

THE 2025 VIRGINIA AREA AL-ANON FALL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES
September 27-28, 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, Sept 27, 2:15 PM

(GR and DR Sessions took place 10:00-11:30 am and Workshops took place 1:00-2:00 pm.)

GENERAL SESSION – Amanda R.

(Reports mentioned in this meeting are available on the Website, Current Assembly, Fall 2025.)

Prayer

Assembly Purpose (Service Manual p. 57)

Welcome/Remarks

Happy Birthday to Amanda. Gratitude for your attendance. Thanks to Ed and the Assembly Team. Thanks to the Panel. The etiquette for Webex is to raise your hand. Be patient. Please use the microphone. Focus on solutions and keep shares to 2 minutes. All voices are welcome. The agenda may change. The Ask It Basket is available for questions. The service opportunity is for Alternate Treasurer.

12 Steps – Patty M.

12 Traditions – Connie W.

12 Concepts of Service – (All say number 4: “Participation is the key to harmony.”) – Lee N.

Facts/Area Updates:

We are looking into electronic voting options. We have a new Archivist (Brett H.). We are working on ASBRs. In the process of writing final changes to the Boundary Policy. This will hopefully be available by the next Assembly.

Welcome New Groups – Amanda R.

Since Spring of 2025 we have added 3 new groups in these districts: Arlington, Nansemond, and Seven Hills. That gives us a total of 269 groups. 249 are English, 13 are Alateen, and 7 are Spanish. There are 287 meetings.

Welcome Past Delegate, Trustees and Visitors

Past Delegates present included Terry W., Ellie F., and Duane F.

Introduction of Officers, Liaisons, Coordinators and Service Center Chairs

All were introduced. Val P. is in Mongolia.

DR and GR Roll Call – Martha R. and Cheryl L. (In person and Virtual)

A total of 113 GRs and 20 DRs were present.

Discussion of Voting Procedures – Amanda R.

Amanda took the Assembly through a Power Point presentation. Most votes will be simple majority. Election procedures were also described. The election requires a 2/3 majority. The Alternate Treasurer job description was also explained. This position plays an important role in the Convention.

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APPROVAL OF 2025 SPRING ASSEMBLY MINUTES - Martha R. and Cheryl L.

Minutes are posted on Area website. They show a few corrections made. No changes were made today.

***MOTION: That the 2025 Spring Assembly Minutes be approved as corrected.**

Made by: Patty M. Seconded by: Brett H.

Voting results: standing in-person vote and virtual Slido poll. Standing in-person: Approved – by majority; 0 abstained; 0 opposed. Slido poll: Approved – 100%.

APPROVAL OF 2nd Quarter TREASURER'S REPORT – Jessica B.

Report is posted on Area website. We are in good financial standing. Please include Group ID numbers and District numbers on any payments sent in. Has received several checks for MEAC. Please send to MEAC and not the Area. No discussion and questions asked.

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

Made by: Ginger E. Seconded by: Doug D.

Voting results: standing in-person vote and virtual Slido poll. Standing in-person: Approved – by majority; 0 opposed; 0 abstained. Slido: Approved – 100 %.

PRESENTATION OF THE 2026 PROPOSED BUDGET (DISCUSSION) – Jessica B.

Vote will take place on Sunday. Budget is listed on the Area website. The Convention is in 2027, not 2024. We do not need to list 2024. There are extra expenses for SERGT since we are hosting in 2026. Please note comment at the top of the document in blue. We are only playing for one bridge for Webex now. Proposed that we approve the deficit budget and use up additional funds that are available in our accounts. Questions:

- Ginger E. – Is it correct that insurance has gone up by 20%? Yes, it's a rollover item that continues to increase.
- Terry W. – What is a deficit budget? We would expect to spend more than we bring in.
- Mary K.H. – What about donations to WSO? It's only a recommendation. We could do that.
- Marbea T. – What are the factors that gave us extra funds? Jessica looks at expenses vs. anticipated income and has made adjustments. The Area does have the money.

Jessica will be available if there are any more questions.

CALL FOR ALTERNATE TREASURER – Amanda R.

