

**THE 2023 VIRGINIA AREA AL-ANON FALL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES
October 14-15, 2023
Hybrid Meeting (In-Person DoubleTree, Midlothian, VA and Webex)**

“Back to Basics – Panel 62”

S A T U R D A Y, October 14, 1:00 PM

GENERAL SESSION

Welcome (Debbie P.)

- The general session was opened with the Serenity Prayer and reading of the Assembly Purpose from the Service Manual, pg. 67.

Notes/Reminders (Debbie P.)

- Assembly documents available online.
- Ask It Basket in back.
- DR101 and GR101 sessions are available on the website under members.
- Area having a sponsorship workshop in 2024.
- The Area will complete an Assembly inventory in Spring 2024.
- WebEx training is available.
- Treasurers Workshop available online.
- Area Convention in August 9-11, 2024. Help is needed.

Fun Facts/Area Updates:

- Face-2-face meetings - 142
- Hybrid - 65
- Virtual - 67
- Beginners - 16
- Alateen - 14
- 25 districts have 262 registered active groups with 279 meetings.
- Peninsula District has the most meetings.
- 4 Districts without DRs.
- Longest active group is the Central AFG, that started in 1952.

12 Steps – Katherine P.

12 Traditions – Ava B.

12 Concepts of Service – Amanda R.

New Groups (Debbie P.)

11 new groups were registered in Districts 4, 5, 7 (2), 10, 19, 20, 26, 27, 29 (2).

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

Ice breaker – would you rather (Stacy L.) Stacy asked both In-person and virtual attendees to answer a “would you rather....” question.

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DR AND GR ROLL CALL (Deb T.) Attendance was taken using the list of those registered by District, both in-person and virtual attendees with a verbal response. Roll Call: 68 in-person; 42 virtual.

APPROVAL OF 2023 SPRING ASSEMBLY MINUTES (Deb T.) Minutes are posted on Area website. No changes were received.

MOTION:

That the 2023 Spring Assembly Minutes be approved as written.

Made by: Deb T.

Second by: Sarah H.

Voting results: standing in-person vote and Webex poll. Standing in-person: Approved - majority; Abstained – 0; Opposed – 0. WebEx: Approved – 34; Abstained – 1; Opposed – 0.

APPROVAL OF TREASURER’S REPORT FOR THE 3rd Qtr. Sept 30, 2023 (Laura L.) Report posted on Area website. Prepared April 25, 2023:

- 67% of budgeted income has been received.
- New general liability insurance policy was purchased for VAWSC members.
- We pay a license fee for 3 Webex accounts.
- The 2023 Spring Assembly net cost to the Area \$3000.
- Still receiving contributions that are difficult to identify. Important to make sure the group name, group #, District # and Area #.
- We have a QR code for Zelle contributions on the Area website under Make a Donation.

Discussion:

Peter M. – even though contributions are down so are expenses, is that correct? Laura – yes, we will have a carryover and are within budgeted numbers.

Stephanie F. – Is it clear how to use the Zelle QR code? Laura – the QR code is associated with Area banking information and is deposited in the Area bank account.

MOTION: *That the Treasurer’s report, prepared for the Third Quarter 2023, be approved as written.*

Made by: Rick A.

Second by: Charlene B.

Voting results: standing in-person vote and Webex poll. Standing in-person: Approved - majority; Abstained – 0; Opposed – 0. WebEx: Approved – 40; Abstained – 0; Opposed – 0.

PROPOSED 2024 BUDGET (Laura L.) – The proposed budget is created in May. Officers vote to approve in June and is sent to the VAWSC for approval in August. Expenses are reviewed line-by-line and are increased 10% as a cost-of-living adjustment if needed; delegate & alt delegate expenses were increased. The General Liability Insurance policy, \$918, was increased to \$1000. The Website budget was increased due to projects placed on hold because of platform update in 2023.

Discussion:

- Rich – what is the insurance for? Laura – general liability for Area only. Ellie – bylaws require that Officers be covered for liability.

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- Beverly M. – do we look 2 years back to determine the average cost of expenses? Laura – leave budget line items as is unless a cost-of-living adjustment is required then the amount is increased 5 or 10%.
- Stephanie F. – will hybrid Assemblies continue? Laura – decision to have a hybrid Assembly is made during the planning of each Assembly.
- Peter M. – Can we digitize archives and eliminate the need for storage? Laura – The Archives line item is not just paper archives; it is also equipment in storage. We did shop around about 1.5 years ago for storage but the cost of the current unit is in line.
- Duane F. – the question about digitizing has come up many times. Some want history that can be handled. We should look for electronic storage options. Good conversation that should be continued.

AREA DELEGATE'S REPORT (Stacy L.)

