

**Georgia Area 11 Assembly**  
**Business Meeting Part I**  
**Saturday, May 21, 2016**

**Welcome:** **Chairperson-Cathy O.** opened with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. The Twelve Traditions were read. The purpose and goals of Assembly were reviewed.

**Reports:**

**Policy Committee-Renelle M.**

**Policy Committee Report Regarding Tradition 11 and the Area Web Site:**

On January 3 and February 28, 2016 the Policy Committee met to discern if listing the contact phone number on the Area Web Site is in violation of Tradition 11.

The Policy Committee decided that listing the first name and phone number of the group contact person is in violation of Tradition 11.

**Area Alateen Process Person-Cynthia S.** There are currently 73 Al-Anon Members Involved in Alateen Service (AMIAS) who qualify for recertification and three new certified AMIAS in Georgia. At this time only 54 have submitted paperwork for re-certification and two new AMIAS' paperwork have been submitted.

Georgia has 21 active Alateen Meetings and 13 inactive meetings. There are plenty of opportunities to serve as an AMIAS: talk to your sponsors, service sponsors, pray, and be willing. Without group sponsors, there can be no Alateen Group.

Every Al-Anon member directly responsible for Alateens while being of service to Alateens (including, but not limited to, sponsors, conference or event chairpersons, and transportation providers) must:

Be an Al-Anon member regularly attending Al-Anon meetings, be at least 23 years old. Have at least two years in Al-Anon in addition to any time spent in Alateen, six months of which must be in Georgia Al-Anon.

Not have been convicted of a felony and not have been charged with child abuse or any other inappropriate sexual behavior and not have demonstrated emotional problems, which could result in harm to Alateen members.

There must be at least one Alateen sponsor at every Alateen meeting. Additional requirements are listed in the AMIAS Handbook.

**Alateen-Lauren M.** Alateen members and Alateen group sponsors can now submit sharings on-line on the WSO's Al-Anon/Alateen website (al-anon.org/members). In the Alateen tab, access "For Alateen members," and then "Alateen Talks." Alateen Group Sponsors are also invited to share in the "Alateen Group Sponsor Corner" section of Alateen Talk. They can share about their experience in Alateen service or about group challenges, activities, and outreach projects. Personal Al-Anon recovery stories from Alateen Group Sponsors should be submitted to the Forum.

At the AWSC in April, the Alateen Conference sent an appeal for donations to help cover a budgetary shortfall we were finding ourselves in. The committee and myself want to thank you, your groups and districts that sent in donations.

**Archivist-Marie N.** I am working on keeping up with the Area Information Booklet updates of the list of Motions; and I have started a new version of the list of Motions or the Archives that hopefully will be electronically searchable. I am also exploring DAM-O, which is Digital Asset Management –Options that I hope will allow us to have Archives available on line, or accessible as a resource for the whole Area.

**Group Records-Patrick B.** As of May 7th, 2016, we have 298 groups in our Area. Those groups represent 339 active meetings. If you send group updates to WSO, they will update their database but our web site won't get the update for two to three months. If you send your group updates to your DR, the WSO database and the Area website will be updated usually within a week. You can also send your Annual Update letter to your DR by scanning or by taking a photograph of it.

**Literature-Philip A.** I especially want to call your attention to several pieces of literature.

P-24, Groups at Work is the first 78 pages of the Service Manual. It tells you how to run a meeting and form and keep healthy groups.

M-80, Alateen Table Card is a way your group can support and promote Alateen. It says, "Has Al-Anon helped you? Wouldn't you want to give that gift to your child?" It then lists nearby Alateen meetings.

M-75, Al-Anon Legacy Posters are 4 full size posters with the Steps, Traditions, Concepts, and Warranties.

P-5, Blueprint for Progress is the original booklet for working your 4th Step inventory. It's a great companion to the newer larger Blueprint for Progress Workbook.

S-24, Focus/Declaration Table Card is a new table card. It's a reminder to keep the focus on us by not bringing in outside references to our professions, religion, and other 12 step programs.

**Newsletter-Anne M.** Georgia on Track is published three times a year in March, July, and November. The newsletter is distributed through our Links of Service. I send the newsletters electronically to all AWSC members and the DRs are responsible for passing the Newsletter on to the Group Representatives. The GRs are responsible for sharing the newsletter with the members of their Al-Anon groups. In addition to this distribution process, the newsletter is published on the Area 11 website.