Amanda reviewed the election procedure and job description. The vote will be on Sunday. Mandy A. stood for the position. She is the DR from Rappahannock, District 19, and is willing to take on this position. For a few minutes we thought someone else raised their hand to stand on Webex as well, but that turned out to be an error. So, there will be only one candidate to vote for on Sunday.

Alternate Treasurer Candidate – Mandy A.

Mandy was introduced and gave a summary of her experience. She has been a GR and is a DR for Rappahannock, Fredericksburg. She was also the Treasurer for 6-7 years.

AREA DELEGATE'S REPORT - Laura L.

Report posted on Website. Highlights of note include:

1. Road Trip is October 25, 2025, in Omaha, Nebraska.
2. Al-Anon's 75th Anniversary will take place next year at Virginia Beach. There will be an Open House following the WSC at WSO on April 25, 2026. More information will be coming to those who wish to attend.
3. Passing It On Project. This is meant to attract and support future volunteer leaders in service. It provides training and mentoring. The project will take 3-4 years to complete.
4. Mobilize Recovery 2025 Campus Surge. Shares Al-Anon resources with offices on college campuses. This is part of our public outreach service. See Delegate report for more information on how to participate.
5. Chairman of the Board Presentation: The WSO is working on rebuilding the website. Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism booklet is being updated. Sharings are requested. There is a core systems overhaul in the works. The Finance Committee revised and approved a deficit budget of \$170,800. Both literature sales and contributions are down.
6. Single Trustee Process Task Force. WSO is understaffed and doesn't have a full board of Trustees. They have had trouble recruiting. TAL is the Trustee At Large application process, which is faster. They are discussing options for the Single Trustee application process as well. We will be asked for input.
7. WSC Summary. Highlights are now available. It includes the Alateen Electronic Meeting issue. The Group Naming Policy is also covered. Laura has received only one member's feedback so far.
8. International Al-Anon Convention. This is coming in July of 2028.

Questions and Comments:

- Naming Policy: Do you still want feedback? Yes, even though it has been approved.
- Regarding Mobilize Recovery. We are cooperating with this organization.
- Can we get more information about colleges in our area for this event? (Yes, see Delegate's Report.)
- Terry W. – George Mason has an Al-Anon meeting that is already supported.
- Sarah – Can we access training sessions for the Passing it on Project? Yes.

BREAK TAKEN 3:45-4:15

ALATEEN UPDATES – Jill S. and Ava B.

There are several documents under the Current Assembly (Fall 2025), Discussion Topics, Electronic Alateen Meetings, listed on the website that address this topic. This includes the Area Presentation: Electronic Alateen Meetings. Both Jill and Ava did the presentation for the Assembly. Discussion and questions followed. In addition to Jill and Ava, Deb. T. and Amanda also provided answers and information. Presentation, discussion, and questions took about an hour. Here are some highlights:

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Ava and Jill both presented information on Alateen electronic validation and implementation. We are looking at whether to accept electronic Alateen meetings in our area. The 2020 WSC started the conversation. In 2024 the WSC established EASBRs (Electronic Alateen Safety and Behavior Requirements) which were designed to meet legal requirements. Areas have autonomy about whether to accept electronic Alateen groups. They require kids to be 13 years or older. There is a pre-interview and photo ID is required and shown upon entry. Two AMIAS-E (Al-Anon Member In Alateen Service – Electronic) are required and meetings are not recorded. The age of 13 is required because of Federal Laws and child online privacy. A pre-interview is facilitated by the AMIAS for each group. Information is collected. Websites only display minimum information about groups. Currently there are seven online pilot electronic meetings that are operating through WSO App. They are available to all and are in the Global Electronic Area.

Questions arose regarding many facets of this issue: They referred to questions asked in the interview, confidentiality, emergency contact information, photo IDs without birthdates, verification, how information is stored, parent approval, liability for AMIAS-Es, mandated reporting, Sponsorship, and getting input from Alateens.

There is a lot of information on the VA website that includes questions and answers. (See the “Discussion Document”.) The target date for implementation is July 2026. We are here to determine if our Area should accept electronic Alateen meetings.

More questions were raised about AMIAS vs. AMIAS-E requirements, Hybrid meetings, platforms to be used, infrastructure, how we are going to create the survey,

What is a Thought Force – Amanda R.

