



Virginia Area World Service Committee (VAWSC) Meeting Minutes

Panel 65

Webex

August 2, 2025

10:00-3:00 pm.

OPENING: Amanda began with Serenity Prayer.

- Our Legacies (SM p. 13) – Chris B.
- VAWSC Purpose (SM p. 159) – Chris B.

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

- Roll Call was completed through Slido polling.
(Roll call can be viewed at file: 2025.08.02.VAWSC.Attendance). VAWSC Members present:
 - Amanda R., Ava B., Becky B.D., Beverly M., Carito, Cheryl L., Chris B., Cindy L, Cindy Loo, Connie, Deb. T., DeeDee A., Denise B., Duane, Ed W., Ginny S., Jancy T., Jessica B., Jill S., Julie C., Kathleen C., Kerry B., Laura L., Lee, Lisa S., Mandy, Maria N., Martha R., Mary J., Michelle R., Patty M., Patty R., Sophie L, Terry W., Tiana D., and Val P. (36 total).
- Meeting etiquette – Amanda R.

****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 March 1, 2025 (Vote Slido) – Martha R. and Cheryl L.

Thanks to everyone who sent in a report for this meeting. Apologies for any confusing or annoying emails. The minutes were previously emailed and posted on the Website. There were a few changes or corrections noted in red.

****Motion: to approve the March 1, 2025, VAWSC Minutes as written by Martha, made by Patty M., seconded by Laura L. Slido Poll initiated: Approved-32 out of 37 in attendance, Opposed-0, Abstained-0.***

2nd Quarter TREASURERS REPORT (Vote Slido) – Jessica B.

Report is posted on the Website. Report is for the first half of the year (Semi-Annual). We have 55% of projected income and 36% in expenses so far.

****Motion: to accept the Semi Annual 2025 Treasurer's Report as prepared by Jessica B., made by Patty M., seconded by Lisa S. Slido Poll initiated: Approved-32 out of 37 in attendance, Opposed-0, Abstained-0.***

2026 BUDGET – Jessica B. Voting Item (to bring to Assembly)

Document is posted on the Website. There were changes to the Webex services since we are closing Bridges. There was a decrease for the Convention. There were increases made for the SERDGT event since our Area is hosting in 2026.



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Questions and Comments:

- Terry W. – What is the normal budget for SERDGT? (\$1800. It will revert back in the next year.)
- Martha R. – The budget shows a deficit and wanted to understand why.
- Jessica B. – We have \$50,000 funds available in checking. We are in a good financial position.
- Val P. – Thought we should include our prudent reserve (\$1295) and add that to the bottom line.
- Jessica B. – We have the money (which shows in the treasurer's report on page 1.)
- Val P. – Thought we need to show the budget as balanced.
- Jessica B. – Budgets are just a guesstimate. 2025 was also a deficit budget.
- Amanda R. – Can we note this on the budget and add disclaimer? (Yes.)
- Laura L. – Cash accounts don't show on a budget.
- Jancy T. – We should note that we are carrying over an excess reserve.
- Jessica B. – Yes, we can do that.
- Sophie L. – Should we be making donations to our Service Arms?
- Laura L. – We have not done this recently.
- Mandy A. – We should add a note, so people understand.
- Terry W. – We have not done donations because the money is for Area use. Show all accounts on the Treasurers Report and change layout.
- Deb. T. – Service Manual says we may also contribute to WSO.
- Patty M. – There is a difference between Profit/Loss vs. Budget Reports.
- Lisa S. – Show the balance sheet and have a disclaimer statement.
- Laura L. – The Treasurer's Report shows all the accounts listed on page 1.
- Mandy A. – Why did we vote to raise registration if we have a surplus of funds?
- Jessica B. – It's a group effort between groups and Area.
- Duane F. – Costs have gone up dramatically for the hotel.
- Cindy L. – Support being able to see everyone on Webex.
- Sophie L. – Can we add another note to the Budget to explain. There may be lots of questions from GRs.
- Jessica B. – This may not be needed.
- Amanda R. – Questions are OK. It's a great opportunity to learn. Bring it back to your groups. We can give it more time (at the Assembly.) Proposes adding a line to explain surplus reserve deficit. We operate on a deficit.
- Terry W. – We can add a workshop and refer to the G-41 guideline. More education is good.
- Lisa S. – Add open discussion at the Assembly. Supports the report.
- Jessica B. – For all DRs; the MEAC scholarship is separate.