The Officers and Coordinators report on what is going on in their areas of service. The DRs share news and sharings from their districts. The newsletter also contains a section called the Service Corner. This section is open to all Officers, Coordinators, current and past Delegates and Trustees.

I start reaching out to AWSC members for newsletter shares about 45 days prior to publication. The deadline to submit articles for the next GA On Track Newsletter is July 1, 2016. The publication date is July 15, 2016.

**Public Outreach-Lys H.** The Public Outreach Billboard Project that began in July 2015 has now reached Metro Atlanta, Augusta, and Columbus and is coming soon to Dalton. We have \$952 in current funds and will spend \$750 of those funds for the Dalton area when the space becomes available.

We plan to continue the billboard project as long as funds are available for it. Districts, Groups and individuals have contributed. To make a contribution please send funds to the Area. You may write "public outreach" on the check indicating that your wish is for the funds to be used for public outreach.

As the new Public Outreach Chair, I am in the process of finalizing our committee. If you have a passion for public outreach, please contact me. We have one spot left on the committee.

My vision for this panel is to build on the community reach we have gained from the billboards and extend that reach to the professional community. DR's, please ask your districts and groups what opportunities are available in your districts to reach therapists, psychologists, law enforcement, DFCS, private treatment programs and centers.

If there are any additional projects that Districts would like to see for this year and term, please email me and let's see how we can keep the momentum going to spread the message of recovery to those in need.

**Webmaster Report-Alecia C.** The website has been moved to a less expensive and apparently faster web host. The fees for the Ga AL-Anon domain name have been paid.

Event flyers received to date have been posted to the website for upcoming events. Please remember that if you have an upcoming Al-Anon event, submit a PDF copy of the flyer to the Webmaster with no identifying personal information such as last names or phone numbers.

Based on the opinion received from the policy committee and voting at AWSC, the IT work group met in regard to names and phone numbers listed on the area website being a violation of Tradition 11. Names and phone numbers have now been removed from the website.

IF you have any ideas for the website, please feel free to send them to me. One request came through an Assembly member and asked that we post necessary documents for Assembly to the website so that you can download them while you are at Assembly. This feature has been added and you can now access the documents by selecting "Assembly Reports" from the menu and overriding the members login on the members page of the website by typing "Trusted Servant." Use the password HJF2016 (case sensitive).

**2016 AA Prepaid Convention-Becky C.** In Becky's absence, Renelle M. gave her report. Hotel: Marriott Augusta at the Convention Center, Two Tenth Street, Augusta, Ga.

Theme: "Our Spiritual Way of Life: the Steps, the Traditions, and the Concepts"

A.A. Speakers: Misoon W., Jacksonville, Fl., Peter M., Boca Raton Fl., Mary T., West Lake Oh, Paul Mc., Los Angeles, Ca. Roger H., Seminole, Fl. and the Al-Anon Speaker is Linda R., Ladson, S.C.

There will be a dinner Saturday at 5pm. Cost is \$20 per person. Events taking place: Golf Tournament, golf disc, kayaking and motorcycle poker run. Register on line: [www.aageorgia.org/Prepaid.htm](http://www.aageorgia.org/Prepaid.htm).

Additional info: email: [63rdPrepaid@aageorgia.org](mailto:63rdPrepaid@aageorgia.org) for room rates, mention 63rd Georgia State Prepaid Convention.

Please note my new number: [706-836-5476](tel:706-836-5476)

**2016 Alateen Conference/Alateen Representative-Thomas E.** The 17<sup>th</sup> GA Alateen Conference June 3-5, 2016 will be held at Rock Eagle. There is a \$15.00 registration.

Meals & Lodging: \$50.00 on or before May 22 and \$65.00 After May 22<sup>nd</sup>

For donations please make checks out to Georgia Alateen Conference and mail to our Alateen Conference Treasurer, Jim Bollinger, 4115 Quinn Dr., Evans, GA 30809. I want to thank those Districts, Groups, and Service Arms that have all ready given.

