



Virginia Area World Service Committee (VAWSC) Meeting Minutes

WebEx - Hosted by Becky D.

March 4, 2023

9:00 am to 2:29 pm

Opening:

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

Welcome and Introductions:

Officers introduced themselves. Roll Call was completed through WebEx polling (full list can be viewed at file: 2023.03.04 Roll Call.pdf). VAWSC Members present:

Cheryl L., Chris B., Deb T., Mitch M., Ava B., Debbie P., Bruce B., Diana A., Becky B., Ellie F., Laura L., Ed W., Wendy R., Sophie L., Meg P. Robynn B., Chris H., Patty M., Stacy L., Duane F., Terry W., Katherine P., Emily M., Sue T., Maria N., Cindy L., Gail K., Ann S.

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

Approval of March 5, 2022 VAWSC Minutes – Deb T.:

Motion: to approve the March 5, 2022 VAWSC Minutes as written by Deb T., seconded by Patty M.

WebEx Poll initiated: Approved-26, Opposed-0, Abstained-1, No Answer-1

Approval of August 6, 2022 VAWSC Minutes – Deb T.:

Motion: to approve the August 6, 2022 VAWSC Minutes as written by Deb T., seconded by Robin B.

WebEx Poll initiated: Approved-25, Opposed-0, Abstained-1, No Answer-2

Treasurer's Report – Laura L.: Revised report sent this week, prepared Feb 27 2023, due to CPA changes to receivables and balance sheet item related to the IRS refund. No difference in profit/loss statement. 2022 balances are good. We have a 3% increase in contributions. Expenses are 48% of projections due to hybrid Assembly. Drupal upgrade not billed in 2022, will be paid in 2023. DRs should check the contributions page of the report for accuracy.

Bruce B. – 3Waves bill received is only part of what we owe, should get another bill. 3Waves has done more than half the work.

Motion: to accept the treasurer's report for 2022 as written made by Laura L., seconded by Patty M.

Webex Poll initiated: Approved- 26, Opposed-0, Abstained- 1, No Answer-1

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Delegate's Report: Stacy L. – Report date should be 2023 not 2022 an updated report will be posted to the VA website. Theme for 2023 is Love, Laugh and Grow Together.

- WSC in April. Love gifts will be accepted; however we have leftover gifts from the Convention. Cards for Stacy can be sent to the hotel and must arrive April 15-23. Use Stacy's address as the return address in case the card is late it will be delivered to her.
- Literature sales were below budget but donations were a record 3.31 million. Thanks to all.
- Road Trip 2023, Oct 28, in southern California. More info after WSC.
- International Convention – there is a hybrid option. \$145 registration fee. Live app will be provided.
- Thought/Task Forces – Task Force: Personal and Service Sponsorship; Task Force: Revitalizing Alateen;
- Thought Force: Eliminating Regional Trustees. Stacy will be working on the Public Outreach Committee.
- For 2023, WSO working on: the International Convention; Improvements to the Online Store; Transforming Electronic Groups; Alateen electronic group feasibility; AI-Anon Family Groups Mobile App refresh.
- The Delegate for Electronic Groups has stepped down.
- In-reach is about keeping members in the rooms. How to keep newcomers coming back and getting members involved in service. Groups have difficulty in getting members to do service, take time in your District meeting to encourage service. In WSC Conference Report, agenda items, search for in-reach for ideas.
- District meeting – Stacy would like to attend District meetings again this year. Contact Stacy if you want her to attend your District meeting.

VAWSC Discussion – Debbie P.

- VA Boundary Policy - (tabled until Fall VAWSC). Potential voting item.
- Revision 1 of the Transforming Electronics Groups to AFGs Policy (Poll) – Debbie P.
 - Terry W. – Terry performed a line-by-line comparison and noted that nothing in the revision isn't already accommodated in the original Policy. Task Force thought the Policy should be broad, that we may need to adjust as we proceed but we have not had the opportunity to implement this Policy. The revision states that the new Area must be a member of the WSC and have a process/policy in place for accepting Electronic Groups; VA has no power over another Area (double headed management) and should not make this a requirement. The Task Force held 3 town halls and took suggestions from membership to create this policy.
 - Debbie P. – paragraph 4 is a new item to original Policy. Paragraph 4 was Inserted to clarify procedural items. Terry W. – paragraph 4 relates to a Group Records problem. WSO has changed their group records procedures, not a policy setting operation.
 - Stacy – step back and consider whether Area guidelines are needed. Combining thought processes with Policy can be confusing. Terry W. – Policy, process, guidelines need to be defined so that we use the correct method for providing information. In regards to this Policy, the motion to accept Revision 1 did not pass. No revision is necessary at this time.
 - Cheryl L. – this revision was meant to clarify, not change the Policy. The requirement that the new/other Area have an electronic policy is a WSO requirement, groups can't move to Areas without a policy. We need to be in line with WSO. Terry W. – WSO group records procedures does not affect the VA Policy. Our authority ends with VA, not to decide how the other Area operates.

