

BC Yukon Al-Anon Family Groups Area World Service Committee Meeting (AWSCM) Minutes

May 24 & 25, 2024

Hosted on Zoom

“Our Path towards Grace, Unity, and Understanding”

Friday, May 24th 2024

Chair Ally G opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. with the Serenity Prayer and welcomed everyone. The Traditions were read by Lynn B D32, and the Concepts by Lois K D25.

Ally thanked them and asked if there were any announcements - Akemi D5, the Hybrid Event Coordinator, reminded members to have their name, district and service position on their zoom profile. The zoom chat is for Akemi and Angus to communicate during the meeting; send any tech issues you may have to them, and a reminder to use your electronic hand to speak.

Ally welcomed and introduced Past Delegates Lois K D25, Lynn B D32, and Shirley T D5. The deadline to add to new business on the agenda is Saturday at 10:15AM.

The officers, coordinators and liaisons introduced themselves and the coordinators gave a brief description of their jobs.

Ally outlined the goals and purpose of Area World Service Committee Meeting and reviewed discussion items. Things to think about from goals and purpose PowerPoint - presume Goodwill, keep an open mind, avoid thoughts such as ‘that's how we've always done it’, and envision the future of BC Yukon. Also remember you're never alone in Al-Anon.

Ally reviewed the agenda for the weekend.

Area World Service Committee Meeting (AWSCM) bids are needed by Assembly each year, otherwise we may wind up scrambling to find a location, and this doesn't work as well. Ally also mentioned that she will be polling the 3rd year DRs and past DRs for the one-year Chairperson position, the Alternate Delegate and the Delegate positions that will be elected at Assembly in September, for those that might want to share their skills and abilities.

DR Orientation Nancy MC, Alternate Delegate, D18.

Nancy welcomed everyone. Topics:

–the importance of mentoring, mentoring, mentoring.

-using the Service Manual when controversial items come up, to clarify things.

-Guidelines 15 and 37.

-the DR Guide to Area World Service Committee Meeting is on the BC Yukon website (bcyukon-al-anon.org).

-the DR binder, contents are on the website.

-Service Sponsorship.

-the Motions and how helpful they can be.

Assembly - Nancy was also asked about the hotel information for Assembly which is September 20, 21 & 22, 2024 (Friday – Sunday) as it is a new hotel location.

-**Sandman Hotel – Langley** (Not 'Signature Sandman' which is a different hotel)

-IMPORTANT - Members make their own reservations by calling the Hotel front desk directly.

604-888-7263 Press zero to reach front desk.

-In order to receive the Al-Anon group rates, caller must reference 'Sandman Hotel – Langley' 8855-202nd Street Langley **Reservation #2409 AL-ANON**

The venue is still the Walnut Grove Lutheran Church. If you're not sure whether you can attend or not, go ahead and book your room as long as you're able to cancel at least 24 hours prior. August 19th is the deadline to book hotel rooms.

DR reports- Leslie G D15, Nicole T D25 (Acting DR for AWSCM), & Lothar D17

Ally mentioned that it can be helpful for each district to consider creating a district email address as it really helps with the handover to the next District Rep.

The Successes and Challenges from the DR reports will be recorded by Shannon P D15 and Audrey P D2 for the workshop Saturday evening.

Ally closed the meeting at 8:45 with the Al-Anon Declaration.

Saturday, May 25th

Chair Ally G opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. with a brief explanation of the Area World Service Committee Meeting, the Serenity Prayer and a welcome to everyone. The Traditions were read by Shannon P D15, and the Concepts by Brenda M D15. Ally thanked everyone and invited our Higher Power into the meeting.

Akemi (Hybrid Event Coordinator) from District 5 reminded us to rename our zoom name with our district and service position. She also mentioned that chat is available only to Angus (Assistant Hybrid Event Coordinator) and Akemi. The 7th Tradition information is available in the chat for everyone to see.

Ally welcomed and introduced Past Delegates Shirley T D5, Lois K D25 and Lynn B D32, and thanked them for their service and for being here.

All of the officers, coordinators and liaisons introduced themselves and were asked to tell the favorite part of their job.

The deadline to add new business on the agenda is today at 10:15 AM.

It was mentioned that we still need someone to chair the spiritual meeting on Sunday morning from 9:00 until 11:00.