**2016 Al-Anon/Alateen Convention-Kristin L.** We are deep in the throes of the 2016 Convention and what we need from you are the following: Cash donations are welcome. Register for the Convention by July 22<sup>nd</sup> and make your reservations at the Hyatt. Rooms are available at the group rate until July 15<sup>th</sup>. The group rate is also available on Thursday for a limited number of reservations. We are asking each district to prepare a "Recovery Basket" for a Basket Raffle at the Boutique, as we have done in the past. We are asking every attendee to bring old costume jewelry to the boutique. Just bring in your gently used costume jewelry and we will be selling it for \$1.00 a piece. Volunteers are needed to man the various convention stations, such as the workshops, literature room and boutique. Please make announcements to your groups that we are looking for volunteers to help out and they can contact me by email if they are interested.

We have many outside events planned for those attending. Ghost Tours will be available in the evening and we are also planning a Sunrise Spiritual Workshop on the Ocean at Tybee Island on Sunday. It promises to be a recovery-filled weekend with lots of fun too! We are looking into having a Breakfast Buffet offered on Saturday morning of the Convention. This would be at an additional cost for the attendees but will make it much easier to get breakfast in the morning. Most of all, we are planning to have a spectacular time Surrendering in Savannah on August 12-14, 2016!

**MAIS-Patrick B.** Current open MAIS Service Positions: Alateen Chair, Office Chair and Area Liaison.

MAIS is now publishing the Atlanta Area meeting listing in a new format and as a PDF. See your MAIS rep for details.

### **Business Meeting Part II**

**Sunday, May 22, 2016**

**Welcome: Chairperson-Cathy O.** opened with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. The Twelve Concepts of Service were read. The purpose and goals of Assembly were reviewed.

Using the Area 11 Policy and Procedure Manual for Assembly, the following information was shared: Who has voice and vote along with the Assembly Operating Protocol.

**Minutes: Secretary-Kathy W.** Patrick B. stood In Kathy's absence. The January 2016 Assembly Minutes were approved as presented by general consent. ***Motion 1***

**Roll Call: Secretary- Kathy W.** Patrick B. stood In Kathy's absence. There were 20 Districts represented and 118 voting members in attendance.

#### **Officer Reports:**

**Alternate Delegate-Barbara T.** Thank you to Districts 6 (Debbie P.) and 10 (Donna M.) for hosting registration and the Saturday afternoon discussion meeting this weekend, and to Districts 7 (Joy C.) and 20 (Alecia C.) who will be hosting in September.

Thank you to Districts 3 (Kristin L.) and 15 (Karen M.) for hosting hospitality this weekend; and to District 9 (Keith F.) who will be hosting in September.

I hope everyone has had a chance to look at the new Forum tri-panel display that is out in the registration hallway. Please give me input you may have about this--whether or not you feel it is worthwhile and any suggestions for new sections. There is a section on it about becoming a Forum star. Bring in a recent Forum from your personal subscription to the registration table in September, and get a gold star to wear on your permanent name badge! There are also some great ideas on the display about increasing Forum subscriptions. There is a great suggestion to pass a can around for loose change and when \$11 dollars has been collected, have a name drawn from group members, and that person wins a subscription to the Forum. GRs, as your group's Forum Representative, please encourage your groups to purchase a subscription if they have not already. Georgia has had a decline in paid subscriptions recently, down from 528 in June of 2015 to 496 in March of 2016. That is a decrease in 32 subscriptions and this amount includes electronic subscriptions and any groups that purchased their own subscriptions when WSO stopped sending out complimentary copies in March. Let's see if we can't get that number up by 10% when the next report comes out in June! That's 50 new Forum subscriptions. If one group out of every six orders a subscription--we can do it.

#### **Al-Anon Family Groups of Georgia Inc. Financial Report - Katherine N.**

January 1 – March 31, 2016 Budget vs. Actual YTD: Total Income = \$6,172.36, Total Expenses = \$5,985.61, Net Operating Income = \$186.75, Funds Carried Forward = \$8,128.58, Public Outreach Billboard Project Support = \$2,338.00. Total Operating Funds on Hand = \$10,653.33.

Balance Sheet: Bank Account = \$10,653.33, 1 year CD = \$10,715.78, 6 month CD = \$2,536.64 and Money Market Account = \$2,750.03. Total Current Assets = \$26,655.78.

