

THE 2025 VIRGINIA AREA AL-ANON SPRING ASSEMBLY
MINUTES
May 17-18, 2025
Hybrid Meeting (In-Person DoubleTree, Midlothian, VA and Webex)

“Panel 65 -Connections and Growth Through Service: Investing in Each Other to Preserve Our Legacy”

S A T U R D A Y, May 17, 1:00 PM

GENERAL SESSION (Amanda R.)

- Serenity Prayer
- Assembly Purpose from the Service Manual, pg. 67.
- Welcome
- Remarks: Mention made of having patience with the process and following Assembly Etiquette. There is a service opportunity for an Archivist. There are Archive guidelines, quarterly GR Sessions, Website updates, and an Alateen recertification process in place.
- 12 Steps: read by Tighe A.
- 12 Traditions: read by Mandy A.
- 12 Concepts of Service: read by Sophie L.
- Warranties: read by Laura L.
- Welcome to the following: New Groups; Rising Recovery AFG and Alta Vista AFG. Past Delegates: Recently a Delegate, Don F., from Panel 47 has passed. He will be greatly missed. Another Delegate, Dee M. has recently turned 100 years old! Other Past Delegates were also introduced, as well as Trustees and Visitors including the Spiritual Speaker - Rita L.
- Introductions of Officers, Liaisons, Coordinators, and Service Center Chairs.
- Facts: There are currently 276 meetings. 152 are Face to Face. 59 are Virtual. 65 are Hybrid. These include 7 Spanish and 13 Alateen.

DR AND GR ROLL CALLS (Martha R. with Cheryl L.)

Verbal and Virtual roll call was taken. 22 DRs and 111 GRs were present.

DISCUSSION OF VOTING PROCEDURES and ASSEMBLY ETIQUETTE (Amanda R.)

With a Power Point presentation, the following was explained. There will be voting on the Minutes, Treasurer's report, Alternate Secretary and Boundary Issue. The motions will be presented. If there are questions, please use the microphone and refer to the Service Manual. Please hold all opinions and applause. The Election process was explained and that will be done with a standing vote.

APPROVAL OF 2024 FALL ASSEMBLY MINUTES (Martha R.) Minutes are posted on the Area Website. No changes were received from the post Assembly review and no changes were received from the floor today.

***MOTION: That the 2024 Fall (October 26, 2024) Assembly Minutes be approved as written.**

Made by: Ann S.

Second by: Brett H.

THE 2025 VIRGINIA AREA AL-ANON SPRING ASSEMBLY MINUTES, May 17-18, 2025

Voting results: standing in-person vote (Martha R.) and virtual Slido poll (Cheryl L.)

Standing in-person: Approved – majority, 1 abstain; 0 opposed. Slido: 22 approved, 1 abstain, and 0 opposed.

APPROVAL OF TREASURER’S REPORT FOR FIRST QUARTER 2025 (Jessica B.)

Report posted on the Area Website. Jessica also made some comments. She reported that we are in very good standing for the 1st quarter. Thanks to all for your correctly identified donations. No questions were brought forth. Highlights include:

- Income is at 28% of the budgeted goal.
- Expenses are 5% of budgeted expenses.
- Tax Return was completed.
- We are currently in good financial health.
- Continue to make contributions to the links of service using correct group numbers.

***MOTION: That the Treasurer’s report, prepared for the First Quarter 2025, be approved as written.**

Made by: Laura L.

Second by: Cheryl K.

Voting results: standing in-person vote (Martha R.) and virtual Slido poll (Cheryl L.).

Standing in-person: Approved – majority; opposed 0; abstained 0. Slido: 25 approved, 0 abstain, 0 opposed.

CALL FOR THE ALTERNATE SECRETARY OFFICE POSITION (DISCUSSION) (Amanda R.)

Chris B. has been temporarily acting as Alternate Secretary since January. He formally stood today for the position and talked about his service work. The program has done a lot for him. He has been busy helping with other service commitments. He is working on the Tech Team, on the LRPC, and has started a Men’s Group. He has been a GR, Secretary, DR twice, and Records Coordinator.

EASTERN SHORE/VIRGINIA AREA BOUNDARY CHANGE (DISCUSSION) (Amanda R.)