Ally went over the goals of AWSCM.

Consent Agenda which is the minutes from the last Area World Service Committee Meeting as well as officer and coordinators reports. There were no changes, so they were accepted as submitted.

The new hotel for assembly in September is the Sandman in Langley and all of that information was provided in the chat and throughout the day during breaks.

Treasurer's Report – Audrey P

The financial report is available on the BC Yukon website.

Al-Anon and finances - If there's anything that you haven't figured out or want to know, the place to go is the Service Manual. The 7th Tradition says every group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions and this is critical to our well-being. While contributions cover each group's rent and expenses, there are other expenses that some might not be aware of, and that's why it's important to contribute to other parts of our structure - Districts, the Area and the World Service Office.

Member contributions are the one source of income for all of Al-Anon services. When you make a contribution, this funds Group expenses, Public Outreach, Al-Anon Information Services/Literature Depots, Area expenses, and World Service Office expenses.

It is now possible to e-transfer funds to Area without a security question/answer, as it has recently been changed to auto deposit. You can still send cheques however, it's really important when you send a contribution that you include your **district number and group name**.

BC Yukon AI-Anon fiscal year runs July 1st to June 30th each year, so right now we haven't finished our year. The statements presented here are for a 9- month period, from July 1st to the 31st of March. At the end of each year, we prepare a budget that is approved at Assembly. These budget figures today are for 12 months. We're always looking at how much is coming in and how much is going out - have we got enough coming in to be able to pay our expenses?

There are administrative expenses, Assembly, Officers and Coordinators meetings, AWSCM (today's meeting) and there are general expenses. In the first 9 months of our fiscal year, we received \$20,413.89. We had budgeted \$34,691.97 for the whole year. Extrapolating that, we would have at this point in time, received \$26,000, but we had not received as much as we had planned in order to fund our budget.

The good news is that admin expenses and last year's Assembly expenses have been below budget. We do have some ongoing expenses that need to be paid such as website maintenance etc.

Although we have \$9,621 net income still this was not enough to get us to Assembly.

The appeal letter - prior to the appeal our chequing balance was around \$13,000, now it is \$23,000. We were faced with a decision where we had little time, and escalating costs to go to Prince George. It was going to cost more than the budgeted \$8,000. We were already low on funds and short of time, so when the Officers and Coordinators met and discussed it, we felt the best decision for BC Yukon was to host AWSCM on zoom. We do have a prudent reserve of two GICs of \$5,000 each, however, we cannot access this without member approval. Audrey expressed thanks for the great response to the appeal.

The Treasurer position comes with a laptop that has QuickBooks desktop, but Quickbooks decided to sunset their desktop version which means they're not actually supporting it anymore, so we had to transition to Quickbooks online over the last few weeks. We've also moved to CIBC Smart banking which will let us send e-transfers in about a month or so.

Questions/comments

-If we have about 118 groups in BC Yukon, could we divide those numbers and come up with how much per group the suggested donation would be to fund BC Yukon.

-During covid, it was said that we had sufficient funds in Area and not to donate anymore to Area, but to send to WSO instead. However, if you donate a specific amount to Area for example, if Area has too much, they can always move that money on to World Service Office. *With covid, it was felt that our Area was in good stead and since we weren't going to be having in-person meetings for the foreseeable future and World Service Office was in dire straits, it was suggested that groups and districts send their donations directly to WSO. In hindsight, this does seem like double-headed management and that we*

should not have done this because that's part of the reason we're struggling right now, as we didn't keep up with our donations for the Area. We did the best we could at the time with what we knew.

BREAK

Vancouver Central Service Office – Lynn G gave a very informative power point on the years from the early 1950s to 2023. This presentation is available on request. It was a wonderful history of the office over the years - the different locations that in April 1990 became the Al-Anon Central Services Society.

Delegate's Report – Owen H - At World Service Conference, the theme was “Our Path Towards Grace, Unity, and Understanding”. 1961 was the first World Service Conference, 2024 was the 64th. The goals are similar to Area World Service Committee Meeting. There are motions, discussion and votes. Owen gave an interesting background on what a Delegate does and how they do it at World Service Conference.

There's a personal and service sponsorship workshop that was created at WSC that will be available in the near future. We're hoping to use it in BC Yukon, maybe at Assembly if possible.