***Motion: to accept the 2026 Budget as presented by Jessica B. with an additional note, made by Mandy A., seconded by Laura L. Slido Poll initiated: Approved-33 out of 37 in attendance, Opposed-0, Abstained-0.**



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DELEGATES REPORT – Laura L.

Report is posted on the Website. Laura highlighted a few reminders mentioned in the report.

- Oct. 25, 2025, is the Road Trip in Omaha, Nebraska. It's listed in the Board Connect and application deadline is Sept. 19, 2025.
- April 2026 Al-Anon Anniversary of 75 years. A Celebration will take place in Newport News following the 2026 World Service Conference. The Open House is at the WSO. All are encouraged to attend and we in Virginia are lucky to have this opportunity close to home.
- 2028 International Convention will be July 21-23 in Minneapolis, Minnesota.
- Conference Approved Literature. See the report for two new publications in the works about Finances and Sponsorship. Members can submit sharings.
- Single Trustee Process Task Force. The application process is under consideration. More information is coming. Laura will be attending a team meeting and will have more information at the Assembly.
- Sophie: asked for more information about the Celebration. What is the date? She attended in 2016 and had a good experience.
- Laura: April 26. Will put more information in the chat.

VAWSC DISCUSSION

Boundary Changes – Amanda R.

The Boundary Policy is in the process of being rewritten. We are waiting for more information and clarification from WSO and submitting it to WSO. All things are in motion but are at a standstill waiting for more information. She hopes things keep moving forward.

- Sophie: Are we talking about groups moving and not the district? Do electronic meetings have a different policy?
- Cheryl: There is a WSO electronic meeting policy.
- Deb. T: Will this be presented to the Assembly?
- Amanda: No, because it must go to VAWSC first. So perhaps at the Spring Assembly. We are just waiting for further information at this point.

Alternate Treasurer Position – Amanda R.

Brett H. had to step down. At the Assembly we will have a call for Alternate Treasurer. Put this out to your groups. Do not need to have been a DR. However, the Alternate Treasurer also handles the Convention treasury. Brett has volunteered to be the Archivist and will now do that position.

Voting Procedures at Assembly – Amanda R.

It's important that after roll call people do not leave the room, once voting has begun. Cheryl also mentioned that the virtual meeting room also gets "locked". Techs allow previous entries to come in though.



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FALL 2025 HYBRID ASSEMBLY:

- **Assembly Report – Ed W.**

See report on the Website. Ed also reported that 22 people have registered so far. Registration was sent to DRs last week. A link is on the website under “Current Assembly”. There are only 20 days left to register for in person attendance at the hotel (August 22). Please get the information out. He’ll send a reminder again next week. He has been working with Amanda regarding additional charges by the hotel. They are working on it. Sept. 19 is the virtual registration deadline. You can still register if you are not staying at the hotel. Dates are available for next year.

- **Review 2025 Fall Assembly Draft Agenda – Amanda R.**

Document was shared by email with the group. This is a rough draft. We want to allow more time for the Alateen Meeting Thought Force, so is it OK to do Workshops at 1:00? Ava, Deb. T., and Jill S. will do the **Alateen Presentation**. Amanda made changes during the discussion. She made requests for volunteers. She will also adjust times and correct dates. DRs can prepare GRs for Assembly discussions. There are lots of resources available for leading workshops. Sharing your experience is good. Terry mentioned that a conflict resolution packet and presentation are available. There was a link put into the chat. Others encouraged DRs and Coordinators to do service. It is a growth experience. We need eight leads for the Workshops. Most leader positions were filled. (See list below.) A couple more are needed. Pray about it.

Readers for the Legacies: 12 Steps – Patty M., 12 Traditions – Connie, 12 Concepts – Lee.

Icebreaker and Workshop Leads – Amanda R.

Icebreakers: Amanda shared a great idea of handing out “tidbits” to people on little slips of paper. Need two people to create and pass them out. Sue V. volunteered for virtual icebreaker. Mandy, Cindy Loo, and Carito volunteered for in person duties.

Patty M. will do the Night Owl Meeting. We still need someone for the Early Bird Meeting.

Workshops:

When Conflicts Arise

1. Connie, In Person (IP)
2. _____ Virtual (V)

The Group Conscience Process

3. Lee and Ava (IP)
4. _____(V)

Group Inventory

5. Jill S. (V)
6. Duane and Ginny (IP)

Concept Nine

7. Mandy and Patty M. (IP)
8. Lisa (V)

District volunteers for Hospitality – Amanda R.

Need three. Located in Parlor B. This includes snacks and set up. Patty R., Jancy, and Lisa S. Julie C. may also be able to help.



