

**Tennessee AWSC  
Spring Assembly  
June 1, 2024**

The 2024 Spring Assembly met on June 1, 2024 at Lebanon, TN. The meeting was called to order at 9:03 am by Tarcila F., Chairperson with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. The following officers were in attendance: Irene F., Delegate; Tarcila F., Chairperson; Christine F., Alternate Delegate. Attendance of Zoom attendees and other attendees is attached.

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	FOLLOW-UP
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Chairperson Review of Announcements</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of voice, voting criteria, and voting procedure.</li> <li>• Motions are to be made by GRs on a “Motion Form.” The Motion is to be seconded by another GR. Two-thirds vote is needed to pass. Abstentions are not counted.</li> <li>• “Ask It Basket,” “ESH,” and “Suggestion” boxes explained.</li> <li>• Meeting protocol and etiquette explained.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;">No action required.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Area Chairpersons Elections</b></p>	<p>Tarcila shared that elections for Secretary and Treasurer were held and appointed at the Fall, 2023 Assembly. However, due to personal reasons, both parties had to resign. As Area Chairperson, Tarcila appointed Christine F. as Interim Area Secretary and Patty C., Interim Area Treasurer, were approved. Opportunities were given for District Representatives (DRs) in the room and on Zoom to stand for the positions. No DR stood. Tarcila proposed and received permission to allow qualified members who were not current or past DRs to stand for the positions.</p> <p>Patty C., shared her experience to be considered as Treasurer; Marian M. for position of Secretary.</p> <p><b>Motion #1 to elect Patty C. as Area Treasurer</b> was made by Grace M. (D 13) and seconded by Alicia A. (D13 Ten votes in the room and 21 by Zoom were counted, zero nays, and zero abstentions. <b>Motion #1 was unanimously approved.</b></p> <p><b>Motion #2 to recommend Marian P. to be Secretary</b> was made by Shelly (D20B) and seconded by Alicia A. There were 10 yeas in the room and 21 by zoom; no nays, and no abstentions. <b>Motion #2 was unanimously approved.</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Motion #1., to elect Patty C. as Area Treasurer.</b> Patty C. was elected as Treasurer; <b>was unanimously approved;</b> <b>Motion #2., to recommend Marian P. to be Secretary.</b> Marian P. was elected as Secretary; <b>was unanimously approved.</b></p>

<p><b>Minutes</b></p>	<p>Christine F., previous Interim Secretary, presented the minutes from the Fall, 2023 meeting.  <b>Motion #3 to accept the minutes as written</b> was made Colleen M. (D4) and Elle H. (D12B) seconded the motion. There were 11 yeas in room, 1 by zoom; 0 nays, 0 abstentions. <b>Motion #3 passed.</b></p>	<p><b>Motion #3. to accept the minutes as written.</b> 2023 Fall Assembly minutes <b>were accepted</b> as presented.</p>
<p><b>REPORTS</b></p>		
<p><b>Treasurer</b></p>	<p><b>Patty C., Treasurer,</b> presented the Treasurer’s reports (area contributions, Profit &amp; Loss). She advised she will respond to emails sent to <a href="mailto:Area52Treasurer@gmail.com">Area52Treasurer@gmail.com</a>. Patty asked GRs to be certain groups had her mailing address (PO Box 1341, Mount Juliet, TN 37121). Only PayPal is available for online giving.</p>	<p>The Treasurer’s report and budget is available online at TN-AI-Anon.org and at <a href="https://awsctn52.groups.io/g/main">https://awsctn52.groups.io/g/main</a>  No other action needed.</p>
<p><b>Technology Coordinator</b></p>	<p><b>Erik T, Tech Coordinator,</b> shared his Technology report with Knowledge Based Decision Making (KBDM).   <b>Motion #4. to accept the proposal of tech committee to use the tax-exempt version of MS 365 &amp; Canva, and they would develop a process for Area use</b> was made by Susie R. (D12B) and seconded by Janet L., (D20C). Ten GRs voted yea; 15 GRs from Zoom voted yea; zero nays; zero abstentions. <b>Motion #4 carried.</b></p>	<p><b>Motion #4 to accept the proposal of tech committee to use the tax-exempt version of MS 365 &amp; Canva and develop a process for Area use carried.</b>   Erik will follow up with the Tech Committee and register to obtain the not-for-profit version of the MS 365 and Canva software. His report is found at TN-AI-Anon in the files section of <a href="https://awsctn52.groups.io/g/main">awsctn52.groups.io/g/main</a></p>
<p><b>Question</b></p>	<p>A question was raised in the Chat room on Zoom if previous sessions of the Assembly or the GR/DR Orientation are recorded and able to be accessed. Answer: DR/GR Orientation with KBDM was not recorded, but the Orientation is in the groups.io files and on TN-AI-Anon.org. The Assembly and the AWSC are recorded for secretary use and deleted after the minutes are approved at the next meeting. Irene asked if recordings were saved to Archives; Tarcila responded that the minutes go into the Archives, not recordings.</p>	<p>The recordings should be available for the Secretary’s use; Irene believes they are on her computer.</p>