7th tradition - the cost per group is \$330.09 US dollars, which is approximately \$454 Canadian. There was a graph that showed where the funds go.

The 2024 WSO Road Trip will be in South Carolina. BC Yukon is working on a bid for the 2025 Road Trip.

The 2023 World Conference Summary is available online.

LUNCH

Voting Member count/roll call – Sarah O Group Records Coordinator - There are 166 groups; 148 are in person or hybrid and 18 are electronic and five of these are in the electronic worldwide district. Any group changes can be emailed to Sarah at grouprecords@bcyukon-al-anon.org and she will make all of the necessary changes. Connection from Area to Electronic District 34 – groups need a Current Mailing Address to be registered, but not a GR.

KBDM (Knowledge Based Decision Making) – Ally G - KBDM can be used at all levels and is the process that we use at BC Yukon Area to reach an informed group conscience. It starts with background information before any motion is presented, and involves lots of research and information gathering before discussion. It also takes into account Concept 5, minority opinion.

KBDM aligns with our spiritual principles, equality, trust, unity, humility, and respect. KBDM is an information exchange. This process could result in a motion, or the issue being returned to a subcommittee for more information, or no decision because no action may be needed.

Topics for Discussion – Ally G

Hybrid meetings - we began our hybrid meetings for Assembly, AWSCM and O&C meetings as a 3-year trial, with a motion in 2021. A decision will be made at Assembly whether or not to continue with Area hybrid meetings. Ally just took on the job of Chair fairly recently, so we don't have KBDM on this topic to present to you today. We do have a committee working on it and it will be in the Bulletin in July so we can be ready for the discussion at Assembly in September.

Background: covid happened and we didn't meet at all for AWSCM in 2020. For Assembly we met online that year, then had a conversation that maybe we could have a hybrid meeting so that people can attend online or in person. The motion was made later. Now, we need to make a decision at Assembly if we're going to continue Area hybrid meetings or not.

Some of the questions are: who is it serving? Do people like it? (do the people in the room like it? do the people online like it?) What percentage of our membership is online versus in the room? Does this improve our area communication for events or does this detract from the event? If you're in person in the room, how much does this cost? There are 2 coordinators attached to putting on hybrid meetings. How much money are we spending on those 2 extra coordinators (The Hybrid Event Coordinator and the Assistant Hybrid Event Coordinator)? This amount is already in the current budget. When this is in the July Bulletin, DRs will be able to speak about it to their groups. The Group Reps will decide if they want to continue with Area meetings as hybrid or not. The Equipment Coordinator is always going to be there in person, looking after all the audio, whether hybrid or not. We will still have hybrid in September 2024.

Public Outreach - A 2021 motion reads that Area Officers in consultation with the Public Outreach Coordinator appoint a Public Outreach Committee for a minimum of a one-year term to support the Public Outreach Coordinator, to be reassessed at the end of a 3-year trial. A committee was never appointed, so now we have decide - are we going to carry on with this committee that never happened or are we going to end the trial and carry on with what did happen, which is the PO Coordinator has a monthly zoom meeting, made up of whoever wants to join the meeting on that day and participate to whatever extent they want to participate. At Assembly we're not going to apply KBDM as it's mostly a housekeeping issue. We need to make a motion at Assembly to end the trial, and need a motion to continue on with Public Outreach in its current form, with an ad hoc committee.

New Technical Requirements – Area Communication: 1. the changing and evolving needs of our Area; 2. we have trusted servants in the positions, making the decisions on the technological pieces and 3. a new reality. -the new reality is that a lot of the technological components to our program are/have changed, which essentially is our communication platform. Things have evolved - our tech needs have evolved and now require annual subscription fees, in three or four areas. It's not a decision about whether or not we're going to pay the annual subscription, the decision is - are we going to communicate with our members? We need an email distribution system to do this, and Mail Chimp is becoming problematic.

