



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

Panel 65

Webex

March 7, 2026

10:30-3:00 pm.

**OPENING:** Amanda began at 10:37 with Serenity Prayer.

- Our Legacies (SM p. 12) Amanda read the Steps, Chris the Traditions, and Amanda the Concepts.
- VAWSC Purpose (SM p. 157) Mandy read this.

### **Attendance and Roll Call (Slido) – Martha R. and Cheryl L.**

- Roll Call was completed through Slido polling.  
There were 33 VAWSC Members present:
- Amanda R., Ava B., Becky B.D., Beverly M., Brett H., Cheryl L., Chris B., Cindy L., Cindy Loo, Deb. T., DeeDee A., Duane, Ed W., Jancy T., Jessica B., Laura L., Lee, Lisa S., M.E., Mandy, Maria N., Martha R., Michelle R., Patty M., Patty R., Paula, Phoebe T., Robynn B., Sophie L, Terry W., Tiana D., Val P. and Wendy.
- **Meeting etiquette – Amanda R.** Raise your hand to speak. Welcome to new people!

**\*\*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 2, 2025 (Vote Slido) – Martha R. and Cheryl L.**

The minutes were previously emailed and posted on the Website. There was a correction not included in them, apologies to Brett for leaving them out. Martha read the changes and presented them to the group. There was a question about the upcoming dates. The dates listed were from last fall. See the VAWSC agenda last page for current dates.

***\*Motion: to approve the August 2, 2025, VAWSC Minutes as corrected by Martha, made by Mandy, seconded by Lee. Slido Poll initiated: Approved by all 31 voting members. It was unanimous.***

### **2025 TREASURERS REPORT (Vote Slido) – Jessica B.**

Report is posted on the Website. Jessica also mentioned that income from contributions was \$31,000. This represents an increase of 6% over 2024. Expenses were low. Net income for the year was \$4600. We are in good financial standing.

***\*Motion: to accept 2025 Treasurer's Report as prepared by Jessica B., made by Ed. W., seconded by Mandy. Slido Poll initiated: Approved- 30 out of 31 members in attendance, 1 voted incorrectly.***

### **2026 BUDGET – Jessica B. Voting Item**

Document is posted on the Website. Jessica presented to the group a couple changes. There was a change in the Operating Section. A line was added for Capital Expense equipment. This is for purchasing and maintaining laptops for the Officers.



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***\*Motion: to accept the 2026 Updated Budget as presented by Jessica B., made by Wendy, seconded by Lisa S. Slido Poll initiated: Approved - 30 out of 31 voting members in attendance, 1 voted incorrectly.***

### **DELEGATE REPORT – Laura L.**

Report is posted on the Website. Laura mentioned some items to highlight.

- Are we moving VAWSC to a different date in August? Perhaps the Alternate Chair can lead. There is an upcoming Officers Meeting on March 17 and they will address this.
- Laura is a Panel 65 Delegate. The WSC Theme for 2026 is “75 years: One Purpose”. You can send cards and letters. See information in the report.
- April 25 is the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Al-Anon. She will be attending. There is now a waiting list for others.
- Please send your feedback. Describe challenges and highlights in our Area. It would be appreciated. She will be giving a report in 2 weeks.

- In addition, there were three main topics in her report that were addressed:

#### **1. Group Naming Policy**

Some members are defining inclusivity differently. Participation is important. We should not turn anyone away from meetings.

#### **2. Electronic Alateen Meetings Survey**

GRs developed and created the survey at Assembly. Results were recapped in her report. She had a meeting with Deb T. and the Alateen Coordinators. It shows that Virginia thinks it's a wonderful idea but there is a lack of willingness to do the service needed for having these meetings. We can't implement this in 4 months, but we do have enthusiasm for it.

#### **3. New Trustee Process**

There are two categories of Trustee, and each requires a different application process. There is the Regional Trustee, and it requires a longer process. There is also the At Large Trustee, and it requires a shorter process. WSC is looking at streamlining the process. She will participate in discussions again at WSC.