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Motion: The Virginia Area Officers recommend that the VAWSC approve the proposed revisions to the Virginia Area Transforming Electronic Groups to AFGs Policy and send it to the 2023 Spring Assembly for approval in May 2023. Made by: Area Chair Debbie P., seconded by: Laura L. The motion requires a 2/3 vote (67%) to pass.

WebEx poll initiated:

Approved -15, Opposed -10, Abstained -3, No Answer-0. 53% approved, motion not passed.

Sophie L. – what happens now.? Terry W. –Needs to be brought up again by the Officers to the VAWSC.

- 2024 Convention – Debbie P. Wendy R., as Alt Treasurer becomes Convention Treasurer, therefore, Wendy R. was removed as Convention Chair and Diana A. was placed in this role. Officers decided that change of the Convention Guidelines was not warranted. Looking to find the next Convention Chair (Panel 65) to work with current Panel. Take this to your groups.
- Team Building Ideas – Debbie P. Looking for ideas of what teambuilding looks like to you.
 - Patty M. – In the context of Districts, Groups, etc.? Debbie P. All of it. Patty would like to see workshops come back for Districts to get people motivated. Lisa R. had the idea to have an Area AMIAS chat, that was successful, brought people together. Quarterly chat is good to share best practices. Patty M. sends a Welcome email to new GRs. Question, can Districts provide a contact list of GRs? Debbie P. – their Group Records person sent contact info to GRs.
 - Robin B. – District continues to provide contact info to GRs. Sharing a meal is teambuilding.
 - Ava B. – Meeting after the meeting. Going out and building relationships. Calling/texting people. District having fellowship dinners. District provides contact info but some GRs don't want that shared. Have someone shadow new GRs.
 - Ellie F. – Deep dive in traditions/concepts. Teambuilding needs to consider, where support lies. At Assembly you can ask for contact info from other DR/GR for support/ideas. We need to leave room at Assembly for this, including hybrid.
 - Stacy L. –maybe VAWSC could have in-person overnight to foster networking.
 - Maria N. – NVSC had a picnic, 3 DRs planned a breakfast social for their Districts. Good to work together, forms bonds, shares responsibilities.
 - Diana A. – our District report has mention of difficulty in getting members to attend District events. Yet when Groups are celebrating anniversaries, etc., inviting all members has increased attendance.
 - Emily M. – In-person is growing and they are forming a newcomer meeting, this has been a teambuilding event.
 - Chris H. – Pushing to do a workshop every 3 months. A lot of meetings don't have GRs. Meetings need diversity, diversity workshop helped. To protect anonymity, his District has two lists – one with all GRs and one with all contact information.
 - Ed W. – Got committee together for workshops that is bringing GRs together. They have a roster of GRs. District is having a workshop with members bringing a bagged lunch to stay after workshop and fellowship.
 - Duane F. – WSC report had an alignment section that gave things to think about and members

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- had 2-3 minutes to share and then the group came to consensus whether to follow. This could be done at District meetings. When people aren't participating is there reason or confusion? Make sure all are heard.
 - Debbie P. – her ideas: are groups getting information from District (i.e., this discussion); training for new DR/GR; providing public outreach information/training; DRs can invite Area Officers/Coordinators to come to District meetings; discuss the importance of having a DR/GR; have workshops on healthy meetings; team with other Districts; are GRs given time at District meetings to speak.
 - Meg P. – newcomers can be included in service in small ways to make them feel included. Her District is touring WSO together.
- Eastern Shore – Debbie P. MD/DC Delegate reached out to us about transferring a VA meeting (Eastern Shore - Chincoteague) to their Area. The VA Area agreed to release the Chincoteague meeting. The information has been sent to WSO to reassign the group in Group Records.

Spring 2023 Hybrid Assembly Agenda:

- 2022 Fall Assembly Evaluation – Ellie F. provided a chart of the information (Filename: Evaluations Fall Assembly 22 chart.pdf). Debbie P. went over the results. Overall, the Fall Assembly was successful.
- Assembly Report – Mitch M. Worked out RegFox contact and hotel details. The Officers approved asking each Spring Assembly registrant for a \$4 donation to defray cost of using credit cards for payment. The Encore contact was approved, \$400 increase in price that give us our own ISP which should cut down on latency. The registration letter should be out by the end of March. Will need to place volunteers in positions.
 - Ellie F. – Will a District man the registration table? Debbie P. – our thought was to ask individuals rather than a District. Do we want to ask a District to volunteer?
 - Emily M. – Loudon District volunteers for the registration table, which consists of handing out any materials not posted online, name tags, etc. Actual registration is handled online.
- 2023 Hotel Contract Amended – Duane F. The Spring and Fall 2023 hotel contracts number requirements were amended to reflect the hybrid status. The ballroom is secured for Friday night for access by the Tech Team, as well as hall for registration. We do have a hospitality room. 2024 contracts have been signed. Rates did go up but a lower rate was negotiated. Dates for 2024 Assemblies: Spring, May 3-5, 2024; Fall, Oct 25-27, 2024.
 - Patty M. – are we doing hybrid in 2024? Debbie P. – a vote is held at the Officers meeting prior to each Assembly to determine if it will be hybrid.
- 2023 Spring Assembly (Hybrid) – Debbie P. Officers voted to hold the Spring 2023 Assembly as hybrid. Registration fees will remain the same. There will be registration coupon codes for those who qualify. Coupon codes are for Officers for Friday night since they are required to be there on Friday and others who receive scholarships, etc.
- Encore Spring Contract – Debbie P. \$4437.50 (includes discount).

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- Review 2023 Spring Assembly Agenda – Debbie P. The workshop with the greatest number of registrants (determined at close of registration) will be held in the main room as a hybrid workshop. Agenda will be revised to remove voting issue. Opening readings: 12 Steps – Ava B.; 12 Traditions – Katherine; 12 Concepts of Service – Maria N. Night Owl Meeting: Lisa R. and Patty M. Early Bird Meeting: Diana A. There are time adjustments due to the Scavenger Hunt and the removal of the voting item.

Discussion:

- Sophie L. – Since some time has been freed due to the removal of the voting items, I would like to have some free time.
 - Ellie F. – A hybrid workshop is difficult to have both in-person and virtual participants, need someone to run the workshop who knows how to do this. Stacy L. & Becky D. – it was decided to have one hybrid workshop so that virtual attendees feel included. Cheryl L. – hybrid workshop last Spring was Dialog with Delegate which was easy to have hybrid. Hybrid in smaller parlors doesn't work well. The leaders of the hybrid workshop in the main room will need to work together to make this happen.
 - Ann S. – suggests we raffle a Forum subscription.
 - Ed W. – Literature is usually boxed up on Sunday morning, suggest the Service Center stay open for a while on Sunday if possible.
- Districts (3) volunteering for Hospitality Room – Nansemond, Peninsula and James River South. Duane F. – The hospitality room will be smaller than the one used last Assembly.
- Workshop Topics (3 volunteers). The list of proposed workshops in on page 3 of the Agenda. It was suggested and agreed to add a Teambuilding/In-reach workshop.
 - Patty M. – What would the Finances and CAL workshop contain? Debbie P. – setting up group finances and how to do a budget. CAL – how to use it for PO and meetings.
 - Laura L. – volunteered to do budgeting at the next DR101.
 - Debbie P. – a lot of talk on finances at last GR chat. We're looking to have a WebEx session on budgeting.

WebEx polling initiated: vote for 3 workshops

Teambuilding/In-reach – 26

Public Outreach – 14

CAL – 11

How to Do a Workshop – 16

Conflict Resolutions – 10

Finances – 4

Workshop Leaders:

- Teambuilding/In-Reach: In-person-Gail K. (Ellie assist); Virtual-Meg P.
- Public Outreach: In-person-Wendy R. (Diana A. and possible Laura N. from Richmond N) Virtual-Ann S.
- How to Do a Workshop: In-person-Emily M.; Virtual-vacant (Ava B. volunteered subsequent to the VAWSC.)

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- Emily M. – Is it OK to ask someone to co-lead and we’re only doing the workshop one time, right?
Debbie P. – yes.
 - Stacy L. – we’ll need to explain what Teambuilding/In-reach is. Encourages DRs to talk to GRs.
 - Patty M. – When will info go out to DRs? Debbie P. – DRs should start talking to GRs immediately.
 - Ellie F. – When will revised agenda be ready? Debbie P. – 2-3 weeks before Assembly.
 - Terry W. – good idea to include explanation of the workshops at registration.
 - Mitch M. – In person registration will need to end before April 12, which is when the hotel needs the room count. We won’t know which workshop has the most registrants until then. The WebEx link will be sent to those who register for virtual attendance, not placed in agenda.
- Scavenger Hunt – Gina B. (filling in for Christy B.) – Next Scavenger Hunt meeting is March 18 at 9:00 am. Goal is networking/teambuilding. You will answer 10 questions by finding people you can connect to; i.e., find someone in another District whose name starts with the same letter as yours. Planning to use google forms/sheets for the virtual attendees and paper/link to electronic version for in-person attendees. Players will find answers during breaks, lunch, dinner, etc., there is no specific time to complete. At the end of Assembly, the names of those completing the Scavenger Hunt will be placed in an electronic wheel for a prize (Forum subscription). Gina will be at the registration desk to handout the Scavenger Hunt and answer questions.
 - Ellie F. – good to have a link to the electronic version for in-person players. Ellie will talk about it at the GR session, could get them started.