<b>Alateen Coordinator/Area Alateen Coordinator (TAAC, TAAPP)</b>	See Alateen Coordinator's/TAAPP report.	Report can be found at groups.io site (see cite above). No action at this time.
<b>Group Records' Coordinator</b>	Cindy W. reported there are 107 physical and 26 electronic groups, with 5 new since January. Sixty-five percent of Districts do not have a DR. She will work with Erik, Janet, & Irene to update.	Cindy will work with Janet, Irene, & Erik to update records.
<b>Question</b>	Carol M. asked how to find which groups are not in compliance with records. Cindy responded that certain data can be obtained on a report after a request is made. Carol asked how groups can connect if there are no DRs.	No immediate action at this time.
<b>The Forum</b>	Christine F. shared the Forum report.	No further action.
<b>Tn Traveler</b>	Joan, Newsletter Coordinator, asked that all Coordinator, DR, and GR reports be submitted within the next 2 weeks.	Reports to be submitted within 2 weeks of Assembly.
<b>Convention Coordinator</b>	Cindy H. reported on the proposed program for the convention (August 16-18, 2024) with five speakers, Alateen speaker, closed Alateen meetings, and entertainment. Forms can be found online. Alateen need special forms to be completed. They can be done online or by mail. There is a \$10 discount before August 1 <sup>st</sup> for registration. Zoom tickets are \$20 each. There are two hotels adjacent and another is expected to open before Convention. Fundraising methods were discussed.	Registration for convention is available onsite and online at: <a href="https://www.groups.io/g/tn-al-anon/2024-TN-Convention-Registration-Area-52-Al-Anon-Alateen-Family-Groups">2024 TN Convention – Registration   Area 52 Al-Anon / Alateen Family Groups (tn-al-anon.org)</a>
<b>Delegate Report</b>	Irene F. shared that WSC has a special appeal for funds since COVID. Membership supports program. Her report (posted on groups.io) showed that literature sales made a profit that went to general contributions. One hundred percent of groups use WSO, use CAL, app, and new Public Service announcements. One idea is to send WSO \$10 for each year of recovery. Report can be obtained on Groups IO or send email to Irene at <a href="mailto:TNdelegate64@gmail.com">TNdelegate64@gmail.com</a> .	Copies of report can be obtained on Groups IO or <a href="mailto:TNdelegate64@gmail.com">TNdelegate64@gmail.com</a>

