
8 Fairfax – Romy B.	18 Alexandria - Gayle E.	29 James River South - Sue T.
9 Falls Church/Vienna/Mclean – Maria N.	19 Rappahannock - Amanda R.	
	20 Richmond N - Rick A.	

### AREA DELEGATE’S REPORT cont’d (Stacy L.)

- Leaflet “Let’s Talk About Safety in Al-Anon Meetings” is available on the Area website.
- Districts need to look at treasuries. Read Warranty 1. If Districts have a surplus and the money can’t be used in the District, think about donating to service arms in need.
- DR has responsibility to get GRs to Assembly and provide financial support if needed.

### Questions and Comments

Debbie P. received 3 questions:

- (1) Members have mentioned that the term alcoholic/alcoholism is archaic, what are our thoughts?  
Stacy L. - will take to WSC to get thoughts. Stacy googled and found the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism uses disorder instead of alcoholism.
- (2) Given we are getting better at Webex, could we offer a hybrid option for the next Convention?  
Wendy R. - will look into options, costs and give consideration to having a virtual option.
- (3) Is there anyway the outreach position be handled by 2 people, co-chairs? Debbie P. – the Public Outreach Coordinator is a member of the VAWSC, one vote, one person. Doesn’t mean the Coordinator couldn’t create a committee and act as spokesperson to VAWSC.

### CLOSING REMARKS (Debbie P.)

#### Wheel Raffle (Sue V.)

Winners: Cheryl L., Paths to Recovery; Laura L., Reaching for Personal Freedom.

The GR from the new meeting, Seeking Serenity, District #29, was given some public outreach material.

#### Final reminders (Debbie P.)

- Fill evaluation
- Encourage service at Group levels
- Carry the 12 step message

Debbie P. – Thanks to all. Sue V. will step down but still be available to help with Assembly. A replacement is already identified and thanks for all the volunteers, this has allowed the tech team to grow.

Closing with declaration said facing in and out to those who’ve yet to find the rooms.

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.

Respectfully submitted,  
Deb Teer  
Panel 62 Area Secretary

**Upcoming Dates: 2023**

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<b>2023</b>		
<b>January 14</b>	<b>Officer's Meeting</b>	<b>WebEx</b>
<b>March 4</b>	<b>VAWSC</b>	<b>WebEx</b>
<b>April 20-23</b>	<b>WSC</b>	<b>Virginia Beach, VA</b>
<b>May 12-14</b>	<b>Spring Assembly</b>	<b>(Format TBD)</b>
<b>June 10</b>	<b>Officer's Meeting</b>	<b>WebEx</b>
<b>June 29-July 2</b>	<b>International Convention</b>	<b>Albuquerque, NM</b>
<b>August 5</b>	<b>VAWSC</b>	<b>WebEx</b>
<b>October 13-15</b>	<b>Fall Assembly</b>	<b>(Format TBD)</b>