

If not make sure you get a copy of the recommendations from the Secretary. This is the most important part of the Assembly as this is where the GR's will vote on the AWSC recommendations.

SUNDAY

THE AWSC MEETING

AWSC stands for Area World Service Committee, and this meeting is attended only by the Area Officers, Area Coordinators, DR's * and past Delegates. This is a business meeting where issues are discussed prior to the Assembly meeting with the goal of forming a suitable recommendation to make to the Assembly. (*An alternate DR is the only person who can attend the AWSC in place of a DR).

Specific meeting rooms may change from time to time, so check when you arrive at the hotel.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Saturday

8:00 am **Sharing Meeting**
9:30 am **GR/DR/Coordinator Mtgs.**
11:00 am **Public Outreach; Alateen
Committee Mtgs.;**
Workshops
12:00 pm **Lunch**
1:30 pm **Area 33 Assembly**

Sunday

8:30 am **AWSC Assembly**

- * Although this is a business weekend it's fun to get out of the house and spend some time with Al-Anon friends. Don't feel guilty.
- * Don't stay up too late. Monday morning comes early after an Assembly weekend.
- * Business usually lasts until about 5:00 pm on Saturday.
- * Our contract with the facility states that we have to be out of our meeting rooms by noon on Sunday. You can estimate your arrival back home based on that.

ATTENDANCE

It should be noted that attending as many of the weekend's activities as possible would enhance your Assembly experience. You will meet new friends, learn new things and feel that you are doing something worthwhile. You may not feel these things right away, however. At first you may only feel total confusion; you may feel that people are speaking a foreign language made up of abbreviations and acronyms. You may feel anger and resentment at those who don't share your opinions on issues. WE HAVE ALL FELT THIS WAY.

If you must make a choice to attend only a portion of the Assembly, the MOST important meeting for GR's is to attend the Saturday afternoon Assembly meeting. You should come prepared to take notes, ask questions and get as much information as possible. When you return to your group you should try to get your group to have a business meeting where you can report on the items of business and interest that you have brought back with you. We know that some groups are not keen on this idea, and you will find others at the Area who have faced those challenges and will have words of experience and hope for you. Keep coming back!

NEWCOMER INFORMATION

INTRODUCTION

The Area 33 Assembly weekend is a business weekend held three times a year. The purpose of the meeting is to relay information from the World Service Office to the Al-Anon groups and vice versa. The Area Delegate is our voice at the World Service Conference and the Group Representatives are our voices at the Assembly. It is their duty to voice the concerns of their group and keep the group informed of events, changes, etc. at the World Service Office.

What follows are some (hopefully) helpful hints to help you prepare for the weekend and let you know what it is that you're supposed to be doing.

PACKING

There are two different kinds of packing that you'll have to do to get ready for the weekend. One kind is "Clothes" packing, and the other is "Everything Else" packing. The business part of the weekend includes the Sharing Meeting, the GR Meeting, the Workshop, the AWSC Meeting and the Assembly itself. The non-business part of the weekend includes Saturday evening, and possibly, Friday evening.

As far as business meetings are concerned casual wear is appropriate. That includes jeans, shorts, leggings, wind pants, T-shirts, sweatshirts, jumpers and just about anything else you can think of. Be warned that we do not always have control of the climate in the facility, and we all have our own ideas of hot and cold, so it is best to dress in layers.

On occasion, the Al-Anon or AA Assembly will hold a speaker meeting on Saturday night. Casual clothes are appropriate for this event, too (Unless you're lucky enough to be the speaker!). There are never any scheduled activities on Friday evening, so if you arrive early you can wear whatever you want!

Non-clothing items that you will want to bring with you are your

- * **Service Manual**
- * **Agenda**
- * **Minutes from the last Assembly**
- * **Area Guidelines**

If you do not have some of these items, you should talk to your District Representative or the person who was GR at your group before you. There are usually extra copies of these things at Assembly, though, and a Service Manual can be purchased from the Literature Coordinator sometime during the weekend.

Other items you may want to bring along include cards, games or crafts to do in the evenings. You can also bring along your own pop and snacks.

Well, all this should help you get on the road. Then what?

DRIVING

Check around with people in your District to find a group with whom you can carpool. Try to find someone who has made the trip before, and find out how long it took, and if there are any interesting sights along the way or particularly good rest stops.

AT THE HOTEL

Checking In and Checking Out

- * When making a reservation, BE SURE to tell the hotel that you are with the Al-Anon conference in order to get the discounted rate. (You may sleep up to 4 people in a room for the same rate).
- * Make room reservations with a credit card if possible. That way you don't have to worry about checking in before 6:00 pm.
- * Keep track of any confirmation number you are given when making a reservation.
- * If you do not arrive at the hotel until Saturday, be prepared to wait until early to mid-afternoon to check in.
- * Since check-out time at most facilities is 11:00 a.m., you should pay for your room when you check in, if you can. This will save time on Sunday morning.

Dining In and Dining Out

- * No meals are provided by the Area
- * You are not obligated to eat any meals at the facility, but it may be the most convenient thing to do for breakfast and/or lunch. A lot of hotels have a breakfast, which can save you money.
- * Feel free to bring your own breakfast and/or lunch food in order to save money.
- * Don't be afraid to explore the town in search of a good evening meal. Just take your map with you, so you can find your way back to the hotel.
- * If you know someone who is here alone, ask them to join your group. No one likes to eat alone, and people are often shy about inviting themselves along.

SATURDAY MORNING MEETINGS

There is usually a selection of Saturday morning meetings for you to attend. They are open to everyone. The Alateen and Public Outreach Committee meetings usually meet as well. Not all of these meetings are held at every assembly, so check your week-end agenda.

THE SHARING MEETING

Anyone can attend the Sharing Meeting. A District volunteers in advance to choose a format and chair the meeting.. It is not a business meeting, and it is a very good place to start to get to know people.

THE GR MEETING

Anyone can attend the GR Meeting. A District volunteers in advance to choose a format and chair this meeting. Usually the topic has something to do with learning about service or how to perform service work, and you should plan on bringing your Service Manual with you.

THE DR OR CORRINATOR MEETING

Anyone can attend the DR or Coordinator's Meetings. Usually the DR's & Coordinator's choose their own topics which will have something to do with their unique type of service work, and you should plan on bringing your Service Manual with you.

WORKSHOPS

Anyone can attend the Workshop and usually everyone does. The Workshop is hosted by a District that has volunteered in advance to chair it and choose a format for the topic. It is an excellent place to meet people, and you will almost certainly learn a lot!

AT THE ASSEMBLY SATURDAY

The Saturday afternoon Assembly meeting is attended by all members, and it consists of various reports from Area Officers, Coordinators, and DR's. In June the Area Delegate will give their report on the World Service Conference. You should have received and had a chance to review the AWSC recommendations from the last Assembly.