



Virginia Area World Service Committee (VAWSC) Meeting Minutes

Panel 65 Webex
March 1, 2025 9:00-2:00 pm.

OPENING: Amanda opened the meeting and read the following from our literature.

- Prayer from "As We Understood..." p. 213
- History of the Concepts (SM, p. 179-80)
- VAWSC Purpose (SM p. 159)

Attendance and Roll Call (Slido)

Roll Call was completed through Slido polling. (Roll call can be viewed at file: 2025.03.01.VAWSC.Attendance).
VAWSC Members present:

Amanda R., Ava, Becky Bee, Bev. M., Carito, Cheryl L., Chris B., Cindy L., Cindy Loo, Connie, Deb T., Debbie P., DeeDee A., Denise B., Duane, Ed W., Jancy T., Jessica B., Jill S., Kerry B., Laura L., Lee, Lisa S., Mary Elizabeth, Mandy, Maria N., Martha R., Meg P., Patty M., Patty R., Sophie L., Sue V., Terry W., Tiana D., and Wendy R. (35 total).

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 VAWSC MINUTES August 3, 2024 (Vote Slido) - Martha**

The minutes were previously emailed and posted on the Website. There were no changes or corrections.

Motion: to approve the August 3, 2024 VAWSC Minutes as written by Deb T., made by Patty M., seconded by Tiana D. Slido Poll initiated: Approved-28, Opposed-0, Abstained-0.

- **4th Quarter TREASURERS REPORT (Vote Slido) - Jessica**

Report is posted on the Website. The tax return has been completed. No changes were needed. This was well presented.

Motion: to accept the 4th Quarter 2024 Treasurer's Report as prepared by Laura L. made by Patty M., seconded by Ed W. Slido Poll initiated: Approved-29, Opposed-0, Abstained-0.

Question was raised about the Budget. This will be discussed at the next Officers Meeting.

- **DELEGATES REPORT - Laura**

Report is posted on the Website. The 2025 World Service Conference Theme is Investing in Each Other to Preserve our Legacy. It's nice we are incorporating that into our Area as well. This is doing what we can to carry Al-Anon forward. I was welcomed to a "65-year conversation". Different panels are working together. Laura attended a February 15 Chair of the Board Presentation. There are 7 Regional Trustee vacancies. We need to work on a process for filling these positions for those who are interested in them. **This should be on the next Assembly Agenda** because there is an August 15 deadline. There have been many appeals regarding changing group names recently. AFG Connects has valuable information. Laura will bring Love Gifts to the



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Conference; "Easy Does It Buttons". She wants to report on Area Highlights as well as challenges from 2024. Please add your input by sending information to Laura. Questions:

- Terry W. – Can we order copies of the WSC Summary for the Assembly? Yes, Jessica can order them for all AWSC members.
- Sue V. – Regarding appeals: will that information be public? No.
- Cindy L. – Requested a view of the button. "Easy Does It" from the Virginia Area.
- Duane – Use your Links of Service to help cut down on calls to WSO. This helps us to learn, and we can share the information with others.

Additional information from Deb. T -Alternate Delegate:

Please ~~remember remind members of~~ the Links of Service ~~by sharing. Take the~~ information ~~with to~~ your GRs. Make sure the GR contact information is up to date ~~with Area Group Records. Share concerns as well.~~ GR 101 is coming on March 16, 2025. ~~Please share with your groups.~~ The information is on the website.

VAWSC Discussion

• Area Archives

A fourth draft of the Virginia Area Archive Guidelines has been shared. It is posted on the Website under LRPC. Duane did an inventory of what is in storage. There is a hard drive and there are boxes. We need an Archivist. Brett will share photos. The guidelines are based on WSO Guidelines. They cover Purpose, Storage, and Contents. It will be in a paid for climate-controlled area. Comments:

- Mandy – Asked about converting documents to electronic digital format and keeping things current.
- Deb. T. - It's up to the Archivist and Committee.
- Cheryl – Was not aware that we were voting on the Guidelines. Asked to delay until after lunch.
- Deb. T. – If we delay, then delay questions. Please read the document during lunch.
- Jill S. – Has a First Edition copy of the ODAT from 1968.