Area Coordinator Reports (2 min.):

- Group Records - Cheryl L. Continued feedback on using Meeting List on website is appreciated. With new Drupal 9, passwords for virtual meetings will be shown correctly. Best to send changes to grouprecords@vaalanon.org. DRs have access to group records information at WSO website. Ed W. has joined tech team and will help DRs with gaining access. We do not publish personal email to protect anonymity. We post full email for Alateen because there’s nowhere else to find this information.
 - Ellie F. – If we send a first name and last initial, could that be posted to the contact information on the meeting list? Cheryl – WSO does not post contact information to public facing website, will only give out if contacted. Area follows same process, plus there’s no path to transfer the information from the group records document to the website. Area will need to discuss and approve; and create a mechanism for posting it.
 - Becky D. – NoVA did keep name/contact info at the NVSC and will give out if contacted, but it is not published online.
 - Ed W. – Locally have a single person that can provide contact information.
- Area Convention – Wendy R. Have the place, Natural Bridge, and date, August 9-11, 2024. Looking for local speakers due to lack of nearby airport. Looking to update the convention page on web soon. Need District to host hospitality and someone to help with publicity.
- Communications – Becky B. Contact Becky if need help with recording, etc.
- Website Update – Bruce B. Drupal conversion work is 99% done. Users won’t notice big differences, more behind the scenes improvements. Keeping up with posting items to the Area website.

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- Wendy R. – Are there people authorized to make changes to the Area website? Bruce B. - Becky and Cheryl. Wendy R. – can the Convention Chair have someone authorized to make changes? Becky B. – talk with her or Bruce.
- Duane F. – When will the website update be done? Bruce B. – should be done in 4 weeks. Users most likely won't know it's done until announced.
- Gail K. – why did we make the change? Bruce B. – upgrade needed to strengthen the code and security behind the scenes, not forward facing to users.
- LRPC – Terry W. Working on boundary policy. Developing VA Area Policy list.
- Public Outreach – Current coordinator needs to step down. Need someone to take the position.
- Alateen – Lisa R. Refer to AAPP report.
- AAPP – Patty M. Virtual AMIAS workshops are well attended. Four AMIAS workshops in 2023, March 18, June 24, Sept 23 and Dec 9. Please get info to GRs on workshops. Held first AMIAS chat. 23 groups, 13 are active. Area's biggest concern is getting teens to meetings. WSO sent out forms to confirm Alateen meeting info.
 - Maria N. – Parent brought child to Al-Anon and asked how to find current Alateen meetings? Cheryl L. – only Alateen meetings that are active appear on the Area website. The current search function doesn't list all Alateen meetings. Drupal 9 fixes this search and will be able to generate a list of all Alateen meetings in the Area.
 - Gail K. – can check the NVSC website for meeting in that area.
 - Meg P. – was the AMIAS chat recorded? Becky D. – yes, but not posted yet.
- Literature/Forum – Ann S. Service Centers can order the new daily reader, "A Little Time for Myself" in advance. The new daily reader will be introduced at the International Convention. The cost of the new Service Manual has risen to \$11.00.
- Service Centers – NVSC report posted. Tidewater no report.
- Archives – Margaret R. No report.

DRs – Share a Glow and Grow (2 min)

Summary and Closing Remarks – Debbie P.

- Cards to Stacy.
- Talk about In-Reach.
- Looking for Panel 65 Convention Chair

Closed at 2:29 pm

Respectively submitted,
Deb Teer
Area Secretary, Panel 62

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<u>Upcoming Dates of Importance</u>		
2023		
March 4	Spring VAWSC	Virtual-Webex
April 20-23	WSC	Virginia Beach
May 12-14	Spring Assembly	Midlothian, DoubleTree
June 10	Area Officers Meeting	Webex
June 29- July 2	International Convention	Albuquerque, New Mexico
August 5	Fall VAWSC	Webex
October 13-15	Fall Assembly	Midlothian, DoubleTree
2024		
January, 13	Area Officers Meeting	Webex
March, 2	Spring VAWSC	Webex
May 3-5	Spring Assembly	Midlothian, DoubleTree
June, 8	Area Officers Meeting	Webex
August,3	Fall VAWSC	Webex
August 9-11	Virginia Area Convention	Natural Bridge
October 25-28	Fall Assembly	Midlothian, DoubleTree

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
GEA	Global Electronic Area
LDC	Literature Distribution Center

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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