Website – we have a public facing page which is a static page. It has information that never needs to be updated: the Steps, the Traditions, some literature links, etc. It's a landing page for the public to check out AI-Anon. And we have our members' page, which is a dynamic page. It requires updating, things to be uploaded. We use that page as a communication tool to our members for uploading information about Assembly, Area World, and the Bulletin etc. These two components of the website are not getting along anymore and we need to separate them. We need to continue to have a static page for the public, but we need a more robust page for our members to stay current and relevant. It is incumbent upon the Area Officers and Coordinators to communicate to the membership in a way that's meaningful for them. It's not up to the membership to figure out what we're doing. We need to have reliable communication and right now because our static public page and our dynamic members' page aren't getting along with each other, we need to separate these two and there's going to be a monthly cost to that. We need to apply the spiritual principle of abundance. We need to take this to the members and ratify these decisions at Assembly.

This applies to QuickBooks as well. The desktop version of QuickBooks is going to sunset, which essentially means they're not going to support it anymore, so we had to buy the online version of QuickBooks for an annual cost. We don't have numbers yet, but they're in the several hundreds of dollars annually for QuickBooks, the email distribution system and the website changes. We have been piecing this together for quite a long time trying to make what we have work. We send regular communication to 672 AI-Anon members in our Area. This is the most dynamic public outreach tool. We are asking you to trust your trusted servants to sort out the details regarding the needs of the members going forward to receive timely and meaningful communication.

BREAK

2025 AWSCM Bids – Lothar D17 said they are available to host if needed. Ria D20 said their district is interested but needs more information. It was confirmed there is no cost to the hosting District as Area is self-supporting. Seed money is available, or receipts can be submitted to the Treasurer for payment. District 20 will be meeting soon to discuss a formal bid. Nellie D15 offered to share duties with another district if they would like.

New Business – Fundraising – Nancy – A previous fundraiser was successfully done with calendars. Nancy has a patch for aprons “It started with a shoe” that has been approved by WSO. These would be pre-ordered and picked up at Assembly. She will put this information, including price, in the Bulletin. There was a question about having the patch for a bag as well.

DR Reports – Grace D16, Kelly D10, Satish D27, Doni K D9, Ria D20, Lynn G D8 and Andrea C D19

Polling of DRs for Chair, Alt Delegate and Delegate positions to be elected at Assembly September 2024. Those that expressed an interest: Chair - Akemi D5 ; Alternate Delegate – Ramona D5; and Delegate – Nancy MC D18. The coordinator positions available to start in 2025 are Archives, Alateen

Coordinator, Group Records, and Equipment Coordinator. It was noted that the Coordinator positions do not require the member to be a current or past DR.

Assembly Agenda Items

- Skit (10 – 15 minutes)- Nancy will lead a group of interested members (Nellie, Deborah, Owen) to find a service skit for Assembly, possibly including service sponsorship. Cynthia or Lynn will check the Vancouver office/archives for Sharon’s past skits. There are skits on AFG Connects as well.

-Icebreaker – Owen and Ally will look at modifying the World Service Conference one.

- Vancouver Office Power Point – Lynn G

- PO Committee Motion

- Hybrid Meeting Motion

- Ratify upgraded Tech

- GR Orientation – Nancy

- KBDM – Ally

- Delegate’s Report – Owen

- Treasurer’s Report – Audrey

- Service in Recovery Workshop – Owen

- Service Sponsorship – Owen

- Elections

DR Reports – Doreen D18, Jen D1, Sherry D4, Merle D11, Mauverneen D2, Jean D29, Helen D6

DINNER

Ask It Basket – put questions for Officers and Coordinators in chat and Akemi will compile these for publishing in the Bulletin.

Evaluations – form will pop up as you are leaving zoom. Zoom calls it a survey, we call it evaluation.

Spiritual Meeting Sunday 9AM to 11 AM – The May Bulletin has the log in information. Angus has volunteered to chair.

Public Outreach Presentation – Nellie gave a very unique interactive presentation, using breakout rooms and appreciative inquiry. She asked us to reflect on our best experiences of the past, and build on that for the future. There were 2 members in each breakout room, and each member was asked to describe in detail our best experience with Public Outreach in AI-Anon, and then several shared back in the larger group what their partner had expressed.

Successes and Challenges – Shannon P and Audrey P – They found there were many common themes, and that there were more successes than challenges. These will be published in the Bulletin.

Recap – Ally

Delegate's Report; Treasurer Report; DR Reports; Sharing re Tech Decisions; Central Office presentation; DR Orientation

Ally closed the meeting at 845 PM with the AI-Anon Declaration.

Respectfully submitted by

Deborah B, BC Yukon Area Secretary