

2023 Area World Service Committee Hybrid Meeting BC/Yukon

Victoria, BC

May 26-28,2023

“Love, Laugh and Grow Together”

Officers, Coordinators and Liaisons in attendance

Patty Takacs (D14) Chair

Owen Hughes (D1) Delegate

Nancy MatthewsCyr (D18) Alternate Delegate

Diana Heisler (D33) Secretary

Janis Armit (D10) Treasurer

Jean Hopley (D27) Bulletin Coordinator

Gail Schuler (D11) Public Outreach Coordinator

Sarah Ormond (D10) Group Records Coordinator

Michelle Westwood (D15) Alateen Coordinator

Lothar Spingat (D17) Website Coordinator

Akemi Morris (D5) Hybrid Event Coordinator

Angus Spratt (D9) Assistant Hybrid Event Coordinator

Ernie Webber (D18) Hybrid Equipment Coordinator

Amy Gillard (D17) Victoria AIS Chair

Cindy Hamilton (D10) Acting for the Acting Central Service Office Chair

Regrets: Donna Hartford (D6) Literature Coordinator

Friday Evening May 26, 2023

Patty T opened the meeting at 7PM with a moment of silence and the Serenity Prayer and welcomed everyone. The Traditions were read by Sarah O (D10), Michelle W (D15) and Andrea C (D19). The Concepts were read by Raj J (D5), Bill D (D13) and Patty T (D14).

Patty thanked the host chairs, Dennis G and Ally G, and the host committee members from Districts 16/17 for hosting AWSCM at the Victoria Horseshoe Club and for all their service.

Patty welcomed and introduced us to Nieta G, who is the Alternate Delegate of the Global Electronic Area (currently Acting Delegate), who joined virtually from Massachusetts USA.

Housekeeping issues covered by Patty and Ally.

Officers, Coordinators and Liaisons briefly introduced themselves.

Patty went over the Goals and Purpose of AWSCM, Knowledge Based Decision Making and set the tone of respect, assuming goodwill and following our principles during the meeting.

It was decided to use 2/3 majority for voting procedure. Voting members for AWSCM are DR's and Officers, Coordinators and Liaisons.

DR Orientation Nancy MC presented an entertaining District Representative Orientation depicting 'Ermagarde' in an animated format to portray the role and importance of the DR as a link in 'carrying the envelope' or carrying the information to the Group Representatives from the Area. Following the presentation there were break-out stations reviewing service tools including the Service Manual, DR Guide to Assembly/AWSCM, DR Binder, Guidelines, and the Conflict Resolution Kit.

Draws were held for service tools for both online and in person participants. The winners for the DR Binder were Marion S (D21) online and Tina T (D15). Conflict Resolution Kit winners- Jean H (D27) online and Janet M (D15). Winners for

Groups at Work booklets- Shirley T (D5) online and Kelly S (D10). Service Manuals were won by Terry S (D21) online and Ria V (D20).

3rd Year DR Reports: Andrea C (D19), Audrey P (D2)

Patty noted that the early bird meeting would be at 8AM Saturday morning for both online and in person.

Meeting closed with the Serenity Prayer followed by an ice cream social.

Saturday morning, May 27, 2023

Patty opened the meeting at 9AM.

Jean H (D27) read the Traditions.

Valerie P (D25) and Marion S (D21) read the Concepts.

Housekeeping items covered and first aid trained members identified.

Officers, Coordinators and Liaisons introduced themselves.

Patty thanked the Hybrid Coordinators for all the hard work and hours put in behind the scenes and again thanked the host committee members (D16/17) and chairs, Dennis G and Ally G for all they did putting this weekend together.

Past Delegates in attendance were recognized, Shirley T (D5), Dennis G (D16), Janis A (D10) and Lynn B (D32).

Patty reviewed the Goals, Purpose and setting the spiritual tone of AWSCM, reminding us to use our Traditions, Concepts and Knowledge Based Decision Making.

Changes to Agenda announced.

Consent Agenda Includes Minutes from AWSCM 2022 and Officers, Coordinators and Liaisons reports which are on the BC Yukon website for viewing.