	<p>Group Records: Staff working on workflows for an upgraded app discovered the app did not support three languages, so they had to start over.</p> <p>There will be a “Meet the Board” road trip to Columbia, SC. There is to be an update to the service manual.</p>	No action needed.
<b>Election Process Guidelines</b>	<p>Tarcila F. presented a KBDM to update the current Election Procedures. The suggested changes are found at the Area website and on groups.io.</p> <p><b>Motion #5 to accept the election procedures as modified as updated</b> was made by Janet L. (D20C); second was made by Debra T. (D12C). There were 0 nays; 0 abstentions; and 10 yeas. <b>Motion #5 carried.</b></p>	<b>Motion #5. to accept the election procedures as modified as updated carried.</b>
<b>Literature</b>	<p>Ben V., Literature Coordinator, highlighted ideas for groups to use literature, such as a lending library, displaying literature (ordered from local distribution center); newsletter additions about CAL, brainstorming, creating enthusiasm for lit. “Opening our Hearts, Transforming Our Losses” is a good source for grief of any kind. A literature center can be started using the guidelines.</p>	No action necessary.
<b>Technology</b>	<p>Erik, Technology Coordinator, shared the Tech Team/Committee is discussing how best to integrate electronic meetings. A GR orientation was completed via Zoom; Alateen recently met via Zoom. During the Convention, zoom will be offered with a \$20 registration. They will record for the main room/speakers only. There is not the equipment nor volunteers to manage breakout rooms, etc. Need volunteers to be certain people are allowed into Zoom, keep video and mute/unmute used; if chat is used, need someone to monitor that and respond.</p>	No action at this time.
<b>Al-Anon Information Service Liaison (AISL) (KADA)</b>	<p>Carol advised that the Liaison acts as a service group link between AWSC and WSO; serves for three years. A report was submitted, AISL – KADA, District 2-3 that 6 meetings are electronic, 6 hybrids, 19 in person, 1 Alateen, 5 meet at same time/venue as AA.</p>	No action needed.

<b>Caucus</b>	Alicia A. (D13) reported that currently there is no DR for the District. She asked folks to go back to groups, make the need known, and ask people to step up. In attendance, there are 3 GRs with no DR; in Zoom, there are 2. Tarcila reminded that a DR goes to AWSC meetings and helps to set the agenda for Assembly.	Requested that GRs and DRs encourage groups to elect GRs.
<b>Mixer</b>	Linda invited folks to share their experience with the mixer activity. Many chose to share their program progress.	No action needed.
<b>GR Reports</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Becca shared that about ½ of groups attend “the trailer.” They started speaker meetings every two months.</li> <li>• Barbara, Galatin, the group is happy and very supportive; they have folks on the “25-year Plan” and newcomers. Main challenge is what is expected of her; sponsors have been supportive.</li> <li>• Arlene (D12B) reported about a Women’s Focus Group-Topic Meeting: it is flourishing with 40-50 each week and about 2-3 newcomers regularly. They do an inventory meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesday about 2-3 times a year. No service positions are open.</li> <li>• Cindy informed there are 5 meetings a week with about 40-50 people each. Recovery first, willing to step out of box; always someone to ask for help.</li> <li>• Susie shared Nashville has an AA meeting at the same time; business meeting every odd month with 12-15 members. There is a Newcomers meeting as a hybrid. Inventory on 5<sup>th</sup> Thursdays. All service positions are filled.</li> <li>• Grace, Alt GR, two meetings/week; book studies: “In all our Affairs” and “How Al-Anon Works;” 8-15 members.</li> <li>• Steve (D8) said the average is 8-15 people per week with a mix of long-time and fairly new. This group is in isolation – other group is about 30 miles away. He will encourage people to get out more.</li> <li>• Gay (D12B) Western Nashville, agreed it is not easy to do hybrid meetings; however, they have blossomed in the past year; there are newcomers every week, a newcomers’ meeting seems to help retain; about 20 people each week now. They do Step and Tradition meetings; a business meeting every other month, with people submitting topics. Service positions still need to be filled.</li> </ul>	No actions necessary; reports only.

