



## Virginia Area World Service Committee (VAWSC) Meeting Minutes

WebEx - Hosted by Becky D.

August 5, 2023

9:00 am to 2:14 pm

### Opening:

- Area Chair, Debbie P., opened the meeting with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer, reading of Concept One and the Purpose of VAWSC (Service Manual, Area World Service Committee Meetings pg. 159).

### Welcome and Introductions:

Officers introduced themselves. Roll Call was completed through WebEx polling (full list can be viewed at file: 1-Roll Call Shared Polling Result). VAWSC Members present:

Bruce B., Meg P., Maria N., Ann S., Laura L., Wendy R., Amanda R., Katherine, Stacy L., Deborah T., Patty M., Sophie L., Lisa R., Emily M., Sue T., Chris B., Duane F., Robynn B., Terry W., Michelle R., Ellie F., Diana A., Cindy L., Ava B., Christopher H., Ed W., Lee N., Mitchell M., Debbie P.

**Note: 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 March 4, 2023 VAWSC Minutes – Deb T.:

***Motion: to approve the March 4, 2023 VAWSC Minutes as written by Deb T., seconded by Ellie F.***

***WebEx Poll initiated: Approved-28, Opposed-0, Abstained- 1***

**Treasurer's Report** – Laura L.: Things looks good. Contributions are at approx. 45% and expenses are at approx. 33% of budgeted amounts. Still getting unidentified contributions. See attachment D. Spring Assembly cost to the Area was \$3000, prior hybrid Assemblies were \$4500. In contrast, before going hybrid, In-person Assemblies would cost the Area between \$7000 and \$8000.

***Motion: to accept the treasurer's report for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter (June) of 2023 as prepared made by Laura L., seconded by Patty M. Webex Poll initiated: Approved-29, Opposed-0, Abstained- 1***

**Proposed 2024 Budget** – Laura L.: Numbers are prepared in Spring. Officers/Coordinators are asked to review costs for upcoming year. Budgeted income is determined taking an average of the prior 2 years. Expenses (i.e., storage unit; equalized travel) are increased by 10%. Increased the website line item in case of special projects. Convention costs were changed from \$2000 to \$5000, based on actual expenses.

***Motion: to accept the treasurer's report for the Proposed budget 2024 as written made by Laura L., seconded by Emily M. Webex Poll initiated: Approved-29, Opposed- 0, Abstained- 1***

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### Delegate's Report - Stacy L.:

- Ice Breaker for Assembly, penny game. Everyone gets a penny (virtual included). Go around room and ask attendees to share on what happened that year (year on penny) that relates to their al-anon journey. Will do a few at a time throughout Assembly.
- International – successful. Final registered, 4517. Fun fact: Held at highest elevation of any convention.
- Ellie F. – the next location for the International Convention will not be shared until 2025.
- 2022 Delegates Task Force on Technology – as of August, a technology category has been added to AFG Connects to share what Areas are doing. Wendy R. – Technology AFG connects should be available to several people not just those holding technology positions. Stacy will let WSO know we want the ability for several members to access.
- A Little Time for Myself is out of stock until September.

**VA Boundary Policy – Terry W.:** The slide presentation, created for the July 16, 2023 Town Hall, was shown to the VAWSC. Both the Policy and Motion were provided to the VAWSC. Can contact LRPC for question. DRs should present the information to GRs so they will be ready to vote at Assembly. The slides can be found at <https://www.vaalanon.org/TownHall> or under Members/VAWSC.

- History: A couple of groups in the Eastern Shore District wanted to change their geographic District which put into motion the need for policy to address changing VA boundaries. This Policy addresses how to move meetings and Districts and redraw a Districts boundaries and the Area's boundaries if needed. There are 2 parts: 1 how to redraw district lines; 2 redrawing VA Area boundary lines. If the Policy passes today, another Town Hall will be held on Sept 17, 2-4 pm.
- Wendy R. – noted some grammar changes and will send Terry an email.
- Patty M. – make sure good communications to GRs. Area Alateen process must be followed if new Alateen meetings join VA.
- Ellie F. – recommend that DRs use the motion document to provide GRs with information.

Debbie asked if enough info was received to move the motion forward. All agreed.