The Archives Guidelines will be discussed after lunch.

The VAWSC Inventory Results discussion will also be delayed to a further time.

Officer Introductions

Officers introduced themselves. Amanda, Deb. T., Martha, and Jessica all made brief introductions. All mentioned being grateful and glad to be here. All are still learning a lot about their jobs.

• Discussion of Alternate Secretary Position

Chris B. has been temporarily appointed. There will be a vote to approve at the Spring Assembly. He is also apprenticing with the Tech Team.



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• Boundaries Discussion

Amanda brought forth information about proposed changes. It will be to release meetings that want to join Maryland. The groups are located on Chincoteague Island. We will need to vote on that release.

- Kerry B. – (DR 7 Eastern Shore) There are 3 meetings. Two are far north on Chincoteague. Eastern Shore was dormant for a long time. It has been an arduous process and this will bring closure.
- Mandy – all for it. Allow them to have recovery, in a way that works for them.
- Patty M. – made a motion to accept the move as presented. Jill S. seconded.
- Cheryl – this is a serious change to ask WSO to move our area boundary.
- Lisa S. – look at the boundary policy. (Website; Area Policy Page.) Ten points seem to have been met.
- Sophie – did the district make the request or did the groups?
- Amanda – No, the two groups are requesting to be released from Virginia.
- Cheryl – this changes our area boundary line between Virginia and Maryland. The district wouldn't move.
- Sophie – is not understanding why the boundary is moving for just two groups.
- Patty M. – this should be approved. It seems very clear cut.
- Kerry – we have spent years working on this decision.
- Mandy – changing the district and area boundary is inferred.
- Sophie – is confused about the policy, and what we are proposing.
- Terry W. – this topic has been discussed for a long time. We have all the tools that we need. Virginia needs to approve the movement of these two groups. Change is possible.
- Deb T. – look at our digital map on the website. It is a clear and obvious move.
- Patty M. – called to approve the motion and move forward.
- Amanda – read policy information to the group. This was also discussed at the Officers Meeting in January. Most requirements have been met.
- Deb. T. – looking at the policy shows that requirements have been fulfilled.
- Sophie – look at points “E.” and “F.” (on the Policy)
- Debbie P. – There is history. Groups went to Maryland, first. Request made by the meetings. They definitely want to be released from Virginia.
- Meg P. – Agree with the request. It makes sense. Confused about the policy and is not clear about how it works for the district.
- Amanda – they want to move to a different district. This changes the district line and area line simultaneously.
- Mandy – this combines two policies into one action. We've been trying to do this for several years. It's time to make this happen.



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Another motion was made:

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. Motion made by Patty M., seconded by Mandy. Slido Poll initiated: Approved-31, Opposed-0, Abstained-0.

Spring 2025 Hybrid Assembly:

The Review of the 2024 Area Fall Assembly Evaluation will be done after lunch.

1. Assembly Report – Ed.

See report on the Website: Registration link will be coming to DRs by email soon. Please send it to the GRs. The deadline for in person registration is April 9. May 9 is the deadline for virtual. Officers and Coordinators should receive a code from Ed as well. There will be activities to sign up for on Saturday and Sunday. Thanks.

2. Review 2025 Spring Assembly Agenda (choose workshops/leaders)

Amanda shared the document in a chat. There were several ideas for Workshops which she described. A request for volunteers was made. The topics were listed on Slido and the group selected/voted for the top 3 topics to use for workshops. The top three items are listed below. Then volunteers spoke up to lead the different sessions. Volunteers are listed below each topic.

- The Heart of Service: making service available to all.
Lisa S. and Lee – in person. Amanda R. and Debbie P. – virtual.
- Financially Sound Meetings: how they keep us healthy.
Mandy and Jessica – in person. Terry and Beverly – virtual.
- Alateen: how we attract and not promote
Jill S. and Patty M. – in person. Meg P. and Wendy R. – virtual.

