

THE 2022 VIRGINIA AREA AL-ANON SPRING ASSEMBLY
MINUTES
May 14-15, 2022
Hybrid Meeting (In-Person DoubleTree, Midlothian VA and WebEx)

“Enhancing Our Recovery through Abundance, Unity and Understanding”

S A T U R D A Y, May 14, 1:00 PM

GENERAL SESSION

- Debbie P., Area Chair, reminded everyone of covid comfort dots; red – love you at a distance, yellow - fist bumps, green - hugs welcome.
- Opened the meeting with the Serenity Prayer,
- Debbie P. read the Area Assembly Purpose, 2022-2025 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual, Pg 67.
- Hybrid – special thanks to all who put this together. WebEx reminders: keep muted, use raise hand feature.
- Documents/Reports on Area website (<https://www.vaalanon.org/assembly-0>)
- Open position – Public Outreach. We are here to pass message and need person to serve.
- Please read the motion and policy for Transforming Electronic Groups documents before discussion today.
- Shout out to NoVA Service Center for literature sales.
- Area update: 1st hybrid Assembly; creation of Transforming Electronic Groups Policy, DR 101 Training (posted to Area website), GR 101 Training (posted to Area website), Area Convention August 12-14, 2022.
- Fun Facts: 110 face-to-face, 46 hybrid, 104 virtual, 11 beginners, 1 Alateen virtual, 9 Alateen face-to-face. 25 Districts, 244 active registered groups, 260 meetings. District 16 has the most registered meetings - 18. VA Al-Anon started in 1952. The Central AFG in Roanoke, VA is the longest standing meeting.
- The 12 Steps, 12 Traditions, and 12 Concepts were read by Patty M., Sheffi S., and Cheryl L., respectively.
- Introduction of new groups – We have registered 8 new groups since the Fall 2021 Assembly
- Introduction of Past Delegates and Visitors – Duane F., Don F. and Terry W. past Delegates and our spiritual speaker, Tarcila F., Panel 55 Delegate from Tennessee.
- Debbie P. introduced the Area Officers, Liaisons, Coordinators and Service Center Chairs. Pictures of each were shared on the big screen.

FALL 2021 REPORT / REGISTRATION REPORT (Sue V.) Report posted on Area website.

Sue talked about in-person room set up and showed the room to virtual attendees. 151 registered, 91 in person 59 virtual. Thanked all those who jumped in to help. Remember to do evaluation and use the “ask it basket.”

DR AND GR ROLL CALL (Deb T.)

Attendance was taken using the list of those registered, both in-person and virtual attendees with a verbal response. As each attendee confirmed their attendance, they stated if they were voting.

APPROVAL OF 2021 FALL ASSEMBLY MINUTES (Deb T.) Minutes posted on Area website

MOTION:

That the 2021 Fall Assembly Minutes be approved as written.

Made by: Sarah H., Bull Run District 5

Second by: Romy B., Fairfax District 8

Motion Passed: Standing voice – majority approved; 0 abstain, 0 opposed; Virtual – 43 approved, 0 opposed, 0 abstained.

AREA DELEGATE’S REPORT (Stacy L.) Report posted on Area website

- Stacy L. brought love gifts to give away.
- New 2022-2025 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual and Groups At Work are available online. Vertical lines in outer margins indicate where changes have been made.
- Buying from external sources (e.g., Amazon) doesn’t support Al-Anon.

Q & A (answered by Stacy L.)

- Don F. – explain the team concept with road trip events. One day event where you can meet board members, trustees, Executive Committee, etc. and hear a presentation from them. VA is looking to get on the schedule to have a road trip.
- Terry W. – is interested in the Diversity Thought Force, can you say a word or two about it? Stacy will address tomorrow, has a lot of information to go through.
- Wendy R. – What were some of the other Thought Forces? Over 50, had to choose 18. A lot were about allowing AA to service in Al-Anon. One was about teaching older people to use a computer.
- Social networking v social media? In service manual, social networking was changed to social media to make it more relevant to 2022. (e.g., use of Facebook.)
- Stephanie – Is Stepping Stones run by WSO? Run by Stepping Stones Foundation. Accepts donation. Upcoming virtual and in-person picnic.
- Charlene R. – reason for delay in Alateen bookmark was paper shortage, is that the reason for other literature shortages? Yes, more becoming available, can check online.