### **Questions and Comments:**

- Mandy: Was the Naming Policy voted down by the Delegates. What is the plan going forward?
- Laura: The policy was approved, but the implementation was delayed and placed on hold so groups could discuss and give feedback. The original vote was overwhelmingly in favor of the policy. Discussion will be about implementation.
- Lee: What is the “pull down list”? And will that remain in place?
- Laura: Groups can list choices of “participants”. Virginia wants to keep that option.
- Wendy: There are eight different options when you search in meetings. Our website does the same. You find a meeting by location and then do a filter for the different options to select your preference. We mirror the same options as WSO. She also had a question about the Trustee process.



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- Laura: It's complicated. She feels the regional influence should stay in place. There are a couple of different options to retain that. It may be a less formal process. Delegates vote to approve.
- Cheryl: Regarding filters for finding meetings. You can only do one filter at a time on the Virginia website.
- Patty M.: Were the Alateen survey results discussed at Assembly? She is interested in seeing the results.
- Laura: Discussion remains to be seen. The results are in her report.
- Jancy: How many responded to the survey?
- Laura: The percentages are in the report.
- Deb. T.: When it comes to Naming Policy do identifiers require filling out a change form?
- Sophie: That is correct. Submit changes to the Groups Records Coordinator. She will send a link to the form after today. Select "participants" and she can forward to WSO.
- Cheryl: The Virginia website can be updated any time.
- Deb. T.: To clarify about the Electronic Alateen meetings; there is no vote to do so in our Area at this time due to lack of support.
- Patty M.: Are hybrid Alateen meetings OK? Yes.
- Terry W.: The Trustee issue originates in the Area. The Area approves and then the Delegate presents this to the Board. The S.E. Region has been vacant for a while. Doesn't see much difference between the two positions.
- Amanda: There were 254 completed responses to the Electronic Alateen Survey.
- Laura: Please send any feedback you can.

### VAWSC DISCUSSION

#### **1. Boundary Policy Revision – Amanda R.**

Document is posted on the Website. This shows updates that were made. You can see the current changes. We cannot vote until Officers review the changes. There is a meeting scheduled for this. It is meant to protect the autonomy of the groups.

#### **2. Alateen Survey Results – Laura L.**

Laura Reported this previously. She can provide graphics that show the results.

#### **3. Alateen Safety and Behavior Requirements (ASBRs) – Deb. T. and Ava.**

Deb T. and Ava reported. Ava (AAPP) said that the ASBRs have been updated and are almost done. They have had weekly meetings and are very excited that results are coming soon. She has also been working on doing background checks on AMIAS candidates. Deb. T. summarized the major changes in information by saying that many revisions were made. Regarding the review of legal counsel. A member glanced at it and wasn't sure if we want a legal review. Officers can determine this. Ava went on to say that the background process has gone from paper to virtual. She has been paying the background check fees with a credit card. The cost is \$7.95 to fingerprint and \$27 for Virginia background checks for each person. It was suggested that she use the Area credit card and seek



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reimbursement. She brought this to the group (VAWSC.) What followed was an hour-long discussion. Below is a summary of what was discussed. Following that a vote was taken.

The revised ASBRs have not been approved. These will be voted on later at the Assembly. They will need to be approved. The discussion centered on the issue of reimbursement for the fees involved in background checks for AMIAS (Al-Anon Members Involved in Alateen Service.) It was discussed whether the Area should pay roughly \$700-800 a year for the fees or whether the Districts should be self-supporting and reimbursing the Area. The State process requires a credit card. The Area does have the funds available for this. It was mentioned that Alateens generally are not self-supporting. Some felt that the Districts should be responsible. The Alateen Budget is currently at \$1000 which includes covering all fees needed for AMAIAS'. We would be setting a precedent. But we will be voting later to approve the ASBRs. This would be for an interim period.

The question brought to the groups was "Until the ASBRs are approved who should pay for the AMIAS fees?" Members voted through a Slido Poll and were given four options. Number of votes is listed by each option with a total of 33 votes:

1. Area pays – no reimbursement. (5)
2. Area pays with reimbursement by the Districts as optional. (22)
3. District pay – reimburse the Area. (4)
4. No opinion/abstain. (2)

Results: Majority opinion had 67% of the vote.