The AFG of Georgia Inc. YTD Treasurer's Report was adopted as presented by general consent. **Motion 2**

Our CD's are now placed with returns of .4499% on the one year CD that will mature next March and the 6 months CD will mature in August at a .2497% rate. Corporation registration with the state has been updated and all fees paid. Our insurance policy was renewed and paid for. All information for each entity of AFG, Inc. were compiled and sent to the accountant and our taxes have been filed.

#### **Georgia Al-Anon Central Services (GACS) Office Chair -Char F.**

In March, the Office part-time employee resigned to take a full-time position. The Committee is seeking a permanent part-time person and sent notices of the open position to Al-Anon groups in the Macon area.

We welcome any volunteer hours you can donate to our Office to help fill orders, check mail, and other needs. Please see me if you would like to serve.

The GACS Office Committee is taking steps to better serve our Area and our members and has initiated several new processes to help meet this goal. One of these is to streamline how we receive and send out orders from members so that we can be more organized and ship orders in a timely manner. This is the new process:

Deadline to Submit orders: No later than 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday of each week. We will ship all orders received on Tuesdays by Friday of each week. An order form must accompany each order; we will include a blank form in each order and ask that groups/members make a copy for future use. Order forms are also available on the GA Al-Anon website under "Area Office" "Literature order options." Members/Groups can submit their orders 2 ways: Email: Email with order form attached. Email all orders to: [orderlit1@gmail.com](mailto:orderlit1@gmail.com). Do not send orders to [officearea11@gmail.com](mailto:officearea11@gmail.com)

U.S. Mail: Send with order form. Mail form to: Georgia Al-Anon Central Services, 2733 Sheraton Drive, Ste. F-160, Macon GA 31204. Please make sure to include on all checks/money orders the name of the group or group number and a contact phone number.

For Assembly orders, if a group or individual members would like to pick up literature orders at Assembly, we must receive the order either via email at [orderlit1@gmail.com](mailto:orderlit1@gmail.com) or via U.S. mail no later than the Friday before Assembly.

Groups /members can pick up pre-orders in the literature room.

The Committee continues to seek ways to improve how we serve you and our Area, so in this spirit we will be asking for your input and suggestions in the coming months.

#### **Georgia Al-Anon Central Services (GACS) Financial Report-Levon C.**

January 1-March 31, 2016 Budget vs. Actual YTD: Total Income = \$9,236.41, COGS = \$5,548.00,

Gross Profit = \$3,688.41. Total Expenses=\$2,895.37. Net Operating Income = \$793.04.

Balance Sheet: Cash on Hand = \$24,142.29, Accounts Receivable = \$2,480.37, Inventory = \$12,787.54

Total Assets = \$39,410.20. Liabilities: Ga Department of Revenue-GACS \$144.84 and Payroll

Federal Taxes (941/944)= \$16.50. Total Current Liabilities = \$161.34.

The GACS YTD Treasurer's Report was adopted as presented by general consent. **Motion 3**

**Old Business:** 2016 January Assembly Motion 11 that was tabled.

Move that the Finance committee be allowed to make changes within the budget without AWSC/Assembly approval provided the changes stay within the approved total annual budget allowance and that there are no new line items.

Motion failed with 75 yes, 45 no and 1 abstention. **Motion 4**

#### **Elections:**

**2018 Al-Anon/Alateen Convention Chair (also co-chair for 2017) Zone 3** – Danica C., District 9, Carmen L., District 21 and Nickie B., District 21 stood. Danica Carswell was elected.

**2017 Alateen Conference Chair-** Diane K., District 17, and Peter U., District 16 stood.

Peter Underwood was elected.

**2018 Alateen Conference Chair (co-chair for 2017) -** Bria A., District 2, Ryan B., District 9, Diane K., District 17 and Anne C., District 2 stood. Ryan B. and Anne C. went a 2<sup>nd</sup> round and Anne Conner was elected.

#### **New Business:**

**Presentation Designer:** The AWSC members discussed the value of having a presentation designer who is currently bringing clarity to the AWSC meetings and to the Assembly meetings. Because this presentation designer is paying his expenses to attend these meetings, AWSC members unanimously asked the Assembly members to consider this position as "an official position" for a trial period for the remainder of this term with the possibility of it becoming a permanent position after this panel ends. A motion was introduced to reimburse this term's presentation designer for his Assembly

expenses for the September Assembly. This position will then be included in the 2017 & 2018 budgets. If the motion is passed, a Thought Force will be launched in the near future to hash out what this position will look like next term.