There were also volunteers for reading the Legacies at the Assembly. Patty M. volunteered to read the Twelve Steps. Mandy volunteered to read the Twelve Traditions. And Sophie volunteered to read the Twelve Concepts.

There was also discussion about other Agenda items. Deb. T. reminded the group that items that are up for vote are discussed on Saturday at the Assembly and then voted on by the Assembly on Sunday. For a motion to carry it needs to be a 2/3 majority. Votes will be taken on Alternate Secretary and Boundary Changes.

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(BREAK taken by the group at 11:05)

3. District Volunteers for Hospitality Room (need 3) Parlor B

D14 Norfolk, D1 Albemarle, and D22 Seven Hills all volunteered. Water is already provided.

4. Webex Discussion:

- Jill S. - asked about procedures for using Webex accounts. Thought this was a service available.
- Patty M. - is not sure about the information listed on the website from Feb. 2021, it says "free access".
- Amanda - mentioned the User Agreements. We are managing three "Bridges" which should be for Area Business only. We want to practice the 7th Tradition and have groups be "self-supporting". More information will be coming.
- Cheryl - mentioned scheduling Webex, which is a "virtual venue" that has only 3 Bridges. We need DRs, Officers, and Coordinators to get approval before scheduling. Need to go through Cheryl and Amanda for Bridge 3 only.
- Jill S. – talked about having a discussion and working on communicating and scheduling.

Area Coordinator Introductions and Reports (Reports can be found on the Website.)

1. Website – Wendy

Working on space and backup storage solutions in discussion with LRPC. A hard drive was purchased for now. Looking at the costs for storage. For now, we are paying \$60 a year. All vaalanon.org emails are saved. Working on archival storage. Ed and Chris are both helping with this.

- Martha - Reminder to read the [Archive Guidelines](#) during lunch break.

BREAK FOR LUNCH (12:00-12:30)

Area Fall Assembly Evaluation – Amanda

Amanda read from a document to the group. There were positive responses she shared. Issues with voting and the voting process were also brought up. Overall, the feedback was good. There were questions about voting virtually.

Area Coordinator Reports Continued

2. Communications and Webex Discussion – Cheryl

Email Accounts: please use your area email. Messages will appear in your inbox. DRs should have received two emails from WSO including AFG Connects. This goes for Coordinators as well. AFG Records gives you access to records and you can update group records.

Webex Accounts: Panel 65 Officers voted to use these accounts for Area Business only. Districts need to find another platform. We want to encourage the 7th Tradition. We are now only using Bridge #3.



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There is no deadline, but we want to shut down Bridge #1 and #2, eventually. It costs \$300 a year. Let Cheryl know if you have questions. Questions and comments from the group:

- Amanda – Webex was meant to be temporary. This was discussed at the last officer’s meeting. We want to follow the End User License Agreement (EULA) rules and be self-supporting and move forward.
- Patty M. – Can we remove the document about Webex from the Website to prevent confusion?
- Mandy – Google Meets is free and is a good option. They use this in District 19.
- Terry W. – was not aware of the “temporary” Webex status. We should run this through VAWSC, bring it to the Assembly and raise funding for Webex. Assembly approved the funding.
- Amanda – We are in violation of EULA. We don’t want to lose Webex by giving out password information. Officers decided not to encourage this. We need to figure out a better solution.
- Sue V. – We have been in contractual violation since day 1. There are other free options. We want groups to be self-supporting.
- Amanda – We’re not voting to get rid of Webex. Just aren’t adding any extra meetings to the Bridge at this time. We had to do something until officers have time to discuss it further.

3. Group Records – Sophie

Thanks to Cheryl for her help and to all DRs for your patience. There are 279 Al-Anon groups in our area. That includes 61 virtual, 151 face to face, 67 hybrid, 7 Spanish, and 13 Alateen. Let me know if there are any corrections.