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AREA COORDINATORS REPORTS (Most reports can be found on the Website.)

1. Group Records and Naming Policy – Sophie L.

Sophie provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Group Naming Policy. This is to provide training and ask for feedback. This applies to new groups and will not affect existing groups. The presentation referred to Traditions 3, 4, and 5 which mention the following pertinent ideas: “no other affiliation”, “relatives of alcoholics”, “no requirement for membership”, “group autonomy” (freedom of choice), “one purpose”, and “welcoming”. Having no affiliation implies not listing location in the name. Being inviting to all would not include identifiers in the name. It recommends having no abbreviations other than AFG.

With existing groups: Women’s groups are not welcoming to men and vice versa. Some people have been asked to leave meetings. We cannot turn them away. Concept 5 mentions the right to appeal. This policy was not presented to the groups initially. Now WSO is reaching out to groups for feedback. DRs should discuss this with their GRs. Send opinions to Laura, Deb. T. or Sophie. Further discussion by the group:

- Laura - Existing groups will not be asked to change names. The policy was passed and approved in 2024. WSC will discuss this again in 2026. It applies only to new groups and in the future. Al-Anon as a whole is for everyone.
- Cheryl - You cannot turn people away in accordance with the Traditions.
- Deb. T. - DRs take it back to your groups and share feedback to take to WSO. The presentation from Sophie is available to share.
- Michelle - Are we asking about how it (the policy) was implemented?
- Sophie - No. This is just about the Group Naming Policy and not turning people away. We should be inviting to all.
- Deb. T. - The policy has passed. Delegates felt they didn’t have time to present it to the groups. There was confusion, which has been clarified. We want groups to be aware. We can pass along any concerns and get accurate information out there.
- Lisa - Get feedback from GRs at your district meetings.
- Ginny - Is confused about the policy.
- Laura - Policy was approved by the WSC. Delegates wanted more discussion.
- Jancy - Is there any information available about the policy?
- Laura - It is in the 2024 WSC Summary and in the coming 2025 edition.
- Terry: - You can access that Summary on the WSO website. There under policies and procedures. See G12 Guidelines.
- Cheryl - The service manual has replacement pages available as well.
- Val - WSO does have printed pamphlets for specific types of groups.

BREAK FOR LUNCH (12:45-1:15)



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(Coordinators and Reports Continued)

2. Alateen and Electronic Meetings – Jill S., Deb T., Ava B.

A PowerPoint presentation was provided on Electronic Meetings for Alateen and Valid Implementation. A history of Alateen and WSC Electronic Alateen Safety and Behavior Requirements (EASBRs) was given. These meet legal requirements. Members' minimum age is 13 years old. There is a pre-interview to determine identification. Groups must have a minimum of 2 AMIAS. Meetings are electronic but not recorded. They must maintain lists of members and their parents. There is a certification process for the safety requirements which must meet a target date of 2026. The discussion question for us is, will Virginia accept these requirements? We will talk to groups about having Electronic Alateen Meetings. There will be participation in a survey. Discussion:

- Jill S. – We want to have all Sponsors certified by 2026.
- Amanda – Thought Force information will be sent out before the Assembly. We will discuss it at the Assembly and give information to Laura.
- Mandy – What is the timeline? Do we have one Assembly to introduce and one Assembly to decide? Is 2026 a hard deadline?
- Jill S. – was not sure.
- Deb. T. – In July 2026 WSC/WSO will start the Alateen Meetings. We don't have to decide by that time. We just need to give feedback to WSO. This is just to start the conversation.
- Mandy – Thinks it's a fabulous idea with precautions.
- Patty M. – So, we go back to the District to get questions? Or do GRs bring questions to the Assembly?
- Amanda – WSO wants feedback. Come to the Assembly to create a survey and then send out to group members.
- Patty M – Is there anything to send out to group members?
- Deb T. – Yes, you can use this PowerPoint.
- Michelle – Regarding history. Teens want to meet in person more. How do we address IDs?
- Jill – Five pilot meetings were well received.
- Amanda – IDs are being used. Most middle schools provide them.
- Martha – The time frame seems short for getting GR feedback.
- Amanda – We will inform GRs at the Assembly.
- Deb T. – We are trying to get the information out. DRs can call a special meeting.
- Terry W. – What part of the EASBR training is different?
- Jill – Teen IDs must provide emergency contact information.
- Cheryl – Will this affect Hybrid meetings too?
- Deb. T. – No, they are separate and follow in person Alateen meeting requirements.
- Jill – That is for the time being.
- Beverly – What is the age limit?
- Jill – 13 to 19 years old.