Matter under consideration: Adjusting Area Assembly Budget.

Move that the 2016 Area Assembly Budget be adjusted by:

A) The Chairman's Officer allowance be increased by \$300.00 from \$350.00 to \$650.00

B) The Treasurer's Contingency Fund be reduced by \$300.00, from \$1,676.00 to \$1,376.00.

Passed unanimously. **Motion 5**

**Public Outreach:** Matter under consideration: Public Outreach Structure.

Move to adopt the three-year trial "Public Outreach Committee Structure" created in 2012 as the Area's Public Outreach Structure. Passed with 2 abstaining. **Motion 6**

**Finance Committee:** Accepting an individual donation for the new banners purchased for the Area.

Matter under consideration: Adjust Area Assembly Budget.

Move that the 2016 Area Assembly Budget be adjusted by:

A. Individual member Contributions be increased by \$600.00 from \$400.00 to \$1000.00 and

B. Treasurer Contingency fund be increased by \$600.00 from \$1376.00 to \$1,976.00.

The purpose of the motion was to move \$600 back into the contingency fund because an anonymous donor wanted to purchase the new banners for the area. The Assembly members felt it would be earmarking funds.

After a brief discussion about the necessity of this motion, the Finance Committee withdrew the motion.

### **Motion 7**

**Delegate – Renelle M.** -2016 WSC Conference

I want to start by saying how humbled I am to be able to represent Georgia Al-Anon at the 56<sup>th</sup> World Service Conference. I do not have the words to express my heartfelt thanks for your confidence and trust in allowing me to serve in this capacity. I felt covered in a blanket of prayers from my Al-Anon Family providing me with love and support. Day one began with orientation where we talked about Tradition Two and Concept Four, which set the tone for Conference.

#### **Conference Rolls and Responsibilities:**

67 Delegates bring the group, District and Area viewpoint on matters affecting the entire fellowship. They return to their Area and share a broader perspective of Al-Anon worldwide.

19 Board of Trustees members have the legal and financial responsibilities and set policy. They meet on a quarterly basis. They ensure the goals and directions of our WSC are carried out.

9 Executive Committee members, 4 of which are also Trustees, are a committee of the board and do the same thing the board does on a monthly basis. They ensure the goals and directions of our WSC are carried out.

10 Staff members bring the current problems of the day from a worldwide perspective. They are responsible for carrying out the goals and directions of our WSC.

Each of these members listens and has voice and vote on matters affecting Al-Anon as a whole.

I was given my first assignment from WSC to be a member of a Task Force titled "Spirituality in District Money Discussions". Eleven Delegates began the immediate process of reviewing and gathering information. The work of this Task Force will continue throughout this year.

I am also assigned to the US North Central Conference Committee on Trustees.

**Alateen Survey Report** -JP M. reported -At the 2015 World Service Conference, one of the Chosen Agenda items to be discussed was: Is the current model of Alateen the best model for the future of both Al-Anon and Alateen?

This question was asked in the spirit of "In Bill W.'s "Essay on Leadership," he speaks of revisiting past decisions to see how they're working out. Much has changed in society since the advent of Alateen Safety and Behavioral Requirements. Cell phones and texting are now the norm for teen communication, background checks (and the administrative costs associated with them) are common, and schools, once welcoming, are now reluctant to deal with us for fear of litigation over the inclusion of the Three Legacies. In short, is Al-Anon wasting resources maintaining the current model of Alateen? If so what changes should be made?"

One of the results of the discussion was that we needed to ask the Alateens what they thought and wanted.

The World Service Office Alateen Work Group and the WSO staff worked together to create the survey from questions and comments previously gathered by two Delegates from the 2015 Delegates. The survey was conducted in March 2016. The following is some of the results of that survey.

The Alateens were asked to rate 14 items in terms of their impact on the success of the Alateen program on a scale of very important, somewhat important and neutral.

The 14 items were: meeting format, personal sponsorship, AMIAS sponsorship, AMIAS availability to sponsor meetings, working the steps, transportation, public outreach, technology, location, parental support, Alateen literature, Alateen events, "Alateen Talk", and the Alateen section of the member's web site.