Discussion started with Amanda reading a document created by Deb. T. It explains what is involved with the upcoming decision. See the document on the Area Website, Current Assembly, Discussion Topics, VA/MD Boundary Info. Here is the proposed motion:

“Motion: to release the 2 Chincoteague meetings in Eastern Shore District 7 to the Maryland Area and change the Virginia Area boundary line to exclude Chincoteague Island.”

Below are some representative comments that were expressed from the floor and virtually. The discussion lasted for approximately 55 minutes.

- Jill S. – has read the policy from the service manual and the Virginia Area policy. There has been some confusion. Officers have discussed the discrepancy, VAWSC voted to approve the change.
- Alexandra L. – will people be able to find the meeting online? (you can search for the meeting by Area, not State)
- Duane F. – we would need to change the map.
- Maureen M. – will the district remain viable? (yes, if they have a full panel)
- Cheryl L. – the current policy would be violated if we approve the vote. We need to change the policy first. We would be in violation of our own policy.

THE 2025 VIRGINIA AREA AL-ANON SPRING ASSEMBLY MINUTES, May 17-18, 2025

- Patty M. – we have been working on this for years. We can change the policy. We need to let it go through.
- Amanda R. – the vote would be to change the boundary.
- Terry W. – we are looking at two separate actions: 1. Vote to release the groups. 2. Return the policy to the committee to make corrections.
- Amanda R. – Eastern Shore has issues with traveling to meetings. It is easier to get to Maryland.
- Maureen M. – in support of the proposal. The remaining district and groups are on the Virginia side.
- Ellie F. – policy was written with rhyme and reason. It's OK to do it in this order.
- Paul H. – regarding the policy violation: can we back date the change?
- Martha R. – can we change the policy today? (no, it must go through LRPC, Officers, VAWSC first)
- Val P. – LRPC must make the change. The fastest route would be to vote at the Fall Assembly. We are just trying to move two groups. We can wait another 5-6 months.
- Jen G. – right now, the two groups cannot vote in Maryland. They have not been able to vote.
- Allison M. – can we dissolve that district and let groups choose as a work around?
- Becky B.D. – we should follow the policy and give it a few more months.
- Angie S. – understands that words are important. Policies are not perfect. The definition of a policy is that it is a guideline and not a rule. This can allow for the needed change.
- Mandy A. – can we amend the motion? (yes)
- Jan R. – groups have ultimate authority. Why can't we vote to change the motion?

(SHORT BREAK AND ICE BREAKER TAKEN)

There was an exchange of bracelets with words on.

AREA DELEGATE'S REPORT (Laura L.) – Report is posted on Area Website. Please read for more details. Slideshow and pictures were shared.

- Laura is honored to be here and attend the WSC in April. Special thanks to all the support received.
- Her biggest takeaway was experiencing the spirit of the program and practicing the spiritual principles.
- There are always opposing opinions. We can take a step to the left to let our Higher Power in.
- Al-Anon International in 2028 will take place in Minneapolis July 20-22. (In the past it has been around July 4th.)
- Membership survey results were shared, showing the need for more diversity.
- Al-Anon Group Naming Policy 2024 changes were discussed extensively by the WSC. The policy was not the problem, but the implementation was. The intention was not to enforce the policy on existing groups. What we all have in common is alcoholism. Area Officers will be discussing this in the future. Talk to your groups.
- Financial information was also shared. Per group annual expense is up now to \$337.53.
- International Groups. Now make up 41% of all groups. Work is being done to support them.
- 2025 AA International Convention with Al-Anon Participation is in Vancouver, BC July 3-6. 30,000 have registered by March.
- Al-Anon turns 75 years old in 2026. A Celebration will be held after the WSC with an Open House at the WSO.

THE 2025 VIRGINIA AREA AL-ANON SPRING ASSEMBLY MINUTES, May 17-18, 2025

Questions about Group Names:

- Jen G. – Is “Adult Children” OK? (It’s up to the group if they want to change. Is it inviting to all? Existing names are OK.)
- Maureen M. – Can a new group have an identifier? (OK, as long as it’s welcoming.)
- Beverly M. – Is it OK to not allow a man to attend a Women’s Group? (It’s up to the group.)
- Emily – Without identifiers can we still find a group on the Website? (It’s easier to do a search now.)