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda, Bill D (D13); seconded by Lothar S (D17).

CARRIED

Ask it Basket is available for any questions members have and the answers will be addressed in future Bulletin editions. Akemi will collect any questions from online participants.

Evaluation/feedback forms available as well for both online and in person attendees.

Treasurer's Report

Janis presented a very thorough and informative Treasurer's Report using PowerPoint. This is her last year and she noted that one does not have to be an accountant, it is quite straight forward and there are lots of past treasurers to help. Please see the full report on the BC Yukon AI-Anon Website.

Some highlights:

- This year's budget is projected at \$36,395. and the year-to-date contributions to Feb 28, 2023 were \$11,802.

-Assembly 2022 costs came in under budget (thanks to lower costs for rent, travel, meals). Projected hotel accommodation costs were \$2500. but were \$3600. Hotel costs have really increased.

-Newer electronic meetings do not appear to be contributing yet which may lead to a funding shortfall if contributions continue to decline.

-Cindy asked what the comparable contributions were in 2019 to Feb 28th. Janis said she would get that information. (2019 year to date contributions to Feb 28th were \$19,508)

Motion to approve Treasurer's report Ernie W (D18); seconded by Kelly S (D10).

CARRIED

BREAK

Delegate's Report

Owen shared a report from his wonderful experience attending the World Service Conference 2023 in Virginia Beach and thanked everyone for the opportunity and for all the cards and gifts of support he received.

Highlights:

-The new daily reader will be introduced at the 2023 Al-Anon International Convention in Albuquerque, New Mexico: 'A Little Time for Myself-A Collection of Al-Anon Personal Experiences'

-World wide there are over 20,000 Al-Anon meetings in over 133 countries.

-Conference Approved Literature is translated into over 40 languages.

-WSO cost of services per group is \$321.25 US. BC Yukon contributions work out to about \$230. per group.

-46 Al-Anon groups call the Mobile App home, hosting 118 Al-Anon meetings each week and 148,360 members.

-Every third year, World Service Conference is held in New York and the Delegates make a trip to Stepping Stones to visit the home of Bill and Lois, and experience the history that brought us Al-Anon. There is currently a proposal at WSO to not host the conference in New York in the future due to the increased costs involved and only host conferences in Virginia Beach. Hopefully there will be new options that come to light so that this valuable experience is not lost.

Owen's Delegate report will be available to view in full (minus photos) on the BC Yukon Website.

LUNCH

Saturday afternoon May 27, 2023

Patty announced more agenda changes.

Voting members: 15 Officers, Coordinators and Liaisons (13 in person, 2 online)

17 DR's (10 in person, 7 online)

3rd year/2nd year DR reports: Anastasia for Lynne G (D8), Raj J (D5), Satish M (D27), Marion S for Terry S (D21), Kelly S (D10), Elke H (D9).

Immediate Past Delegate Thought Force Report with pros and cons of creating an Area position of Immediate Past Delegate given by Gail S. A recommendation was not included in the Thought Force report on Website and there was discussion about where to go from here. Gail proposed we create a Task Force to present recommendations at Assembly. The consensus was that the Thought Force continue their work and present recommendations at Assembly.

Canada West Trustee The **WSO** is looking for recommendations for applicants to serve as Canada West Trustee. BC Yukon has 2 interested applicants; Tami Z (D16) and Cindy H (D10). Both applicants spoke about their credentials, as there are minimum requirements that must be met, and to their interest in the position and then took questions from the members. After secret ballot vote, Cindy H was chosen to be the member put forward for recommendation to the World Service Office. There may be other applicants from other areas in the Canada West region and WSO will choose the final applicant.

2nd /1st year DR Reports: Grace D (D16)

Electronic Groups Sarah O presented a review of the background policies and the current status of Electronic Groups. PEGs (Permanent Electronic Groups) are no longer a term used by Al-Anon and we now refer to them as Electronic Groups. The wording in previous motions that refer to PEG's will be amended to reflect the change.