(A Thought Force generates ideas. A Task Force develops a plan of action.) Laura came to us with this issue, and we created a Thought Force for the Alateen Plan, to generate ideas. The Thought Force came up with the idea of having the Assembly be the Task Force.

What is a Task Force – Amanda R.

This is a single defined task. Our task is to create questions for Virginia members to respond to. The questions will address Electronic Alateen Meetings that will help us know whether we will accept them. After dinner we will separate into groups. Each group will create 3-5 questions. From those questions we will create a survey with a QR Code to share with groups and their members.

More questions followed that referred to guidelines, virtual attendees, nature of the questions, the format of the survey, input from GRs, and facilitators of the Task Force.

(5:05 BREAK AND DINNER)

7:25-8:50 Task Force – Random Groupings: In person facilitators were Deb T., Amanda R. and Laura L. Virtual facilitators were Chris B., Karis, and Jill.

Groups met for over an hour to create questions for the survey. Later that evening, work was done to put together these questions for the survey. The link to the survey and corresponding QR Code are now listed on the website under the Fall 2025 Assembly. Topic: Electronic Alateen Meetings.

9:00 Night Owl Meeting in person – Patty M.

S U N D A Y, Sept. 28, 2025

GENERAL SESSION to Reconvene 8:45 – Amanda

Session began with a prayer and reading from As We Understood p. 216.

COORDINATOR REPORTS

- Assembly – Ed. W. Report on website. Thanks for being here. 157 total people attending this Assembly. Some growing pains with the new parking system. The evaluation link is on the website. Door prizes at the end.
- Website Update – Wendy R. Report on website. Cheryl reported for Wendy. Working with Archives. There is a storage issue. They are forming a Task Force and going through a reorganizing process.
- Communications – Cheryl L. Report on website. We now have a scheduled Area Webex account. There is only one Bridge, and it is for Area Business only. All other AFG meetings have moved to different platforms. Check meeting listings for accuracy.
- Group Records – Sophie L. Report on website. There are 269 groups in Virginia. 249 Al-Anon, 7 Spanish, and 13 Alateen. There are 161 Face to Face, 62 Virtual, and 64 Hybrid. Total of 287 meetings. There are four new groups, six groups closed, and two moved to Maryland. Changes also need to go to Service Centers. Provide feedback by Nov. 2025.
- LRPC – Debbie P. Report on website. Amanda reported they are working on changes to the Boundary Policy. Also doing more work with Archives.
- Area Convention – Robynn B. not present. Amanda reported they are looking for a site for 2027.

DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS

District 1-15. Some reports are listed on the Area website. DRs present gave 1 “grow” and 1 “glow”:

- Albemarle: Had a workshop on Oct. 11.
- Arlington: They have a flyer for group meeting info. Working on discrepancies and need a GR.
- Bull Run: Having a 51st Anniversary Dinner. Need more GRs to attend the Assembly.
- Central Valley: Recently set up a private Facebook page for information. Had a nice picnic recently.
- Fairfax: Having a workshop on Oct. 25. Need a Treasurer.
- Falls Church: Panel has been filled. Making headway with Outreach. Need more GRs.
- Loudon: One meeting closed, one opened. Having a Fall Workshop. Need 3 GRs.
- Spanish: 1st Anniversary. Public Outreach Project for Professionals. Workshop on Traditions and Concepts.
- Nansemond: Opened a new meeting. Planning to start another one.
- Norfolk: Focused on Public Outreach with a Medical School. Flyers out to the community.
- Northern Neck: Sharing about the 7th Tradition and what it means. Outreach opportunities.

