

**East Texas Al-Anon/Alateen Assembly (ETAAA)
Area World Service Committee (AWSC) January 29, 2022
Dobbin Community Center - Dobbin, TX**

Chairperson – Paula H. opened the meeting at 10:05 am with the Serenity Prayer.

Welcome and Introductions: Paula H. thanked District 7 and Allyn D., District Representative (DR), for hosting. She also expressed her appreciation for all the love and support during her recent illness. Lisa W. was introduced as the new DR for District 2 replacing Ginny M. Peggy T. has resigned as Group Records Coordinator effective today, January 29. She will continue as DR for District 5. Laura B. is interested in the position.

Reading of the Traditions and Concepts of Service and General Warranties of the Conference from 2018-2021 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual (Vol. 2): Attendees read the Twelve Traditions, the Twelve Concepts of Service and General Warranties of the Conference, pp. 15 -18. Paula H. shared etiquette for the meeting:

Secretary: Mandy T. was unable to attend due to family illness. Joyce Y., acting Secretary, called the roll and 22 of 29 voting members were present. For voting procedures, it was determined that 15 was 2/3 and 12 was a majority. The group voted to use 2/3 for voting. Voting members absent were Area Secretary, District 1 DR, District 3 DR, District 10 DR, Houston Hispanic AIS Liaison, and San Antonio AIS Liaison.

Delegate's Sharing: Mattie T. shared that the non-Panel Area Assembly elected a Delegate on January 22, 2022. She reviewed the necessary steps and process for the non-Panel Area to join the World Service Conference (WSC) structure by a motion by the Conference Chairperson to the Conference for admission. Members of the 2022 WSC will vote on the motion the first morning of the WSC. Following approval by the WSC to admit the Area into the WSC Structure, the new Panel 62 Delegate will become a voting member of the 2022 WSC..

The 62nd WSC will be held April 25 – May 1, 2022 at the Westchester Marriott, 670 White Plains Rd, Tarrytown, New York 10591. All Conference members will visit Stepping Stones and attend an open Policy meeting.

It is time to solicit candidates for the South Central Regional Trustee Position. Duties, qualifications and resume can be found at <https://al-anon.org/for-members/board-of-trustees/wso-volunteers/board-of-trustees/board-of-trustee-application/>. The application is due August 15, 2022. However, candidate from our Area must be approved by the East Texas Area Assembly at May 2022 Assembly prior to this August 15 deadline.

The *2022-2025 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual* version one (1) [P-24/27] will be available electronically in English, French, and Spanish at al-anon.org this spring. Updates to the *Service Manual* will be noted with the use of vertical lines in the outer margins. Printed version will follow in late summer.

Mattie briefly reviewed the highlights of the 2021 Membership Survey taken June-July 2021. Responses from a record-breaking 16,486 Al-Anon members have been tallied.

Save the date for 2023 Al-Anon's International Convention with A.A. Participation – June 29 – July 2, 2023 in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Paula H. stated any groups or districts who would like to send funds to Mattie to help defray her expense costs to please send to her home address and not the hotel.

Approval of Consent Agenda: Lynn B. requested that the Archives report be pulled from the Consent Agenda and placed under **Other Business. Motion was made by Margaret F. to approve Consent Agenda, Seconded by DebiSu Y. For 21. Against and Abstain– 0. Motion passed.**

Assembly Reports:

Fall Assembly 2021 - November 12-13, 2021 – Lynn S. – The theme was “**Removing Our Masks**” and was held at the Holiday Inn & Convention Center of San Marcos. Rooms blocked were 35. Attendance was 161.132 lunches were sold. Cost of registration was Al-Anon, AA \$30, Alateen \$5. \$3500 seed money and excess has been submitted to Area Treasurer. There were 72 GRs present. Total Attendee Al-Anon Years was 2052.

Spring Assembly 2022 - May 13-15, 2022 – Lisa W. – The theme will be “**Recovery Through Unity**” and will be held at the Holiday Inn Downtown Marina in Corpus Christi. Rooms are \$128 per night with cutoff date of April 21, 2022. (60 rooms each for Friday and Saturday nights have been booked). There is no charge for meeting rooms if 70% of the total room block or 85 total room nights is met. Venmo Pay Option: @MayAssembly-2022. (*If you pay by Venmo, please mail in registration form.*) Sarah S., WSO Director of Programs, will be our speaker and/or lead a workshop.

Fall 2022 - November 4-6, 2022 – Margaret F. – “Save Our Serenity” – The Assembly will be at Lake Jackson Civic Center in Lake Jackson.

There are two Hotels: Comfort Suite \$90/night for king or two doubles (*November 1 cutoff*) and Best Western \$109/night (*October 4 cutoff*). Registration is Al-Anon/AA \$30, Alateen \$5. The luncheon is a TexMex Buffet for \$20. The speaker is Dee L., ETAAA Past Delegate.

Workshops will be given by Diane B., South Central Regional Trustee, and another by District 3.