Sarah reports that the World Service Office is still in the process of improving the database to allow electronic groups to be registered with geographic areas that have accepted them, rather than the larger Global Area. Groups that have registered with the Global Electronic Area do not yet have a process to move into geographic districts. The situation is fluid and will be changing as it is worked out.

For an electronic group to join an existing geographic District, that district must be prepared to accept them with policies and procedures in place. It is vital that there are District Representatives in these districts. District 34 does not have a DR currently.

Sarah also notes that electronic groups that are registered with our geographic BC Yukon Area (District 34) are not showing in the AI-Anon.org search yet but that it is still a work in progress.

After requesting a vote allowing her to share at our AWSCM, Nieta G (Alt Delegate for Global Electronic Area) shared her experience, strength, and hope. She reminded us that electronic groups have been around for years (since the 1990's) and that there is lots of fellowship, it is just different than in person.

Skit We were entertained with a skit by District 15 called "The Bad District Meeting" which brought to light some obvious breaks in our Traditions and Concepts.

BREAK

After the break we had some discussion about what Traditions and principles were broken during "The Bad District Meeting" and we strategized how it might be improved using the tools at our disposal.

2ND/1ST Year DR reports: Eileen C (D11), Lyn T (D26), Linda M (D4).

Nancy covered some housekeeping regarding a motion that was made at Assembly 2022. The motion states, "To accept the suggestions made by the PEG Task Force including the structures, policies and procedures for a two-year trial period." but does not actually read to accept Electronic Groups into BC/Yukon Area. It is implied but needs to be clarified. A new motion will be created that just is to Accept Electronic groups into the BC/YUKON area retroactively as of September 2022. The motion will need to be written up by volunteer GRs at Assembly during dinner break, "To accept Electronic Groups into the BC/Yukon

Area, retroactive to Sept 2022, for a two-year trial period”. This will be brought to Assembly in September for the GRs to create the new motion and vote.

Ally G spoke about hosting our hybrid Area events. Our hosting bid sheets are very outdated especially now that we are hybrid. There is more time required for equipment set-up, for example, and the information for AWSCM needs to be in the Bulletin by March, so that means a Feb 15 deadline. Ally and Dennis are willing to work with the Area Officers to help put together a new hosting bid sheet, taking into consideration the issues that have come up with putting together this AWSCM.

Diversity Workshop Owen led a workshop on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) with break out groups where we brainstormed answers to some prepared questions. On page 50, in the 2022 Conference Summary (found on the al-anon.org website) there is an article that inspired this workshop where we discussed what DEI means to each of us and explored our awareness of our unconscious biases and our ability to change.

Polling for Treasurer position Janis spoke about the position and answered questions. She encouraged anyone with further questions to check in with her. This position is an elected position and requires that a 3-year DR term be completed by the end of this year. Patty polled the DR’s for any interested candidates and Audrey P from District 2 stood to let her name stand. The deadline for resumes is November 15th.

Website Lothar spoke about changes made to our website service provider since our Webmaster stepped down from the position. Our current website under ‘Go Daddy’ was fragile, making changes to the website difficult. Research about other website service providers that were cost effective and could offer full email and web development service took place. The service provider chosen by the Officers was ‘Caorda’ which is a Victoria based company with 20 years of experience and good professional recommendations. The cost should be about the same as we currently budget for as per our motion.

Lothar will provide a presentation at Assembly and is asking for feedback about what members want to see in the future for the website. What works right now? What doesn't work? What do we need in terms of a communication tool? Ability to download presentations? More organization of resource material? Please let him know what you think we need.

2nd year/ 1st year DR reports: Shannon P for Leslie G (D15), Lothar S (D17), Val P Alt DR (D25), Ria V (D20), Lynn B (D32, no DR)

Patty reviewed items for the Assembly Agenda.

Assembly will be held in Langley again Sept 22-24, 2023.

Raj J recorded Successes and Challenges from the DR reports and they will be shared on the website and possibly the Bulletin.

It was note that the spiritual meeting would be held at the Victoria Horseshoe Club at 9 AM.

Patty thanked everyone for their participation and closed the meeting with the Serenity Prayer.

Prepared respectfully by Shannon Patrick

Acting Secretary for BC Yukon Area