At least half of the Alateens rated the following seven items as 'very important':

AMIAS sponsorship, (64%) Alateen literature, (61%) Alateen events, (59%) Working the Steps, (59%) AMIAS availability to sponsor meetings, (58%) parental support, (52%) meeting format, (50%)

When asked what is your favorite thing about Alateen the first 10 of over 130 responses were:

Being able to talk to people that I can trust. That we can talk about things that have happened in our households.

The people. I am not alone. I have a group of teens that understand what I'm going through to talk to when times are tough. It's hard to talk to people who don't know what I'm going through; they don't get it.

We can talk about things that have happened in our households. You can share stories and people won't judge me. The people are so understanding, caring, kind and welcoming. That we all relate. The love and camaraderie, the support and the friendships. This will be a discussion, which will continue.

**Memorial Contributions**-We passed the following Motion: The 2016 WSC to accept the new text for memorial contributions as follows:

Any Al-Anon or Alateen member may make contributions to the WSO in memory of any relationship in accordance with the direct contribution limit.

The World Service Office accepts contributions in memory of deceased Al-Anon members from "family" who are not Al-Anon members. The fellowship recognizes that accepting such contributions can give comfort to families as described in Tradition Five.

The World Service Conference defines family as anyone who has a close relationship of loving care and concern for another. The individual donor defines his or her relationship to the deceased Al-Anon member.

This one-time gift of gratitude is limited to an amount no greater than \$500. Memorial contributions are not solicited.

WSO will notify us when this new verbiage is posted on the Members' website, along with changes to Concept 11 providing clarity that were approved by the Conference.

**Conventions and Other Events**-This conversation was regarding the change in verbiage regarding "Conventions and Other Events". (See Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual 2014 – 2017, page 85 and 86 for current text)

At a Delegate's request, the topic of what could be announced at meetings was first raised at the July 2013 Policy Committee meeting because some members work around policy to suit their needs, e.g. renaming a retreat a "workshop" so it can be announced at meetings.

The recommended language sought to clarify what can and cannot be announced at Al-Anon/Alateen meetings. The text includes core spiritual principles that characterize Al-Anon and Alateen events as well as criteria by which these conventions, workshops, and other events can accurately be recognized or identified as Al-Anon and Alateen. The conference discussed the proposed changes and concluded that the verbiage was still unclear in what can and cannot be announced in Al-Anon and Alateen meetings. After hearing all the conversation, the Policy Committee will look at this again and bring back to the 2017 WSC a recommendation of new text to help close these gaps.

**Literature "Prayer for Today"**- During its June 2015 meeting, the Literature Committee began discussing requests from two different members in different Areas for changes to the "Prayer for Today." This prayer is included in the Just for Today Wallet Card (M-10) and Bookmark (M-12), as well as on page 101 of How Al-Anon Works for Families & Friends of Alcoholics (B-22, B-32). (It is on page 103 in editions printed prior to 2008.) The first member felt that although it is beautiful, it is clearly a religious prayer, and should be revised or discontinued. The second member requested that the words "O, Divine Master" in the second paragraph of the prayer be changed to "God." Because the prayer is included in the Newcomer Packet (K-10), she felt it could give many newcomers the idea that Al-Anon is a religious program.

The conference members decided this was a very difficult conversation that will be continued at the 2017 WSC.CAL.

**Finances**-We reviewed the 2015 Annual Financial Report and approved the 2016 Financial Committee Report! If anyone is interested in the details please get with me and I will be glad to go into the details with you. Let me assure you that WSO is very prudent in handling the finances.

In general the 2015 Annual Financial Report showed Al-Anon Family Groups Inc. in a deficit for the year.

The total revenue, which included literature sales, contributions, Forum subscriptions and investment income transferred from the Reserve Fund, was \$4,754,267.

The Operating expenses came to \$5,115,291, leaving a deficit of \$361,024.

The 2016 Budget doesn't look much better. Projected revenues are \$4,873,000. Anticipated expenses are \$5,057,000, leaving a deficit of \$184,000.

Overall projected expenses for 2016 are budgeted to increase by \$58,000 from last year's actual. Labor costs are expected to increase \$118,000 due to cost of living and merit increases.

We are estimating income from literature sales to be about \$123,000 less than last year and Forum subscription income to be slightly higher. We are budgeting contributions to be \$1,800,000, which is about 9% more than last year's actual. Beginning in 2008, we agreed to transfer up to 4% of the fair value of the Reserve Fund to the General Fund. Since we have experienced lower increases in the value of the Reserve Fund than in the past, we reduced the amount for 2015 to about 1.1 percent. For 2016, we have agreed on a transfer of 4 percent.