***\*Motion: Until the ASBRs are approved, who should pay for the AMIAS fee? The Area pays with reimbursement by the Districts being optional. Motion made by Cheryl, seconded by Ava B. Slido Poll initiated: Approved – 22 out of 33 voting members in attendance. 9 voted for other options. 2 abstained.***

**LUNCH TAKEN 12:50 to 1:20**

### **SPRING 2026 HYBRID ASSEMBLY:**

- **Assembly Report – Ed W.**

See report on the Website. Ed encouraged DRs to be on the lookout for the registration link in a couple of days. Please send to all the GRs. Let him know if you don't get it. They are pretty much ready. Suggested that if anyone is interested in his position for next panel, they should reach out to him. It would be a good idea to shadow him for a while. Literature information is coming. If we change the date of the Fall VAWSC to later, it may not allow enough time to prepare for the Assembly. Amanda mentioned we will need someone with tech experience for the position. Cheryl also mentioned the need for virtual attendants.

- **Review 2026 Spring Assembly Draft Agenda – Amanda R.**

Document was shared with the group. Amanda has gotten two Speakers from WSO. One is a Trustee and the other is his mentor Trustee. They will do workshops. No DRs are needed this time. We do need some



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volunteers for other tasks. See below for listings. She asked if people wanted to do the workshops early in the day again? 10 DRs responded affirmatively. So, discussion was about having them in the afternoon. It was determined that workshops will be before dinner at 1:30. Juanita P., from Panel 35, the oldest Panel having a Past Delegate, will present a Scavenger Hunt using the Service Manual. There was also discussion about GR and DR chats. They can be a valuable opportunity to share ideas. They will be included this time.

**Readers for the Legacies:** 12 Steps – Lisa S., 12 Traditions – Ava B., 12 Concepts – Cindy L.

**District volunteers for Hospitality – Amanda R.**

Need three for Parlor B. Lisa S of D21 volunteered. Amanda will send email to get more volunteers.

**Night Owl Meeting** – Saturday at 9:00 pm. Patty M. volunteered to lead.

- **Electronic Voting Trial at Assembly – Cheryl and Amanda**

Both Amanda and Cheryl shared that we can do this with Slido. Cheryl will share a Power Point called “Slido Voting” that will be presented at Assembly. The Assembly registration will state that those who attend must have a “smart device” if attending in person. They can find Slido.com and join as a participant. They will enter a passcode and their full name to validate the vote. (This is only for voting GRs.) They will join Slido, find active polls, enter their choice and send. And it will show voting results. There should be full discussion of every topic first. Voting would come later. All votes are done the same way, tabulated together (virtual and in-person) and give one result. Questions:

- Mandy: How will people without smart devices vote? This needs to be addressed.
- Patty M: We can make it a Workshop topic.
- Deb. T: DRs can help people and use their devices.
- Cheryl: DRs can let GRs know ahead of time.
- Martha: Will virtual attendees vote the same way? Yes. Registration will provide information.
- Val: Reiterate and communicate.
- Cindy L: Will a laptop work?
- Beverly M: In finding Slido, look for the green “S” in a circle.
- Patty M: Will connecting to Wi-Fi ahead of time be needed?
- Ed: The hotel Wi-Fi works without any password needed.
- Amanda: Posted information will also be provided.
- Sophie: Seniors can use extra devices at the Assembly.
- Cheryl: Talk to your GRs ahead of time to prepare. There will be people available to help, it doesn’t matter which device you use.

### **AREA COORDINATORS REPORTS (3 minutes)**

Most reports can be found on the Website.

1. **Website Update – Wendy R.** You can read her report.