Spring 2023 – District 6 – Planning in progress

Business - Discussion/Voting:

Cloud Based Storage Task Force – Natanya A.: Kay C., Kurt N., and Jessica P. served on the Task Force. Their charge was to find a cloud-based storage provider specifically for the Area World Service Committee (AWSC) and to create guidelines for use of that storage system. The Task Force came up with a Charter to show who is responsible for the task. The Task Force sees a third step, which is the need for new role to support this system outside the Website Coordinator role. The Task Force recommends the use of Microsoft One-Drive. It is common web browser, user friendly, secure, and easy to administer/manage. Users do not have to have Microsoft application to access. File sharing is free for up to 300 people. It is recommended that an Information Steward be responsible for setup of working guidelines and explanation of info. Discussion followed. **Motion #1 - I, Natanya A., move that the AWSC adopt Microsoft One-Drive as our cloud-based storage platform on a five (5) year trial basis. Seconded by Peggy T. For 22, Against and abstain 0. Passed unanimously.**

Motion #2 – I, Jessica P., move to accept the Charter from the Cloud-based Storage Task Force for a five (5) year trial basis. Seconded by Allyn D. For 21. Against and abstain 0. Motion passed.

Motion #3 – I, DebiSu Y., move that the AWSC create a new support position with the title Information Steward to execute the Charter for the Cloud-based Storage System on a five

(5) year trial basis. Seconded by Anna A. For 22, Against and abstain 0. Motion passed unanimously.

The Cloud Based Storage Task Force is now disbanded.

Electronic Meetings Work Group Update – Peggy T. - 101 responded to the Electronic Meeting Work Group's E-mail Survey to members regarding participation of Al-Anon Family Groups Which Meet Electronically (AFGWME) in the Texas East Service Structure. 89 (88.1%) agreed with policy, 12 (11.9%) did not agree. Peggy reviewed the Proposed Policy for consideration by Group Representatives (GR). Based on some input from the survey, it now includes that group have and will maintain a physical Current Mailing Address (CMA) in the Texas East Area AND they are willing to send a Group Representative (GR) to the Texas East Assemblies and the meetings of the district assigned. It also includes procedure for District assignments and how to request change from virtual area to Texas East Area. If AFGWME does not have a CMA in Texas East Area, their participation in our service structure will require explicit approval by our area based on the group's circumstances.

Audit Committee – Joyce Y. – Margaret F., Lynn B. Audit of ETAAA Treasurer's accounting records for 2018, 2019, and 2020 has been completed and no discrepancies found. We recommend a yearly audit be performed immediately following close of previous year's books and before Tax Reports are filed. The audit for 2021 books will be completed after this AWSC meeting. Additional recommendations are to change report format for Unallocated Funds, Miscellaneous Income and Expenses on separate line items, and add "Date Submitted" on reimbursement form. We recommend written accountable procedure for reimbursement be provided for consistency in reporting and reimbursement. Discussion followed. **Motion #4 – I, Mattie T., move that the ETAAA Financial Audit be performed at the end of each fiscal year and before tax forms are filed annually. Seconded by Lynn S. For 22, passed unanimously.**

Area Group Records Coordinator Vacancy – Laura B. has volunteered to be temporary Area Group Records Coordinator. Paula appointed Laura, with AWSC approval, as interim Area Groups Record Coordinator until she or someone else can be elected at the May 2022 Assembly.

Policies and Procedures/Guidelines – Judy P. – Rosie M., Lynn S., Dee L.. Judy reviewed the differences between policies, procedures, and guidelines. The Committee suggests this be a handbook which includes Policies, Procedures, and Guidelines based on traditions, motions, job descriptions and shared experience. After discussion, the AWSC agreed, and the Committee will move forward.

How Area Assigns Groups in Districts – Peggy T. – District 5 has 104 groups with 133 meetings with small participation at district meetings and assemblies. She outlined history of 2017 Task Force progress in division of District 5 and the successful move of several groups from District 5 to District 4 and District 7. Due to District and Area changes with elections, the remaining District 5 process was not completed. District 5 GRs recently voted to have "family discussions/conversations" to discuss how this division of District 5 into several smaller districts might be accomplished and to encourage more participation and service. District 5 wants to remain transparent with the AWSC and Area through this transition. It could also serve as a learning opportunity for other districts to review their group and areas serviced for possible split.

Other Business:

Archives: Lynn B. – The Area’s copy of “Motorcycle Hobo” manuscript is missing from the Archives display at the November Assembly. As a result, this has brought up some concerns about ways to safely display our Archives at events. During discussion, suggestions offered were: unique items displayed in locked cabinets, have Archives in a separate room which can be locked, have someone stay with the display at all times.

Presentation: Unifying Large Rural Area Workshop – Kay C. – This survey was compiled by a Task Force during Kay’s term as Delegate. Kay asked AWSC attendees to divide up into groups. Each member had 3 minutes to complete the survey, then 10 minutes to discuss within their group strategies to implement the survey, and each group to share one strategy. Strategies given included use of multi-modes of communication through social media with link to survey, use of Survey Monkey, visit groups in person at group location or multi-groups at one location. Kay is asking DRs to provide to GRs to as their group to discuss and collectively answer, return the completed survey to DR for compilation for return at the fall stand-alone AWSC.

Next *Beacon* deadline is April 1.

Meeting adjourned with the Al-Anon/Alateen Declaration.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Y., acting Secretary