APPROVAL OF TREASURER’S REPORT FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2022 (Laura L.) Report posted on Area website.

MOTION: That the Treasurer’s report, as of March 31, 2022, be approved as written.

Made by: Rick A., Richmond North District 20

Second by: Patty M., AAPP

Motion Passed: Standing voice vote – majority approved, 0 abstained, 0 opposed; Virtual - 43 approved, 0 opposed, 0 abstained.

COORDINATOR AND LIAISON REPORTS

- Public Outreach - Vacant
- Literature / The Forum – Ann S. Report posted to Area website.

- Group Records – Cheryl L. Report posted to Area website.
- Communications – Becky B. Report posted to Area website. Recordings are for verification of minutes only. If permission granted, spiritual speakers are recorded and posted to the Area website.
- AAPP – Patty M. Report posted to Area website. Alateen group changes go to Patty.
- Alateen – Lisa R. Report posted to Area website. Planning to do a virtual AMIAS training.
- Archives – Margaret R. A table with archived material was set up showing 60 yrs of VA Assembly.
- Area Convention – Val P. Report posted to Area website. Val presented a slide show of 10 reasons to go to Convention.
- Website – Bruce B. Report posted to Area website. Needs volunteers to help with looking at new software for creating website.

DR HIGHLIGHTS – 1ST 13 - Reports posted on Area website, except for Districts 6 Central Valley and 17 Piedmont. All provided oral reports.

VOTING ITEMS AND DISCUSSION

Transforming Electronic Groups Policy (posted to Area website)

All questions were answered by Terry W., Task Force Committee Chair

- Gail K. – asked for a recap of the motion.
- Lee S. – questioned how to protect anonymity for those joining virtual meetings. We take a leap of faith. Policy doesn't address anonymity.
- Sharon – the committee was to create a policy for virtual meetings to be represented in Area? The VAWSC voted to create task force to develop policy for VA Area to accept electronic meetings that petition to join or leave VA Area. Sharon – if groups in district are now virtual permanently, does it change status? Yes, virtual groups must register with WSO and cease to be a part of VA area, would then have to petition to rejoin VA Area.
- Jill D – once electronic group petitions to be a part of VA and a certain District would they apply to District along with the Area? No apply to VA Area asking to be a part of District and if approved by the Area, the District would decide whether they could join. Jill – if district votes not to accept what happens? If a District says no, Area will assist with seeing if another District would accommodate them. Jill - if District grows too large, it may become unmanageable. The same thing could happen if new in-person groups started.
- Elizabeth – Are there changes to hybrid meetings? The last page of the Policy addresses hybrid.

SUNDAY, May 15

GENERAL SESSION

- Debbie P. opened the second day of Assembly with the Serenity Prayer
- Our spiritual speaker, Tarcila F., Panel 55 Delegate from Tennessee, was introduced by Duane F. Tarcila's talk will be available on vaalanon.org after the Assembly.

GR ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken using the list of registered both in-person and virtual. Debbie P. asked if there was consensus to move forward with the vote on Transforming Electronic Groups Policy. Standing voice - majority approved; Virtual – majority approved.

VAWSC VOTING ITEMS

TRANSFORMING ELECTRONIC GROUPS POLICY:

MOTION: The VAWSC recommends that the VA Area 2022 Spring Assembly approve the Policy prepared by the Transforming Electronic Groups to AFGs Task Force for admitting petitioning Electronic Groups into the Virginia Area.

Made by: Terry Woodside, Chairperson, Transforming Electronic Groups to AFGs

Seconded by: Cheryl L., Group Records Coordinator

Motion Passed: Standing vote – 55 approved, 1 opposed, 0 abstained. Virtual vote – 42 approved, 0 opposed, 0 abstained.

MOTION TO DISMISS TASK FORCE:

MOTION: The Transforming Electronic Groups to AFGs Task Force has completed its charge to develop a Policy for the VA Area to accommodate the transformation of Electronic Groups to AI-Anon Family Groups, beginning sometime in 2022, in accordance with World Service Conference guidance. The Virginia Area now dismisses the Task Force, with thanks.

Made by: Debbie P., VA Area Chairperson

Seconded by: Janice Grimm, Piedmont District 17

Motion passed: Standing vote – majority approved, 0 opposed, 0 abstained. Virtual vote - 39 approved, 0 opposed, 0 abstained.