- Erik said there are 35-40 regular attendees; average 20-25 per week with about 1/3 being experienced, 1/3 have 1-5 yrs., and 1/3 are new. Several are new each month and about half stay. Need more people in service. Folks do stay after to chat.
- Kat (D5B) let the group know their area is growing. Using "Personal Freedom" workbook every other week. There will be "Al-Anon Day" in Knoxville area and other groups want to help.
- Debra T., Goodlettsville, shared they have a hybrid meeting. Newcomers 6-6:45 pm and normal meeting 7-8 pm Mondays. They do a book study; they have a monthly get-together and pot-luck dessert auction. She's been GR for about a year; it is a flourishing group.
- Janet (D20C) has been GR for 1 week; group went through a lot during COVID – some with 40+ years still online; both men and women are in the group. They have topic meetings with business meetings quarterly.
- Jack (D4) group has long timers – 15-20 years with lots of experience.
- Lorie (D12B) about 20 members; zoom after COVID is only for folks with disabilities, about 8-10 members.
- Wendy's group meets 3/week at noon- same time as AA. Speaker meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> Monday; topic meeting the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday. Lots of newcomers. Do a new comer meeting with "Paths to Recovery" and other. All leadership positions are filled. They are close and care about each other.
- Belinda could not report due to poor Zoom internet connection.
- Carolyn S, reports they have a hybrid meeting, having trouble growing; only occasional newcomer. They moved districts since was no rep.; asks how do differently to grow; became a sponsor to two; helps to focus on recovery program.
- Patsy (D5B) would like to know more about taking inventory. Lori B responded with her email address: [LoriBS58@icould.com](mailto:LoriBS58@icould.com)
- Question was asked of Arlene what is used to take inventory on 5<sup>th</sup> weeks? She responded they use information WSO has.
- Susie (D12B) shared they use WSO "Taking Group Inventory," #GA8AB. Talk out at business meeting.
- Linda M. shared they have a step meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> wk. is a Tradition meeting; 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> weeks is open; chair assigns a topic or one of choice, 5<sup>th</sup> Sat is a speaker. Business meetings do group inventory, Celebrate Lois' birthday and watched "Lois' Story."

	<p>The group has 2 Forum subscriptions. Dist. 9 voted to use funds for another Forum subscription so they have extras, talk about Forum during meetings and give newcomers a copy.</p>	
<p><b>Spiritual Sharing</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loring T. (D5A) shared “When I Got Busy, I Got Better.” Together accomplish what cannot accomplish individually. As understanding Tradition 1, behavior effects group and individual. Learned to listen more, different attitude. Always better when everyone contributes. So grateful for Tradition 1 and different than when first came in, Higher Power, different choices. Personal contribution to the common welfare was to show up at meetings. Had an internal shift.</li> <li>• Ben V. shared about reasons to go to meetings: 1) a need to go; 2) go when he doesn’t think he needs to go. Sometimes, it’s not for himself but for the common welfare; always glad when he goes to a meeting.</li> <li>• Carol M. indicated that Traditions help her to apply principles to family. She practices in Al-Anon Family group-her chosen family. Have to give away in order to keep. Without program, not as happy and serene.</li> <li>• Tarcila noted she felt cynical about “After a while... love us as we already love you.” Realized service is an active form of love: set up, tear down, etc. Al-Anon gave ability to open mind, see signs of love, look at beautiful things.</li> <li>• Gay shared it took a while to understand how much power/grace is in the room. Could feel folks caring about her after 2-3 meetings. She is grateful and content about her group.</li> <li>• Ken talked about “Let it Begin with Me.” Just by walking in, newcomers might not know at first. “Don’t know what you don’t know until you know it.” Get in the middle of the herd.</li> <li>• Alicia A. referred back to the mixer. Began recovery at 44 years. In Al-anon group loved her when she could not love herself. She felt seen/heard/valued; belonged to something; unity. Al-Anon saved my life; she is grateful she is able to serve.</li> </ul>	<p>No further action.</p>
<p><b>“Ask It Basket” Experience/ Strength/Hope</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The questions are related to issues not found in the service manual. “Can a short excerpt from the Big Book be used if not used to chair the meeting?” The team determined that the AA Big Book is not Conference Approved Literature (CAL) (page</li> </ul>	<p>No further action needed.</p>

	63 in the Current Service Manual). Groups are free to use CAL. Al-Anon supports AA, but do not use their materials.	
<b>GR Group Concerns</b>	<p>Tarcila, Chairperson, reminded that the ESH (Experience, Strength, and Hope) box is for members who would like the ESH of other members about a concern. Questions can be submitted anonymously.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Question was to explain “cross talk” and how it can be avoided in meetings.</li> <li>• There was a question about strategies/protocol for business meetings.</li> </ul>	Comments only; no action.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 4:56 PM with the Serenity Prayer. The 2024 Fall AWSC will be held on September 14-15, 2024; the 2024 Fall Assembly will be held on November 2-3, 2024 in Lebanon, Tennessee.

Respectfully submitted,

Marian P., Secretary

DRAFT