

East Texas Al-Anon/Alateen Assembly (ETAAA)

Area World Service Committee (AWSC)

September 12, 2020

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Chairperson: Lynn S. opened the meeting at 9:20 am. Paula H. led the Serenity Prayer.

Welcome and Introductions: Lynn S. read the primary function of the AWSC on p. 155 of the *2018-2021 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual*.

Reading of the Concepts of Service and General Warranties of the Conference: Ginny M. read the Twelve Concepts of Service and General Warranties on p. 17 of the *2018-2021 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual*.

Secretary: Paula H. called the roll, and 23 out of 28 voting members were present. The following Coordinator was not in attendance: Spanish. The following Districts had no representatives in attendance: District 9 and District 12. The following Al-Anon Information Services (AISs) had no representatives in attendance: Austin and Houston Hispanic.

The minutes of the February 1, 2020 AWSC meeting were approved as printed in *The Beacon* (Volume 52, Issue 2).

Treasurer: Jennifer S. presented the current Financial Report and the ETAAA 2021 proposed budget. Contributions to the Area are down; expenses are also down due to diminished travel. No seed money has been returned from the Spring 2020 Assembly that was cancelled.

The ample reserve was at \$21,288.61, but because of a past motion, the Area's ample reserve was set at \$20,000. \$1288.61 was transferred to the Area checking account; the current balance of the checking account is \$33,049.01, and the current ample reserve is \$20,007.63.

Regarding the 2021 budget, contributions and income were not changed. The expenses for the Archivist increased because after elections in November 2020, the new Archivist will have to change storage facilities for the archives. The web hosting fee decreased for the 2021 budget, and the Delegate's expense to attend the South Central Regional Delegates' Meeting (SCRDM) decreased since the 2021 meeting is in Louisiana, which is closer to the Texas East Area.

A new motion will need to be made and approved at the Area Assembly in November for the AWSC Transitional Meeting. A motion \$3000 that be used for the last AWSC Transitional Meeting was only for the 2018 AWSC Transitional Meeting.

Lynn S. asked the Officers and Coordinators to check their individual budgets and contact Jennifer S. with their requests for the 2021 budget. The budget will be presented to the AWSC in November prior to the Area Assembly.

There was a break at 10:25 am; the meeting resumed at 10:45 am with the Serenity Prayer.

Delegate Report: Kay C.'s full report is posted on the Texas East Area website.

The 2021 World Service Conference (WSC) will be held April 12-16, 2021, at the Westchester Marriott in Tarrytown, New York. The theme of the conference is “Moving Forward with Unity, Courage, and Perseverance.” Attendees will visit Stepping Stones at the close of the conference.

Although contributions have increased to the World Service Office (WSO), WSO is operating at an estimated deficit of \$420,000, and it is possible that the ample reserve will have to be used to make up for the shortfall. Since this year’s WSC was held virtually, WSO decided to refund the Delegate’s Equalized Expense. A suggestion was made to apply \$1517.35 to the Delegate’s Equalized Expense for 2021. Also, Kay has a flight credit of \$590.20 that cannot be used for WSO business, and WSO has asked Texas East Area to determine how to use this flight credit. Kay asked that this be put on the agenda to be discussed at the Area Assembly in November 2020.

Kay has visited 66% of Districts in Texas East and is planning on attending more. She asked that District Representatives consider inviting her to their meetings.

Currently, Kay has a Pro Zoom account for \$15.00 a month that is being paid from the Delegate’s budget. If the Area would like to continue to use a virtual account, it will need to be decided by the Group Representatives (GRs) at the November 2020 Assembly, as the account will be funded through the Area.

Kay shared feedback on the California North workshop on Unifying Rural and Large Geographical Areas. Both Unifying Rural and Large Geographical Area and a Cloud Based Filing System will be discussed under New Business.