UPDATES FROM THE CHAIR (Amanda R.)

- Amanda will not be here on Sunday, due to a death in the family. Val will step in as Alternate Chair.
- **Webex:** ~~We have been in violation of the End User License Agreement. We are a program of honesty. Officers have made a decision to set July 31, 2025, as the last day to offer Webex Bridge 2 and 3 for use by meetings. Webex will then be for Area Business only on Bridge 1. This will allow time for groups to make the change. We don’t want to lose Webex. At the May 16th Officers meeting, the decision was made to set July 31, 2025 as the last day to offer use of the Virginia Area’s Webex account for AFG and District meetings. After that date, the Virginia Area’s Webex account will be reduced from 3 bridges to 1, which will be used for Area business only (i.e., VAWSC, Assembly, Officer meetings, area-level meetings and trainings, Town Halls, etc.).~~

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COORDINATOR AND LIAISON REPORTS

- Website Update (Wendy R.) - Report on website and in person.
- Communications (Cheryl L.) - Report on website and in person.
- Group Records (Sophie L.) – Report on website and in person.
- Literature/Forum (Maria N.) - Report on website and in person.
- LRPC (Debbie P.) – Report on website. Reported by Brett in person.
- Area Convention (Robynn B.) – Gina reported in person. The Convention will have a website.

DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS 1-15

The following reports were submitted and listed on the Area Website: (Districts 3,4,6,7,9,10,11,12,14 and 15). “1 grow and 1 glow” (successes and challenges) were also shared in person, by each DR.

These reports were done in person only:

- District 1: Great team. No Drama.
- District 5: Great Spring Workshop and a new group. Attendance at the District.
- District 8: Had a good workshop. Still trying to fill positions.

THE 2025 VIRGINIA AREA AL-ANON SPRING ASSEMBLY MINUTES, May 17-18, 2025

S U N D A Y, May 18, 2025, 8:40 AM.

GENERAL SESSION Reconvened (Val P.)

Started with prayer. Val also read from As We Understood p. 216. Hotel staff were recognized. Please pick up literature before you leave today.

COORDINATOR AND LIASION REPORTS CONTINUED

- Alateen (Jill S.) - Report on website and in person.
- AAPP (Ava B.) - Report on website.
- Tidewater Service Center (Lee N.) - Report on website and in person.
- Northern VA Service Center (Michelle R.) - Report on website and in person, by Lisa R., alternate chair.
- Public Outreach (Duane F.) - Report done in person. Attended a WSO meeting in January. Will attend another tomorrow (5/19). Developing a Power Point for P.O. Coordinator. Town Hall on Webex is coming as well as possible Workshops. Has been working with Districts. Please invite him to your area. We all need to work together. Worked with the Spanish Overlay group. Uses Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism.
- MEAC (Shannon W.) - Reported in person by Wendy. Event is coming at the end of July. Price is reduced due to being subsidized by the Area. The deadline to register is this week. AMIAS are welcome.
- Archives** - VACANT (Officers are working on filling this position.)

DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS 16-29

The following reports were submitted and listed on the Area Website:

(Districts 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 27, and 29).

“1 grow and 1 glow” (successes and challenges) were also shared in person, by each DR.

These reports were done in person only:

- District 16: Great group of folks in the district. Working on an outreach project.
- District 17: Successful speaker meeting in the fall. Hoping to grow public outreach.
- District 19: Recently held a fundraiser. Needing to grow.

(Eight DR reports were done prior to the speaker: 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 27.)

SPIRITUAL SPEAKER – Val P. introduced Rita L. from Las Vegas. She shared her story of recovery and service. A recording of her story is on the Area Website. It is under Current Assembly, listed under “2025 Spring Assembly Evaluation Form”, Rita L.

(BREAK TAKEN)

THE 2025 VIRGINIA AREA AL-ANON SPRING ASSEMBLY MINUTES, May 17-18, 2025

(The remaining three DR reports were done: 23, 24, 29.)

ASSEMBLY REPORT (Ed W.) Report on Area Website and in person.