COORDINATOR REPORTS

- Alateen – Jill S. Report on website. Has been working hard on reviewing the ASBRs. AMIAS trainings will be once a month to meet the June 15, 2026, deadline. The last Sponsor training of 2025 will be on Dec. 13. And a Zoom Sponsor Chat will be on Oct. 19.
- AAPP – Ava B. Report on website. Training continues until Dec. 2025. Sign up January through May 2026. There are 13 groups now with one new one in Arlington. Requirements are being reviewed, and the process is being streamlined.
- Literature/Forum – Maria N. Report on website. The book, Intimacy in Alcoholic Relationships, is now available as an e-book. New Service Manual is out in early 2026. Collecting sharings about finances and other topics. Some have deadlines. There is a writing guideline link in the report. Forum sharings are also needed.
- Tidewater Service Center – Lee N. Report on website. Recent meeting was not well attended. Next meeting is in May. Having a Gratitude Breakfast on Oct. 25 in Virginia Beach. Groups are bringing baskets. There will be a raffle and speakers. Hours are now 9:00-1:00 Mon.-Fri. Now have a fully functioning Public Outreach Coordinator, Alex, who is working with Duane.
- Northern VA Service Center – Michelle R. Report on website. No in person report.
- Public Outreach – Duane F. Report on website. Excited about Outreach. Had a Friday night workshop before Assembly. 20 people attended. Planning one for the Spring Assembly too. Attended a WSO meeting in August. Got an idea to put info. on billboards. Has done some work with the Salvation Army. “Little Libraries” can have Al-Anon literature. Share ideas. Rest Stops can be an option. Use the Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism booklet. It has been updated.
- MEAC – Shannon W. Report on website. Deb. T. reported about the Conference in July. 46 people attended. There were 29 Alateens. It was an amazing event. Made a profit of \$500. Next year’s theme is “Trolls”. Planning an appeal in the Spring.
- Archives – Brett H. Report on website. Started position August 8. Went to the storage unit. There is tech equipment and historical documents. Has a goal with a committee to create a display. Working with Web Coordinator to organize digital history. Naming convention was established. Attended a WSO meeting where 29 attended from all over the nation. Planning a trip to meet the coordinator at WSO.

SPIRITUAL SPEAKER – Rosemary D. Recording may be available on the website soon.

(Break- Hotel Checkout 10:30)

DELEGATE REPORT CONTINUED – Laura L.

ASBRs (Alateen Safety and Behavior Requirements) are for the Area. We write those for the Virginia Area. EASBRs were written by WSO. We can either accept or decline. The WSO Naming Policy has not been posted

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to the website yet but will be in October. The Policy was approved in 2024. In 2025 they are requesting feedback on how it will be implemented. Changing the Policy is up for debate. Consider prayerfully the links for sending in sharings for literature. Questions and Comments regarding the Naming Policy:

- What is the due date for feedback? It is November 21 which gives Laura time to compile.
- What is the history of this motion? Laura has shared information previously. It started in 2010. Send requests to Laura if needed.
- Is the actual policy available? Laura will look into it.
- In Virginia Beach there are two groups with identifiers in the name. There is support for making the change and they are reaching out to the other groups.

DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS

District 16-29 plus D4 and D2. Some reports are listed on the Area website. DRs present gave 1 “grow” and 1 “glow”: (Going in reverse order this time.)

- James River: 16 came to the Assembly. Thanks for their Hospitality. Still need 3 GRs.
- Virginia Beach: Need Outreach and GRs. Ava and Sophie came to do presentations.
- Southwest: Restarted Bristol Group. Wanted to move to Tennessee.
- Seven Hills: Ice cream social was a success. Still need 4 GRs.
- Roanoke: Oct. 11 Potluck and Speakers event. There are two active Alateen meetings.
- Richmond: Quarterly in person district meetings. Picnic with workshop was well attended.
- Rappahannock: 3rd annual “Sisters in Recovery” Day coming, listed on the website. 2 GRs left and need support for Alateen.
- Piedmont: Oct. 11 Speakers’ Lunch in Culpepper. There are 5 meetings and 5 GRs. Lost 2 meetings. Would like to do more Outreach.
- Peninsula: Need more GRs. There are 22 groups and half of them need GRs. Super Outreach program happening. Budget has increased.
- Blue Ridge: Working on policies and procedures. Doing a poll to get information. Still need lots of GRs. Lost an Alateen meeting.
- Springfield: Need a District Treasurer. In December there is an annual cookie event.

ASSEMBLY EVALUATIONS - Ed W.

The evaluation is available on the website under Current Assembly (2025 Fall). Link is near the top. Please fill out the evaluation form.

7th TRADITION – Baskets were passed. Use donate button on VA area website. Raffle prizes were given out during the basket passing.