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- Deb T. – Regular meetings can have Alateens.
- Val – Will regular Alateen meetings change too?
- Jill – No.
- Amanda – Changes will happen in 2026, but it depends on the feedback.
- Cheryl – It depends on whether we choose to accept.
- Lisa – Is this preparation for a survey or does the discussion take place at the Assembly? (GRs talk to their groups to get feedback.)
- Amanda – Yes, we are trying to “Keep It Simple”.
- Deb. T. – Ask DRs to inform the GRs at this point, so when they come to Assembly, they can create a survey and then go to members at large. There is not a lot of time.
- Terry W. – Does this apply to Virginia or just certain districts?
- Deb. T. – We do have Area wide requirements now, we’ll have to see.
- Cheryl – The Area would accept first, then District may have a choice.
- Patty M. – This will not affect hybrid meetings. (Correct)
- Terry W. – Thought Force information is in the Service Manual.

3. Website – Wendy R. (absent, Amanda reported)

We are working on creating posting procedures with Wendy and proofreading. Most documents need to be in PDF format.

4. Communications – Cheryl L.

The end date for access to Webex was July 31, 2025. We are dropping Bridges #2 and #3. Invoicing is done in August, so it is perfect timing for billing. We will only use Bridge #1 going forward. Any Area level business is OK. Send email to Cheryl to arrange meetings. All AFGs have moved to different platforms now. Link will still be the same.

5. LRPC – Debbie P. (absent, Amanda reported)

Debbie P. is working on the Boundary Policy. Other things are on hold.

6. Area Convention – Robbyn B. (absent) No report on Website.

7. AAPP – Ava B.

Training workshops were held in 2025, and we met recertification deadline. Requirements were met and we will continue to review.

8. Literature/Forum – Maria N.

WSO is collecting sharings on Finances. The Forum also needs sharings on the Legacies. The new Service Manual comes out in 2026.



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9. Tidewater Service Center – Lee N.

There will be a Gratitude Breakfast and new flyer coming out soon. Considering a new menu. There have been membership meetings. Office hours may be changing. Need help with filling positions. They will be at the Fall Assembly.

- Ed – get those literature orders in soon. (Deadline is September 18. See the flyer under Fall Assembly.)

10. Northern VA Service Center – Michelle

Having a Barbecue Event soon. Need help and hope to put it together. Spanish speaking line is coming. Donations have been good. Still need volunteers.

11. Public Outreach – Duane F. (No report on Website.)

Has gone to several districts to discuss workshops. Went to a WSO meeting recently. The Speaker had a lot of good ideas. There was another meeting on the 7th Tradition. Asked to have a P.O. table at the upcoming Assembly and will be there. Bring your favorite Outreach ideas. Will also have a workshop at the Assembly on Friday Night. Flyer will be on the website. (Flyer is now there under Fall Assembly.) Has received requests to visit districts. Contact your own District P.O. Coordinators. Service opportunities are for your own recovery. There will be a two-day event in Williamsburg coming.

12. MEAC – Position not filled. (Deb. T. reported)

Deb has contacted Shannon. MEAC was well attended. It has been tough since COVID but are having great Conferences.

13. Archives – Brett H. (absent) No report on Website.

District Reps Brief Highlights – Amanda R.

(Most reports are on the website.) Missing reports: 1, 2, 5, 8, 10, 11, 16.

Due to time, Amanda requested DRs to just say “Hello” share their “Glow”. Those in attendance did so.

Brief Summary and Closing Remarks

1. **Deb. T.** – There will be another GR 101 on Sept. 7; “How to use the Service Manual”. This will be a PowerPoint presentation and will be posted on the website.
2. **Martha** – Confirmed that we submit PDF for posting on the website.
3. **Terry W.** – On the recent AFG Connects our Area Website received praise. There was a great workshop on Anger and Resentment.
4. **Amanda** – Thanks to everyone. We can all help each other. The Assembly should be productive, and we have a lot to consider moving forward. PowerPoint presentations should be put on the website. Register for the Assembly! We still need some Workshop volunteers.



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Al-Anon Declaration and Close

Adjourned at 2:30 pm

Respectfully submitted, Martha R. Area Secretary, Panel 65

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

<u>Upcoming Dates of Importance</u>		
2025-2026		
August 2	Fall VAWSC	Webex
September 26-28	Fall Assembly	Midlothian DoubleTree and Webex
January 10	Officers Meeting	Webex
March 7	Spring VAWSC	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