- Chairman of Board meeting – 2025 road trip will hopefully be hybrid.
- International Convention 2023 in Albuquerque had 3776 participants; 741 virtual attendees.
- Developing electronic safety rules for Alateen so they can start having electronic meetings.
- WSO quarterly appeal – Read letter at least two meetings. WSO spends \$321 on average to support meeting each year. Break the buck barrier.
- Policy Committee – the conversation continues as to whether the gendered language is in line with Al-Anon's legacy. Charter would have to be changed by 2/3 of Al-Anon members. Assembly report issued 1 year ago gives instructions on finding Policy Committee discussions.
- Global Electronic Area (GEA) – new interim delegate has been appointed.
- International Convention 2028 - WSO is asking for submission of hosts for the convention. The location will be announced in 2025 at AA International Convention.
- New daily reader, A Little Time for Myself, are falling apart. There is a process for replacing the book. If you purchased a book from a service center you can talk with them about a replacement.
- New PO ideas – placing meeting lists in tourist centers. Have meetings listed in bulletins, newsletters, etc. especially where the group meets.
- Links of Service – not being used. GRs should use links of service rather than going directly to WSO. See Pgs. 176-77 in service manual.
- Online/phone meetings – when searching for an electronic meeting, the first to come up are those about to start. You can also find Al-Anon speakers on YouTube.
- Redoing pamphlet (S70) for gays/lesbians.
- The World Service Conference (WSC) summary will be posted online, not in print yet.

Discussion:

- Terry W. – Is the GEA being separated into Districts? Stacy – being discussed.
- Terry C. – If you attend an electronic meeting and no one is there, what do you do? Cheryl L. – go to WSO Group Records to determine if the meeting should be removed.
- Peter M. – Need to give the GEA time to setup process for attracting officers as they did not have members serving as GR/DR.

VA BOUNDARY POLICY (Terry W.) – Purpose of the Policy is to address changing District and Area boundaries. Area procedure is needed as stated in the Al-Anon Service Manual.

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Discussion:

Marion S. – if the change of boundaries doesn't work, can it be changed back? Terry – Yes, this Policy provides a process to arrive at a decision to make this as certain as possible.

Maria - Is the Policy for the Area or just the Eastern Shore District? Terry – The Policy addresses changing boundaries between 2 Areas and between Districts.

Rick A. – Policy talks about disapproval but doesn't address appeal? Terry – we would go back to the Service manual that addresses the appeal process (pg. 49 of Service Manual).

Cheryl L. – Policy says to move one AFG refer to the Transforming Electronic Groups to AFG policy, that policy covers only electronic groups, this policy is for physical boundaries; why is this reference made they are two different types of meetings? Doesn't make sense to move a single group to another District, what happens to the other groups in the District? Boundary Policy states changes to District boundaries don't need Assembly approval but on last page states Area boundaries will require a vote by Assembly, believe that any boundaries changes (District or Area) should be voted by Assembly? Concerns about this Policy process. Terry W. response – the Transforming Electronic Groups to AFG policy does address moving an individual meeting. Overlay district is separate issue that is under discussion. District boundary changes do not require an Assembly vote, subject to District autonomy, does state that Officer input is required for the process to be completed. Districts must follow all steps. Changing Area boundaries does require Assembly vote.

Val P. – need clarification on Cheryl's questions, not clear on what the Policy is meant to cover.

Peter M. – right of appeal should be in Policy. Suggest we table this vote, return the Policy to the Committee and move the vote to the Spring Assembly.

Motion: Peter M. made a motion to return the Policy to the LRPC. The motion presented at this Assembly is made by the VAWSC, therefore the motion is corrected to return the Policy to the VAWSC for clarification.

Corrected motion: return the Boundary Policy to the VAWSC for clarification and table the vote until Spring Assembly,

Made by Peter M.

seconded Brett H.

Standing in-person vote and Webex poll. In-person: approved 37; opposed 7; abstained 0; WebEx: approved 16, opposed 8; abstained 3

Note: Roll call was not taken at time of vote. This vote based on majority of those GRs present to vote.

Peter M. was asked to withdraw his motion since a vote was scheduled for Sunday. Peter stated that since the vote was taken and majority approved, there is no reason to withdraw.

ELECTION OF AREA ALT SECRETARY (Debbie P.) – The Area Chair can appoint an interim officer until a call for nominations and a vote can be held. When Alt sec stepped down, Cindy L. accepted the interim position. Current or former DRs are eligible. Debbie P. referred to service manual for process.

- Call for nominations: Cindy L. is willing to stand; no nominations were received from the floor. Cindy gave her background and certified her participation in service.

COORDINATOR AND LIAISON REPORTS

- Assembly (Mitch M.) - Report on website.
- Literature / The Forum (Ann S.) – Report on website.
- Website (Bruce B.) - Report on website.
- Group Records (Cheryl L.) – Report on website.

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- Communications (Becky B.) - Report on website.
- AAPP (Patty M.) – Report on website.
- Alateen (Lisa R.) – Report on website.
- Public Outreach (Michelle R.) – Report on website.
- Archives (Margaret R.) – No report.
- Area Convention (Diana A.) - Report on website.

S U N D A Y, October 15

GENERAL SESSION

- Debbie P. opened the second day of Assembly with the Serenity Prayer
- Spiritual speaker, Eloy M., Past Delegate, Panel 56, Colorado.