Warranty One states: Sufficient operating funds, including an ample reserve, should be its prudent financial principle.

An ample reserve for a non-profit organization is considered to be one year's operating expense.

WSO's one-year operating expense is \$5,002,000. Our current reserve fund is \$3,829,572.

Our reserve fund is short by **\$1,172,428.**

How are contributions used? Each dollar contributed to AFG Inc. is used by our World Service Office to support our fellowship and to do Twelve Step work on a large scale. Salaries, occupancy, and other expenses are funded from literature sales.

Al-Anon is fully self-supporting through voluntary contributions. We do not solicit funds from anyone outside the fellowship. As these budgets show, our WSO is not healthy financially. I want to spend a few minutes talking about groups, Districts and members being financially responsible.

The cost to support a group for one year is \$262. Georgia has 289 groups. Of that 289, the number of groups contributing to WSO was 182 or 62%. Of the 182 that gave, 33 groups or 18% gave \$262 or more. That means that of the 289 groups in Georgia 11% were fully self supporting. My question to each group is how many of you could run a business and continue to provide services if only 11% of your customers paid the full amount of your costs? So I encourage each of the GR's here today to go back to your groups and ask:

Is your group fully self supporting in contributions to WSO?

Does your group have a budget? Does the group budget have a line item for WSO contributions?

Have you thought about the difference your group can make?

What if 25% of the groups gave an extra \$20 this year? That would equate to \$5,780.00

I encourage all GRs to share the purpose of the quarterly appeal letter that gives each member an opportunity to participate in Twelfth Step work beyond group level.

Encourage each member to respond by contributing \$15 in the appeal envelope this year. I can't even begin to tell you what opportunities that would present! Are you able to make that kind of contribution? Is it possible that other members with encouragement and an understanding of the purpose would be able to do the same? What if many members could contribute even more?

Does your group support the Birthday Plan where in honor of their Al-Anon/Alateen birthday, members may express their gratitude by contributing an amount for each year's membership?

Have you thought about the difference your District could make?

What if even half our districts contribute to WSO? Any amount would be an expression of gratitude, abundance and responsibility.

Have you thought about the difference an individual can make? Making individual contributions to WSO are tax deductible.

What if every member clicked on the 'Contribute Now' button on our WSO website and made a contribution? What if some gave \$1, some gave \$5, some gave \$15 and some were able to give even more? The possibilities are almost incredible: \$200,000? (That might be only \$1-\$2 per member) \$1,000,000? (That might be \$5-\$10 per member) \$3,000,000? (That might represent \$15-20 per member). Think of the possibilities!

Individual contributions made directly to WSO will ensure your money is going where you want it vs. depending on group conscious.

Contributions made directly to WSO, whether by the group, District or individual equals more revenue than the literature sales income, due to printing costs.

Contributions \$15=\$15

Literature Sales \$15= \$10

Relying on literature sales to make us fully self-supporting puts the burden of responsibility on the newcomers.

If our voluntary contributions increase then literature prices could be reduced.

I am very optimistic about our abundance! At WSC we passed the basket and individual contributions from conference members came to a total of \$11,098.73, a 27% increase from the 2015 WSC contributions. We have so many members, groups and districts that are able to help in a small way with potentially huge results.

### **Opportunities for Georgia**

- *Meet the Board*

The purpose of “Meet the Board” is to take the Board of Trustees and Executive Committee members to a local Area, hold its “Board Week” there, and then on one day of that week meet with local members.

Board members only attend the Board meetings, but the extra day for “Meet the Board” is an opportunity for our WSO volunteers and Area members to share a day of connection.

Through talks and various discussion groups, members learn how the Board of Trustees and Executive Committee serves our worldwide fellowship.

The next Meet the Board Event will be held in Arkansas in October. Areas interested in submitting a bid for a “Meet The Board” event must have their submissions in for a 2017 Meet the Board Event by September 15, 2016. The WSO Board will choose the selected site by drawing the submissions from a hat. So if we in Georgia have a District or maybe two Districts that would like to host a “Meet the Board Event” in 2017 let me know and we can submit a request.