Alternate Delegate: Mattie T. has a full report on the Texas East Area website. There is a position open at WSO for magazine editor; resumes and cover letters can be emailed to HumanRes@al-anon.org.

The new daily reader is being proofread; at this time no further sharings are needed. Members are encouraged to share on the Members’ Blog and submit sharings to the CAL Corner. WSO has reduced the shipping cost for literature orders to \$5. Mattie will write an updated report and send it to Dorie J. for publication on the Texas East Area website.

Reports:

1. Spring Assembly 2020 – Georgia M., Alternate District Representative, District 5, presented a financial report. \$3,069.30 will be reimbursed to the Area. The hotel will refund the deposit money. The \$497.01 that was allocated for the speaker will be returned. The Assembly report is on file.
2. Fall Assembly 2020 – Allyn D. received \$3500 seed money for the Assembly. There has been \$500 raised and this money and probably all of the seed money can be returned to the Area. The supplies that were donated can be passed along to the next host District for the Spring 2021 Assembly.

In July District 7 held a Thought Force on whether to hold the Assembly in person or virtually. Due to hotel restrictions, the necessary services to provide a face to face

Assembly will not be present. The District 7 Thought Force's suggestion was to hold the Assembly virtually. This will be discussed under New Business.

3. Spring Assembly 2021 – DebiSu Y., Chairperson from District 9, was not present and there is no report on the Texas East Area website.
4. Area Excess Operating Fund Task Force – Jennifer S. reported that since there is such a short period of time left in the current term, the current Task Force does not wish to continue. The Task Force has been disbanded for now

Break for lunch at 12:05 pm. Meeting resumed at 12:35 pm.

Discussion Items Posted on the Texas East Area Website:

1. ETAAA Guidelines and Behavioral Agreement – Jayne G. reported that item #13 on both sides of the guidelines is also no longer valid, as the Texas law was changed to the age of 21. On the Sponsor or Parent and Alateen Behavioral Agreement, item #3 states: “The use of cigarettes or tobacco products is prohibited by minor Alateens.” A suggestion was made to change the word “minor” to “legal age”. Lynn S. suggested posting the ETAAA Guidelines and Behavioral Agreement in a general area of the Texas East Area website and in *The Beacon*.
2. Knowledge Based Decision Making (KBDM) Spanish Translation – The document stated that the purpose of the KBDM discussion item was as follows: “To have the Area budget reports and proposed budget to be available in Spanish as well as English at all Assemblies and to have *The Beacon* translated into Spanish and posted on the Area website.” Input was given by participants of the AWSC, who answered the KBDM questions. Lynn asked the District Representatives (DRs) to take the KBDM questions to their Groups to discuss and asked that the results of the discussions be presented to the AWSC.
3. Cloud Based Filing System – Kay C. stated as part of her Delegate's Report the following: “Currently, Officers, Coordinators, and Liaisons keep individual records and are the caretakers of all past records for their positions. Many other Area and Regional groups currently keep their records in a cloud-based system and have no issue. In considering the transition of Officers, Coordinators, and Liaisons on January 1, 2021, it is requested that the AWSC members respond to the following KBDM questions concerning using a cloud-based document storage system so that we can have an informed discussion.” After much discussion by the AWSC, it was determined that the discussion had been a Thought Force using the KBDM questions. Lynn asked that the Thought Force be moved to a Task Force for a Cloud Based Filing System. Dorie created a poll vote regarding if the AWSC wanted to move forward with a Task Force. The majority were in favor; 18 voted Yes, one voted No, and three abstained. Lynn will appoint a Task Force to present recommendations to the AWSC at a future date.

Break at 2:10 pm. Meeting resumed at 2:22 pm.