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2. **Archives – Brett H.** Brett is planning “History Moments”. There are movies available. There are six tubs of historic documents. Please read her report. There will be a table at the Assembly. Duane suggested doing PowerPoint.
3. **Area Convention – Robbyn B.** We have a venue and a date. It will be August 6-8, 2027, at The Greater Williamsburg Event Center. Lodging has been secured. It is at the Woodland Lodge. The Committee has a Speaker Chair, but further help is needed on the Committee. They have had two meetings so far and are excited. It is a beautiful facility.
4. **AAPP – Ava B.** Jills Alateen report was read by Ava. Starting work on the electronic Alateen process.
5. **LRPC – Debbie P.** Amanda reported about electronic voting and translation devices. Translation would be done by a person and have a cost involved. It can be taxing on the translator and costs \$50-75 an hour. This is being worked out.
6. **Literature/Forum – Maria N.** Maria reported that the new Service Manual is available online. The printed version will be available in April. Cost is \$11. The 2025 WSC Summary is now available. Lots of E-books are out now. Member sharings are still needed. She would like to do a writing workshop at Assembly. She is available to go to Districts. There are writing guidelines in her report. Also need shares for the Forum.
7. **Tidewater Service Center – Lee N.** Lee reported they now have a PO Coordinator. First project is coming in May. They approved a 2026 Budget. There is a March 21 workshop on the three A’s. It is free but space is limited. They had a gratitude breakfast recently. Office hours are Monday to Friday from 11am to 3pm. Has some new volunteers.
8. **Northern VA Service Center – Michelle D.** Michelle reported that there is a lot going on. They have better funds this year but still had to dip into reserves. Send information to put on their website. Thanks for the donations.
9. **Public Outreach – Duane F.** Duane reported that at the Assembly there will be another Workshop on Friday evening followed by dinner out and ice cream! This has been approved. Feel free to invite everyone, not just PO people. DRs did not share information last time. He is working on putting it into the registration. There is good information and sharing. The guidelines on the website are good. He also attended a WSO workshop in January and will have another in March. Think about who is affected by alcoholism. There is a new “Faces of Alcoholism” edition out later this year. There will be a table at the Assembly. He would encourage your feedback.
10. **MEAC – Shannon W.** Deb. T. reported that registration is out now. Wendy also mentioned that there is another event in North Carolina soon. Registration for that is now available.



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11. **Communications – Cheryl L.** Nothing else to report beyond her written report and the electronic voting information.

### **District Reps Brief Highlights (2 minutes) – Amanda R.**

(Most reports are on the website.) It was recommended, due to time, that DRs to just share their “Grows and Glows”. The following Districts reported at the meeting: 6, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 23, and 24. Most shared about upcoming and past events that were held such as anniversaries, workshops, and potlucks. One group is looking to transfer to Tennessee.

### **Brief Summary and Closing Remarks – Amanda R.**

Amanda recently spent time with a Past Delegate. Thanks for your sharing. The WSC Summary will be available at the next Assembly. Jessica will order and hand deliver to VAWSC members.

### **AI-Anon Declaration and Close**

Adjourned at 3:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Martha R. Area Secretary, Panel 65

***(Please see the following page for Upcoming Dates of Importance and Acronyms.)***

**Overall Panel theme for the next three years:**

**“Connections and Growth through Service: Investing in Each Other to Preserve Our Legacy.”**



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| <u>Upcoming Dates of Importance</u> |                        |                               |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 5/15-17/2026                        | Spring Assembly        | Midlothian DoubleTree & Webex |
| 6/13/2026                           | Area Officers Meeting  | Webex                         |
| 8/8/2026                            | Fall VAWSC             | Webex                         |
| 10/16-18/2026                       | Fall Assembly          | Midlothian DoubleTree & Webex |
| 1/16/2027                           | Area Officers Meeting  | Webex                         |
| 3/6/2027                            | Spring VAWSC           | Webex                         |
| 5/14-16/2027                        | Spring Assembly        | Midlothian DoubleTree & Webex |
| 6/12/2027                           | Area Officers Meeting  | Webex                         |
| 8/14/2027                           | Fall VAWSC             | Webex                         |
| 10/15-17/2027                       | Fall Election Assembly | Midlothian DoubleTree & Webex |

### Agenda Acronyms:

|        |                                            |
|--------|--------------------------------------------|
| AAPP   | Area Alateen Process Person                |
| ADR    | Alternate District Representative          |
| AFA    | AI-Anon Faces Alcoholism                   |
| AIS    | AI-Anon Information Service                |
| AGR    | Alternate Group Representative             |
| AMIAS  | AI-Anon Member Involved in Alateen Service |
| ASC    | AI-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                   |