Ed reported that 151 people registered for this Assembly. Last year it was 142. The next three Assemblies are contracted. Huge thanks to the Tech Team.

7TH TRADITION AND ASSEMBLY SURVEY (Ed. W.)

Passed baskets and donate button available on Website.

Evaluations: Please go to the website, click on the link and fill out the form.

Val mentioned the pamphlet "Al-Anon Spoken Here" will be raffled off at the end of the Assembly. She also shared information from the Saturday Night Chat.

ROLL CALL (Martha R.) Slido (Cheryl L.) – GR roll call was conducted for voting purposes. Verbal and virtual roll call was taken. 108 GRs total were present.

ALTERNATE SECRETARY VOTE – Standing Vote

***MOTION: to elect Chris B. as Alternate Secretary for the Virginia Area, Panel 65.**

Made by: Anne

Seconded by: Sue

Voting results: standing in-person vote and Slido poll. Standing in-person: Approved - majority; Abstained – 0; Opposed – 0. Virtual: Approved - 27; Abstained – 0; Opposed – 0.

Chris was formally elected as Alternate Secretary.

EASTERN SHORE/VA BOUNDARY CHANGE – 2/3 majority

Val brought forward a proposal to table the motion and go through the process of changing the policy. This would be done over the summer with the Officers' meeting in June and the VAWSC meeting in August. Then the Assembly could vote on it in September. There was objection to this by the Assembly. They wanted to go forward with a vote on the motion and change the policy later. There was a bit of confusion around the motion and whether it would require a simple majority or a 2/3 majority to approve. It was determined that it would be a 2/3 majority. The motion was then repeated with the addition of "changing the boundary policy later". The assembly agreed to move forward with the vote.

***MOTION: To release the 2 Chincoteague meetings in Eastern Shore District 7 to the Maryland Area and change the Virginia Area boundary line to exclude Chincoteague Island; changing the boundary policy later.**

Made by: Elizabeth

Seconded by: ~~B.B. Bee-Bee-~~

Voting results: standing "count off" in-person vote and Slido poll. Standing in-person: Approved - 75; Abstained – 1; Opposed - 1. Virtual: Approved - 27; Abstained – 1; Opposed - 1. In total, this meets the 2/3 majority needed to carry the motion. (102 total approved out of 108 GRs present.)

THE 2025 VIRGINIA AREA AL-ANON SPRING ASSEMBLY MINUTES, May 17-18, 2025

Ice Breaker/Raffle (Val P. and Ed W.)

Literature was given away. The exchange of bracelets was done again.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS/ASK IT BASKET (Val P.)

1. **PayPal:** (Jessica B.) A district needs an EIN, needs personal information or social security numbers. The group has been having trouble getting this set up. You can look into other options and may need personal information. Becky stated she has run into tax issues with this. Recommended not using your social security number.
2. **Officers' information:** (Laura L.) For reasons of anonymity this is not listed on the website. However, you can find this on reports. The secretary sends out information to DRs and you can check with your DR.
3. **Who can vote in a District Meeting?** See Service Manual p. 145. GRs are the only ones who vote. One group equals one vote. If there are attendance issues, try contacting members to find out why.
4. **How do you find the start date for each group?** (Deb. T.) You can find it on the Website. Go to Members, Area Information, Groups: WSO #s and Registration Dates, Group & District Numbers.

CLOSING DECLARATION (Val P.)

The Assembly adjourned at approximately 11:40 am, closing with The Al-Anon Declaration in a circle facing inwards and outwards.

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,
Martha Redstone - Panel 65 Area Secretary

(Please see next page for Upcoming Dates and Acronyms.)

THE 2025 VIRGINIA AREA AL-ANON SPRING ASSEMBLY MINUTES, May 17-18, 2025

Upcoming Dates: 2025-2026

2025		
June 7	Area Officers Meeting	Webex
August 2	Fall VAWSC	Webex
September 26-28	Fall Assembly	Midlothian Double Tree And Webex
2026		
January ??	Area Officers Meeting	Webex
March 7	Spring VAWSC	Webex
May 15-17	Spring Assembly	Midlothian DoubleTree And Webex

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