4. Unifying Rural and Large Geographical Areas – Kay C.’s full report on this topic is on the Texas East Area website. There was discussion about presenting this virtually to the Area at the Fall 2020 Assembly and to the AWSC. After the discussion, a poll vote was taken on the following question: Does the AWSC want Kay to present a workshop on unifying rural and large geographical areas outside of the Area assembly? The vote passed with 19 voting Yes, two voting No, and two Abstaining. The time and date of the presentation will be determined.
5. Zoom Account – Delegate’s use to continue the use of this account by the Area – Kay C. is willing to do a presentation on the Area purchasing a Zoom account for Area use. After much discussion, a poll vote was taken on the following: A consensus was taken to ask the GRs if they would like a Zoom account for the Area, and if so, would they like for it to be added as a line item to the budget yearly? The vote passed with 20 voting Yes, 0 No, and 0 Abstentions.

Area Coordinator Reports Posted on the Texas East Website

The following reports are posted on the Texas East Website: Area Alateen Coordinator, Area Alateen Process Person, *The Beacon* Editor, Group Records Coordinator, Public Outreach Coordinator, Spanish Coordinator, and Website Coordinator. There was some information that was given during the AWSC meeting that was not in the website reports. The Area Alateen Coordinator, Jayne G., will forward this information to the DRs and AIS Liaisons. The Area Alateen Process Person, Brenda H., mentioned that a change was made in the fees for the background checks for Al-Anon Members Involved in Alateen Service (AMIASs). If a person has no misdemeanor or felony charges, the background check fee will be the same. However, if the person has charges, the fee has been raised \$4 over the original fee. *The Beacon* editor asked members to renew their paper/email subscriptions before December 31, 2020. The subscription form is on the back of *The Beacon*; the form and the fee need to be mailed to the address given on the form. Reports are on file.

Deadline for submitting articles to the Fall issue of *The Beacon* is September 25, 2020.

DR Reports Posted on the Texas East Website

The following reports are posted on the Texas East Website: Districts 5, 6, 7, 8, and 13. The following reports were given orally: Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 10, and 12. Reports are on file.

AIS Reports Posted on the Texas East Website

The following reports are posted on the Texas East Website: Austin AIS, Houston AIS, Beaumont AIS, and San Antonio AIS. Reports are on file.

Unfinished Business

1. Area Excess Operating Funds Task Force – Jennifer S. covered this in her report. (See #4 under “Reports”.)

2. Assembly Host Committee Guidelines Review – Lynn S. reported that review of the guidelines is still in process. Members of the committee are the six DRs from Panel 58 that have hosted the assemblies during this panel.
3. Policy and Procedures Handbook – Mattie T. reported that the Policies and Procedures committee has been disbanded and recommended that a new committee be appointed on the next panel.

New Business

1. ETAAA Proposed Budget for 2021 – There was a question on the \$3000 for the Transition Meeting. After much discussion, it was decided that the \$3000 be removed from the budget for the Transition Meeting and to leave that line item for the meeting blank. The GRs will decide on an amount for the 2021 Transition Meeting at the November 2020 Assembly.
2. Appointing a Task Force for Area Meeting List Publishing Policy – Lynn S. will appoint a Task Force.
3. Minority Opinion Letter of April 8, 2020 – There was disagreement with how the May 2020 Assembly was cancelled. The GRs have the ultimate authority and might have had different ideas on how to hold the assembly; they were not consulted. It was mentioned that the Concepts need to be followed.
4. 2020 Fall Assembly – Only three AWSC members indicated that they were willing to attend an in person Assembly. There was much discussion on whether to hold the assembly virtually or in person. Based on the discussion and facts presented from District 7, the Host District for the November 2020 Assembly, Lynn S. asked for a consensus from the AWSC for the Assembly to be held virtually. Seventeen voted for the Assembly to be held virtually. Then Lynn asked for a consensus of the DRs to take the AWSC's recommendation to the GRs for their feedback/input by Wednesday, September 16. Seventeen voted for the DRs to take the AWSC's recommendation to the GRs for holding a virtual Assembly.

Meeting closed at 5:10 pm with the Serenity Prayer and the Al-Anon Declaration.

Paula H.

Texas East Area Secretary