GR ROLL CALL – Martha R. and Cheryl L.

GR roll call was conducted for voting purposes. In person and Virtual. 104 total GRs were present.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS - ALTERNATE TREASURER – Amanda R.

Requires a 2/3rd Majority. Mandy was asked to leave the room.

***MOTION: to approve Mandy A. be elected as Alternate Treasurer for the VAWSC.**

Made by: Ginger. Seconded by: Mary M.

Voting results: count off in-person vote and Slido poll. Count off in-person: Approved – 70 approved (69 is 2/3rds); Abstained – 0; Opposed – 0. Virtual Slido poll: Approved – 100%; Abstained – 0; Opposed – 0.

2026 PROPOSED BUDGET - Simple majority required.

***MOTION: To approve the proposed 2026 Budget as presented.**

Made by: Cheryl K. Seconded by: Rick.

Voting results: standing in-person vote and Webex poll. Standing in-person: Approved – majority. Abstained – 0; Opposed - 0. Virtual Slido poll: Approved – 100%; Abstained – 0; Opposed - 0.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS – Amanda R.

Regarding the Task Force: The “Survey Monkey” would have cost too much, so we went with Google Forms. Surveys will be anonymous. Duane will pass out copies of the QR Code. The Board worked on this all last night. There are 16 questions in total. We all worked hard on this. Thanks for participating. Questions and comments. Some came from the online Ask It Basket.:

- Are there new guidelines for the Area for groups moving from virtual to in person format? There was a request to clarify the question. No response came forward.
- The Survey will close on November 8.
- What about the Area Inventory Survey? Amanda has results, will compile them and post a report online.
- Is the Survey for every member, not a group conscience? Yes. The suggestion was to have a group business meeting, view the presentation, and then have people do the Survey.
- Where can we find the Presentation? It is on the website under Current Assembly (Fall 2025) Electronic Alateen Meetings.
- Appreciation expressed for the Tech Team.
- Do you have to have a Gmail account to do the Survey? No. Amanda will confirm.
- The Presentation is actually listed under “Area Presentation: Electronic Alateen Meetings.”
- GRs were encouraged to come up and speak to address any concerns at this time.
- Workshops and Speaker Meetings, and luncheons were mentioned.
- Appreciation for first attendance at Assembly was expressed. One learned so much about the GEA and the Virginia Area.
- Some shared about other meetings needing support and doing Group Inventories.
- Another shared that it was a fabulous Assembly. Coming on Friday was great. Encouraged others to take advantage of the networking opportunity.
- Members were reminded that it is OK to ask questions during the Assembly.
- Another reminder was mentioned to send Spanish speaking folks to their meetings.

ASK IT BASKET (in person questions) – Amanda R.

1. What information do I bring back to our group? The Alateen Presentation, the Survey, Naming Policy information, everything we did and the work that takes place at the Assembly.

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- 2. Where can we get a list of Meetings? You can find those on the Virginia Area website, Service Center websites, and local websites.
- 3. How do we get more people to come to Meetings? See Duane about Public Outreach. We are all the face of Al-Anon and can be an attraction.

CLOSING REMARKS – Amanda R.

Thanks were expressed to the Officers, the Tech Team, and the Spiritual Speaker. Martha mentioned that the Agenda lists future meetings in the Upcoming Dates of Importance. It also has a list of Acronyms that are used which can be helpful.

The Assembly adjourned at 12:30 closing with Al-Anon Declaration said facing in and out to those who've yet to find the rooms.

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

UPCOMING DATES OF IMPORTANCE FOR 2026

Date	Event	Location/Format
Jan 10	Area Officers Meeting	Webex
March 7	Spring VAWSC	Webex
May 15-17	Spring Assembly	Midlothian Double Tree / Webex - hybrid
June 13	Area Officer Meeting	Webex
August 8	Fall VAWSC	Webex
Oct 16-18	Fall Assembly	Midlothian Double Tree / Webex - hybrid

Acronym	Full Name
AAPP	Area Alateen Process Person
ADR	Alternate District Representative
AFA	Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism
AIS	Al-Anon Information Service
AGR	Alternate Group Representative

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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

DRAFT