4. LRPC – Debbie P.

The LRPC Committee has been working on goals. There are links to policies, guidelines, and procedures on an upcoming document.

Archives Guidelines

Archiving has website space considerations. Deb. T. suggested a couple changes to the guidelines to include audio files and shortening the backup wording that would include virtual backup as an option. Debbie P. recommended that the group accept the Area Archive Guidelines document as amended.

Motion: to approve the Area Archive Guidelines document as presented with 2 amendments. Motion made by Patty M., seconded by Deb T. Slido Poll initiated: Approved-31, Opposed-0, Abstained-0.

5. Public Outreach – Duane

Has attended a WSO Public Outreach Meeting with lots of good information. Is updating a Power Point to go to DRs. Is also planning a Public Outreach Town Hall after the Assembly. Possibly a Workshop at the Fall Assembly. Requested that DRs establish PO positions in their areas. Read the SM on Public Outreach which is 9 pages. Remember our best policy is attraction and cooperation. Would like to see an increase in the number of groups. Encourage all GRs and DRs to talk about public outreach as well.



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6. Alateen Coordinator – Jill S.

There will be an AMIAS Training next Saturday.

7. AAPP Coordinator – Ava B.

Still learning the position. March 8 is the first training for AMIAS. Recertification forms were mailed out recently. Six were returned.

8. Literature – Maria

Attended a WSO meeting in February. WSO is now collecting sharings on finances and recovery. See report for information. There is a new book available, Healing within our Alcoholic Relationships. It is P-95. It is 48 pages. It is a good one.

9. NOVA Service Center – reported by Jill S.

They are into their prudent reserve now and need donations. Planning a CAL Workshop and trying to keep it alive. Report is posted. Terry W. – we can be optimistic. There are 10 districts including 1 Spanish in NOVA. Four are assigned to Tidewater. It's a matter of affiliation. The ADR is the liaison to the Service Center. Any group can purchase from any Service Center. A Literature Service Center is intended to be local, however.

10. Tidewater Service Center – Lee.

A map was given to reach out to groups. Workshop is coming in March. Gratitude in October.

11. Archives – Position not filled

Discussion: We need someone to step into the position of Archives Coordinator. This person will most likely need to build a small team of other members to help them. Storage is in Richmond. Position is also listed on the website.

District Reps Brief Introductions (See reports on the website.)

The following DRs were present and said hello. Due to time, reports were not given orally.

(Becky Bee – DR24, Bev. M. – DR6, Carito – DR Spanish, Cindy L., DR23, Cindy Loo - DR14, Connie - DR1, DeeDee – DR27, Denise B. – D22, Jancy – D10, Jill S. – DR3, Kerry B. – D7, Lisa S. – D21, Mary E. – D16. Mandy - DR19, Meg P. – DR12, Patty M. – DR20, Patty R. – DR15, Sue V. – DR29, and Tiana D. – DR9.)

Brief Summary and Closing Remarks – Amanda

We are all learning. Allow patience and grace. She is a Chair in training, and this is an opportunity to grow.

Cheryl reminded the group that we cannot solicit for supporting a Literature Distribution Center. It is stated in the Service Manual.

Al-Anon Declaration and Close

Adjourned at 1:57 pm, [Respectfully submitted, Martha Redstone, Area Secretary, Panel 65](#)



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*Respectively submitted,
Martha Redstone
Area Secretary, Panel 65*

(See next page for important upcoming dates.)

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Overall Panel theme for the next three years: "Connections and Growth through Service: Investing in Each Other to Preserve Our Legacy."

Upcoming Dates of Importance		
2025		
January 11	Area Officers Meeting/Hand Off to New Panel	Webex
March 1	Spring VAWSC	Webex
May 16-18	Spring Assembly	Midlothian, DoubleTree
June 7	Area Officers Meeting	Webex
August 2	Fall VAWSC	Webex
September 26-28	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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