DR Highlights

- 1 Albemarle- Ed W.: Report on website.
- 2 Springfield/Annandale – Chris B.: Report on website.
- 3 Arlington - Sophie L.: Report on website.
- 4 Blue Ridge – Lisa R.: Report on website.
- 5 Bull Run – Charlene B.: Report on website.
- 6 Central Valley – Beverly M.
- 8 Fairfax – Romina B.: Report on website.
- 9 Falls Church/Vienna/McLean – Maria N.: Report on website.
- 10 Loudoun – Emily M.: Report on website.
- 12 Nansemond – Meg P.: Report on website.
- 14 Norfolk – Cynthia E.: Report on website.

DELEGATE REPORT (Stacy L.) – Continued

- WSC topics: How to attract members into service? Delegate responses: we need you and your experience; sponsors support service for recovery; AA does service well-encourage participation, use AA Liaison; connect service to recovery; always share enthusiasm; doing service is a service to future Al-Anons.
- Literature committee is pursuing new literature on sponsorship.
- Ask it basket question: What does the \$321 WSO spends per year on groups cover? In WSC Summary is a section on what WSO spends. Majority is on group services: literature, phone support, archives, group records, database of meetings, international convention, road trips, public outreach, international support, translation, forum, mobile app. Can obtain a copy of the WSC Summary online at the WSO website or purchase a copy, \$5. Terry W. – on back of quarterly appeal letter is a list of things covered by WSO.

GR ROLL CALL (Deb T.) – Voting purpose. 106 voting GRs

VA BOUNDARY POLICY (Debbie P.) – 2/3 majority vote required. Motion to return the VA Boundary Policy to the VAWSC for clarification. See Saturday's discussion.

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ELECTION OF ALT SECRETARY (Debbie P.) – 2/3 majority vote; 71 approvals are needed. A call for nominations from the floor was made. No other nominees were received. A counted vote was held to elect Cindy L. to the Alt Secretary position was held.

Voting results: *standing in-person vote and Webex poll. Approved 106; Abstained – 0; Opposed – 0.*

2024 PROPOSED BUDGET (Laura L.) –

MOTION: *VAWSC recommends that the 2024 proposed Area Budget be approved as presented.*

Made by: *Laura L.*

Second by: *Val P.*

Voting results: *standing in-person vote and Webex poll. Standing in-person: Approved - majority; Abstained – 0; Opposed – 0. WebEx: Approved – 42; Abstained – 0; Opposed – 0.*

COORDINATOR AND LIAISON REPORTS cont'd

- LRPC (Terry W.) - Report on website.
- Northern Virginia Service Center (Lisa R.) – Report on website.
- Tidewater Service Center (Lee N.) – Report on website.
- MEAC (Diana A.) – Report on website.
- ESAC – No report.

DR Highlights

- 16 Peninsula – Robynn B.: Report on website.
- 17 Piedmont – Virginia S.: Report on website.
- 18 Alexandria – Gail K.: Report on website.
- 19 Rappahannock - Amanda R.: Report on website.
- 20 Richmond N – Chris H.: Report on website.
- 21 Roanoke/Alleghany – Diana A.: Report on website.
- 22 Seven Hills – Katherine P.: Report on website.
- 23 Southside - Cindy L.: Report on website.
- 24 Southwest - Becky D.: Report on website.
- 27 Virginia Beach - Ava B.: Report on website.
- 29 James River South - Sue T.: Report on website.

7th Tradition – Baskets were passed. Use donate button on VA area website.

ASSEMBLY EVALUATIONS (Mitch M.) - **Evaluation** link is online under Assembly.

Questions and Comments (Ask-it Basket and Floor)

- Who should be on the checking account? Laura: the Group Treasurer along with anyone else the group decides should be on the account.

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- What is Al-Anon position on crosstalk? Al-Anon does not have a stand on crosstalk. Stacy: this should be handled at group level.
- Eloy mentioned about his meeting everyone is invited.
- Dee M. panel 8 Delegate sent good wishes.

CLOSING REMARKS (Debbie P.) – Thanking all for their work on this Assembly.

- Return lanyards to registration table
- Encourage service
- Encourage participation in DR/GR 101 sessions.
- Continue to carry message.
- Special thanks to tech team.

Raffle (Mitch M.) – 2 copies of A Little Time for Myself. Wendy R.; Suzanne P.

Closing with declaration said facing in and out to those who've yet to find the rooms. 12:05 pm

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: 2024/2025

2024		
January 13	Area Officer's Meeting	Webex
March 2	Spring VAWSC	Webex
April 18-21	World Service Conference (WSC)	Virginia Beach
May 3-5	Spring Assembly	(Format TBD)
June 8	Area Officer's Meeting	Webex
August 3	Fall VAWSC	Webex
August 9-11	Virginia Area Convention	Natural Bridge
October 25-27	Fall Assembly	(Format TBD)
2025		
January 11	Area Officers Meeting	Webex
March 1	Spring VAWSC	Webex
May 16-19	Spring Assembly	Midlothian DoubleTree
June 7	Area Officers Meeting	Webex
August 2	Fall VAWSC	Webex
October 10-12	Fall Assembly	Midlothian DoubleTree