COORDINATOR AND LIAISON REPORTS cont'd

- Northern Virginia Service Center – Lisa R. Report posted to Area website.
- Tidewater Service Center – Sean M. Report posted to Area website.
- LRPC – Terry W. – Report posted to Area website. The following questions were answered by Terry W. unless otherwise noted.
 - Diane Arlington – do the technical people you're looking for have to be AI-Anon members? Bruce – anyone in the fellowship can help.
 - Maureen M. – Will groups have to re-register because of the new policy? No, unless you want to change your group's status. Get with the Group Records Coordinator with any changes.
 - Anissa M. – what is the definition of hybrid? The policy doesn't define hybrid, there are variations. Get with DR to make sure group status is accurately recorded.
 - Cheryl L. (comment) – if a new electronic meeting registers will they be placed in the GEA? You will be asked Area/District you want to be connected to. Virtual and in-person meet at same time but do not conjoin, virtual meeting will need to register as separate meeting under new policy.
 - Hybrid group in-person and zoom, there is talk of separating but share officers, can they do that? If the meetings separate, the virtual will become separate group and will need to register as an electronic group.
- MEAC – Wendy R. – Registration for MEAC is out, July 29-31, 2022 at Camp Alta Mons. Deadline for registration is June 24 registration, \$100. Teens need permission slip notarized.

- ESAC – Wendy R. – ESAC will not take place this year.

Workshop Sessions Report Back

Members of each workshop, Encouraging Service and Conference Approved Literature, gave a summary of what took place at the workshop.

ASSEMBLY EVALUATIONS (Sue V.)

- Thanks to hotel staff and Encore.
- 21 have already filled evaluations. Please fill out the evaluation.

DR HIGHLIGHTS – 2ND 13 - Reports posted on Area website, except for District 19 Rappahannock. All provided oral reports.

AREA DELEGATE'S REPORT cont'd (Stacy L.)

Diversity thought force – alcoholism does not discriminate. How to attract more diverse populations. More info will be provided at the Fall Assembly.

Questions and Comments

- Where'd Stacy get her earrings? She made them and hopes to make some for the 2022 Convention.
- When will new daily reader be available? At the AI-Anon International Convention in 2023.
- Copies of 2022-2025 AI-Anon/Alateen Groups At Work are available. Copies of the 2022-2025 AI-Anon/Alateen Service Manual should be available in late summer.
- Some groups can't use WebEx or Zoom due to their operating systems, will we continue to use WebEx or Zoom? Becky B. stated we're keeping WebEx. WebEx can be accessed using a browser.
- Is spiritual speaker talk available and is it downloadable? The audio recording will be posted to the Area website, but it is not downloadable.
- Can you elaborate on the responsibilities of the Public Outreach position? The job description is on the Area website.
- On the Area website, can there be a notation of new information posted, rather than look through whole list? Bruce answered Yes.

CLOSING REMARKS (Debbie P.)

Raffle – Sue V. An online wheel was created with the names of all attendees. Two AI-Anon books were raffled. 1st winner - Mark F.; 2nd winner - Diane E.

Final reminders

- Evaluations
- Encourage service
- Step 12
- Upcoming dates (below)

Debbie P. offered many thanks to those who put together the Assembly and those who attended.

Closing with the serenity prayer – We stood in a circle and said the serenity prayer, then turned around and said it again representing those who've yet to walk through the doors.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Teer
Panel 62 Area Secretary

Let it Begin with Me.....

When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, let the hand of Al-Anon and Alateen always be there, and let it begin with me.

Upcoming Dates: 2022-2023

2022		
June 4	Area Officer's Meeting	WebEx
August 6	VAWSC	WebEx
August 12-14	Area Convention	Charlottesville, VA
October 14-16	Fall Assembly	(Format TBD)
2023		
January 14	Officer's Meeting	WebEx
March 4	VAWSC	WebEx
April 20-23	WSC	Virginia Beach, VA
May 19-21	Spring Assembly	(Format TBD)
June 10	Officer's Meeting	WebEx
June 29-July 2	International Convention	Albuquerque, NM
August 5	VAWSC	WebEx
October 13-15	Fall Assembly	(Format TBD)