- *2023 Al-Anon International Convention*

Coming in just a couple short years, Al-Anon’s Sixth International Convention will be taking place July 5-8, 2018 in Baltimore, Maryland.

Now in 2016, WSO is making plans for Al-Anon’s Seventh International Convention in 2023. The Al-Anon International Convention is always held on the weekend closest to, or on, the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday. In 2023, the 4<sup>th</sup> of July will be a Tuesday. This allows Al-Anon the opportunity to consider both the weekend before the 4<sup>th</sup> and the weekend after as the Convention dates. The dates for the Seventh International Convention being considered are June 30 – July 2, 2023 or July 7 – 9, 2023.

We expect 4,000 to 5,000 attendees, including A.A. participation; however, there are always many variables that can impact attendance. At this time, we cannot present a more precise projection on the number of attendees. Our plans must be flexible in order to provide for a larger attendance.

The responsibility for the preparation and presentation of the “bid” rests with the WSC Delegates of the state or province. The Delegate selects one bid to be submitted from the Area. A completed World Service Office (WSO) Bid Questionnaire with any supporting material must be submitted to the WSO by the Area Delegate and postmarked no later than December 1, 2016. All bids will be reviewed to insure that they are complete and meet the minimum requirements and that a convention is logistically feasible in that location. If anyone here is interested in submitting a bid for Georgia to host the 2023 Al-Anon International Convention, please see me for complete details.

- *TEAM Event*

The Third Opportunity for Georgia would be to host A TEAM Event. Information for Areas about TEAM Events is on the Members’ Web site in the Service Structure navigation tab, Area Resources section. Click on the TEAM logo for information.

The TEAM event request form MUST be submitted at least six months prior to the event.

A few weeks after the form is received, the proposed date, or the alternate date, will be confirmed.

The planning of TEAM events is shared leadership between WSO and the Areas. Six months prior to the TEAM Event, the planning between the Host Committee and the WSO begins. “The Host Committee Suggested Planning Worksheet” guides the Host Committee Chair in communicating specific details with the WSO staff members. This communication ensures that everyone understands the details of the event, and the roles of the Host Committee Chair and WSO TEAM members.

Additional resources on the Members’ Web site include frequently asked questions, sample agendas, and sample TEAM names.

If we have any Districts interested in hosting a Team Event please let me know and Georgia can submit a request.

**Summary of Motions:**

**Motion 1** The January 2016 Assembly Minutes were approved as presented by general consent.

**Motion 2** The AFG of Georgia Inc. YTD Treasurer’s Report was adopted as presented by general consent.

**Motion 3** The GACS YTD Treasurer’s Report was adopted as presented by general consent

**Motion 4** Move that the Finance committee be allowed to make changes within the budget without AWSC/Assembly approval provided the changes stay within the approved total annual budget allowance and that there are no new line items. Motion failed with 75 yes, 45 no and 1 abstention

**Motion 5** Move that the 2016 Area Assembly Budget be adjusted by:

A) The Chairman’s Officer allowance be increased by \$300.00 from \$350.00 to \$650.00

B) The Treasurer’s Contingency Fund be reduced by \$300.00, from \$1,676.00 to \$1,376.00. Passed unanimously.

**Motion 6** Move to adopt the three-year trial “Public Outreach Committee Structure” created in 2012 as the Area’s Public Outreach Structure. Passed with 2 abstaining.

**Motion 7** Move that the 2016 Area Assembly Budget be adjusted by:

A) Individual member Contributions be increased by \$600.00 from \$400.00 to \$1000.00 and

B) Treasurer Contingency fund be increased by \$600.00 from \$1376.00 to \$1,976.00.

After a brief discussion about the necessity of this motion, the Finance Committee withdrew the motion.

**Closing: The Lord’s Prayer and Al-Anon Declaration.**

**Adjourned: 1:20pm**

**Dates to Remember:**

June 3-5, 2016	Georgia Alateen Conference, Rock Eagle, Eatonton, GA.
August 12-14, 2016	Georgia Al-Anon/Alateen Convention, Savannah, GA.
August 20, 2016	AWSC
September 17-18, 2016	Area Assembly
October 21-23, 2016	A.A. Prepaid Convention, Augusta, GA.
November 19, 2016	AWSC

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathy White  
Area Secretary  
Panel 56<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Final June 2, 2016