### **Motion:**

***The VA Area Officers recommend that the VAWSC approve the VA Area Boundary Policy for establishing VA Area procedures for changing District and Area Boundaries of the Virginia Area, and send it to the 2023 VA Fall Assembly for their approval in October 2023. Made by VA Area Officers, seconded Sophie L. WebEx Poll: Approved -27 (1 verbal approval), Opposed -0, Abstained - 1***

**Spanish Speaking Overlay District – Debbie P.** In 2020, Five groups in Loudon, Alexandria, Falls Church/McLean/Vienna, Arlington and Bull Run asked to create a Spanish Overlay District. This is being coordinated by Carito, a member from the NoVA area. The Alexandria and Arlington Districts have approved the move to the Spanish Overlay District; the three other Districts, where groups want to join the Spanish Overlay District, are still in the process of having a group conscience to approve the move. Once all the groups are approved to join the Spanish Overlay District, they will need to come together and select a District name and DR and provide the information to the Area. The Spanish Overlay District will be assigned District 011.

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- Patty M. – this is a separate District for Spanish speaking meetings and does it preclude them participating in geographic District? Debbie P. - Any meeting can choose to join the Overlay District if the group and District approves. Any group can only belong to one District for voting purposes. Groups can participate in other District activities but cannot vote.
- Sophie L. – are we voting on overlay today? Debbie P. - VAWSC does not vote to approve the Overlay District. The Group has a group conscience to join overlay and the District approves the release of the group to the Overlay District. Once this happens and a District name and DR are selected, Debbie P. should be notified and will then send notice to the Area Secretary to inform WSO that groups are part of overlay.
- Terry W. – pg. 64-65 explanation of Overlay District. Must have a DR.
- Emily M. – has 2 Spanish speaking groups, but has not hear from them regarding joining the Spanish Overlay District. Debbie P. – groups should come to DR and request move. Ellie F. – DRs should make groups aware that a Spanish Overlay District exists and what to do to join.
- Sophie L. – since release of the group in my District has been approved, are they no longer part of my District? Debbie P. - They are still part of your District until all the steps have been completed and WSO has been informed that a new Spanish Overlay District exists. Tell GR to contact Carito (member leading this request from the Falls Church Area).

**Area Inventory – Debbie P.** Officers agreed to have an Area inventory and a committee was created. VAWSC will participate in an inventory in the Spring 2024 by answering questions posted on the website and discussed at the Spring VAWSC meeting. Also, we propose that during the 2024 Spring Assembly, no workshops will be presented and instead we will break into groups and complete an Assembly Inventory by answering questions posted to the website and report back during the Assembly. This will be done by both in-person and virtual attendees.

- Lee N. – can you give an example of the type of questions? Debbie P. – VAWSC, what does the Area do well; Assembly, why is audio/visual important to Assembly.
- Patty M. – will the findings be presented at the Fall Assembly? Debbie P. – yes, we could present the outcome of the inventory but action on any of the findings will be considered by the new Panel.
- Stacy L. – The main reason for doing this is to prepare information for the new Panel to consider. The VAWSC will complete the inventory first to see how it goes, then the inventory will be presented to the Assembly for completion. The VAWSC and Assembly Inventories will have different questions.

**Election of Alt Secretary at Assembly – Debbie P.** Alt Secretary, Christy B. has stepped down. The AI-Anon Service Manual, Pg 157, states that the Chair can appoint an interim Alt Secretary until next Assembly, at which time an election will take place. Cindy L. has stepped in to serve as Alt Secretary and will be nominated for the position. An election will take place at Fall Assembly with a call for nominations on Saturday and the vote (standing) will take place on Sunday.

**Area Sponsorship workshop (Webex) – Debbie P.** Committee of 6 was created to put together this workshop. Tentatively set for Jan 21, 2024. Debbie P. will send out a questionnaire for GRs to answer on what the focus of the workshop should be. After Fall Assembly committee will create content. May be multiple workshops.

**Fall 2023 Hybrid Assembly Agenda:**

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- 2023 Spring Assembly Evaluation – Debbie P. Debbie shared the chart of evaluations; 65 responses; 74.4% in person and 24.6 virtual. She reviewed each question and the results. Overall positive, mostly 5s.
- Patty M. – How can we increase participation and get info back to groups? Debbie P. – best to use links of service.
- Terry W. – as Delegate, found other Areas have same problem. Get GRs excited.
- Duane F. – There is a lot of information given to GRs at Assembly and GRs have difficulty picking out relevant info. We can talk about it and help GRs at the GR session.
- Maria N. – getting better participation using ice breakers with GRs at District meetings.
- Diana A. – Agenda could be printed with more space for notes. Ellie F. – we could create the Agenda in a Word template so people can edit and print how they want.

### Assembly Report – Mitch M.

- 146 registered for Spring Assembly; 89 in-person, 57 virtual. There were 111 voting GRs.
- We will continue using RegFox for registration. Online registration will be available 8/16-9/29.
- Using wired microphones and internet to eliminate slowdowns and feedback from other hotel users.
- Added extra needs feature, designed for those with special needs.
- Still looking for volunteers to help with technology.
- Duane F. – Encouraging members to come Friday for networking.

**Encore Fall 2023 Contract – Debbie P.** 2023 Fall contract with Encore is approved at a cost of \$5193. \$700 increase from Spring contract. Have met with Encore to address problems from Spring Assembly.

**2023 Fall Assembly (Hybrid) – Debbie P.** Officers reviewed numbers and determined that a hybrid Assembly is supported for the Fall. The cost to attendees remains the same.

### 2023 Fall Assembly Agenda Review – Debbie P.

- 12 Steps: Katherine P.
- 12 Traditions: Ava B
- 12 Concepts: Amanda R.
- Hospitality Room – James River South; Albemarle;
- Night Owl – Patty M. in-person
- Early Bird – Laura L. in-person
- 3 Workshop Topics – List of possible workshops provided on the Agenda.
  - Debbie P. - Workshop chairs should meet with Tech Team. The Tech Team has lost the person who handles breakouts, we may need to reduce the number of breakout rooms available.
  - Ellie F. – if instead of a hybrid option, we could have virtual only workshops and put the link to those workshops on the agenda.
  - Emily M. – several workshops on the list are the same as those offered at Spring Assembly? Debbie P. – building on previously done workshops with new ideas/information. Amanda – GRs may not attend if thinking it's the same.
  - Ellie F. – suggests adding a workshop: how to encourage participation at District/Area level.
  - Diana A. – for hybrid meetings, have a person assigned to virtual attendees to facilitate participation.
  - Becky B. – suggest separating the in-person and virtual night owl/early bird meetings.

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- Mitch M. – have a workshop on Sponsorship? Debbie P. – more to personal recovery. Maria – could talk about service sponsorship.
- Poll opened for voting for 3 workshops: Public Outreach; Conference Approved Literature/Writing Workshop; How to do a Workshop-Guidelines and Tool Kits; Conflict Resolution; Al-Anon Links of Service; How to Encourage Participation; Service Sponsorship. The following were selected:
  - CAL/writing
  - Encourage participation
  - Conflict Resolution
- Workshop Leaders:
  - Virtual Workshops  
CAL-Michelle; Robin B.  
Encourage participation- Debbie P.;  
Conflict resolution – Cindy L.; Chris B.
  - In-Person Workshops  
CAL- Ann S.; Ellie  
Encourage participation- Amanda; Patty  
Conflict resolution-Lisa R.; Diana A.
- Ice Breaker at Assembly – Stacy L. (see Delegates section above)
- Spiritual speaker – Eloy M., Delegate Panel 56 from Colorado.

### Area Coordinator Reports (2 min.) (Reports can be found at <https://www.vaalanon.org/vawsc>)

- Website – Bruce B. Duane F. – can we sort online for newcomer meetings without having to use “Advanced Filters”? Cannot find the webmaster address on website to submit issues.
- Communications – Becky B.
- Group Records - Cheryl L. NA
- LRPC – Terry W. Wendy R. – consider how to post documents so they are discoverable.
- Area Convention – Diana A.
- Alateen – Lisa R.
- MEAC – Wendy R. (No online report). Held last weekend, not as well attended. New Board was elected. Fundraising campaign took in \$1700. Location is scalable and works well. Next MEAC, 7/26-28/2024.
- AAPP – Patty M.
- Literature – Ann S. NA
- Service Centers: NoVA – Lisa R.; Tidewater – Lee N.
- Public Outreach – Michelle R. Becky – On the VA website under Public Outreach, is a presentation that Michelle gave on social media, along with 2 other workshops on Public Outreach.
- Archives – Margaret R. NA

### DRs – Share a Glow and Grow (2 min) (See reports at <https://www.vaalanon.org/vawsc>)

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### Summary and Closing Remarks – Debbie P.

- Consider changing Area Sponsorship Workshop date.
- Create space on Assembly Agenda for notes.
- Look for Area sponsorship survey – share with GRs.
- Town Hall on Boundary Policy on 9/17 – DRs make sure GRs get flyer.
- DRs reach out personally to GRs who typically do not attend Assembly.
- GR101 on 9/10 at 2:00 pm.

Closed at 2:14 pm

Respectively submitted,  
Deb Teer  
Area Secretary, Panel 62

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<u>Upcoming Dates of Importance</u>		
<b>2023</b>		
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
<b>2024</b>		
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
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

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