

April 8; 2025

2025 Area Highlights

2025 Area Sharing Highlight Committee

Marti P, Arkansas Delegate, Panel 63

Cheryl S., Idaho Delegate, Panel 63

Carol W., Illinois South Delegate, Panel 63

Lalit J, Nebraska Delegate, Panel 63

Alabama/Northwest Florida; Melanie Rushing; Panel 65

ALNWFL Area has 16 Districts which consist of all of Alabama and the Panhandle of Florida.

The Challenges for our Area are getting members to step up into service positions, whether it be area, District Representatives and Group Representatives. Also, for committees such as Thought Force and Task Force.

Since COVID we have had only two Area Assemblies and two AWSC (Zoom meetings), which we started zooming to save money and also having the Area Assemblies meetings as Hybrid. The equipment we have been using for Hybrid belongs to the Webmaster because we didn't know if Zooming the Area Assembly would be a permanent or temporary thing.

We have now started zooming an extra Area Assembly zoom meeting only in June, since the Conference being in April, the Delegate Report was old news by the time the October Area Assembly came around.

Our Successes are having Alateens as Group Representatives attending District meetings and Area Assembly meetings; More members getting involved in Area Assembly; Billboard Advertising Al-Anon;

Alaska; Mari Jamieson, Panel 63

Successes:

We are a large state with small population, but AI-Anon meetings are holding strong: 38 meetings, 14 in-person, 14 online, 10 hybrid, 2 Alateen meetings.

We had a Task force to develop Area service position descriptions, which will be presented to the Area Assembly for vote in May.

Our Area Public Outreach Committee was able to transition to a support role after we gained a Public Outreach Coordinator at Spring Assembly.

We completed and voted on a policy for Removal of Trusted Servants.

Work is being done to post useful Area documents for members on the website.

We were able to successfully re-certify our existing AMIAS and gained a few more this year.

We are participating in three AA or AA/AI-Anon events this year: All-Alaska Round-up, PRAASA with AI-Anon luncheon speakers, and Recovery Ronly with an AI-Anon speaker.

We held two assemblies: Spring Assembly is traditionally virtual, during which the Delegate gives their report and other business is addressed. Fall Assembly is traditionally hybrid (mostly hosted by our only active district, which is also in the largest city in the state), and the budget is discussed along with any other business. Elections for officers and coordinators are staggered to provide consistency with service.

We have been able to achieve quorum at both assemblies, though there are still meetings in our Area who are not participating.

We discussed having an Area phone number and it was decided that the Area Alateen phone line (a Track Phone) could be used for both AI-Anon and Alateen. For now, the Alateen Coordinator is fielding calls, but work is in progress to get more on board to address that. We have not had an AIS coordinator position filled for a while, perhaps that could be introduced at the next assembly to address the new Area phone line.

Challenges:

We still don't have active district meetings in 5 of 6 of the districts in our Area.

We still need to work on attracting Alateens to our 2 existing meetings. We are looking forward to implementing ideas from the Alateen Public Outreach Toolkit that was recently presented (located on ASO website under Members-Public Outreach).

There have been some questions about re-starting an LDC, but there has not been sufficient interest to address it. We do have a Literature Coordinator.

Alberta/Northwest Territory; Olive Wooden; Panel 65

Our area is just meeting for the first time with our AWSC on March 15th. I will share what I know at this time as a new Delegate but a seasoned member of AI-Anon. As described in the COB this last month our Area is experiencing “ever-new generation of leadership” with many of our officers and coordinators new to Area Service. Our new Public Relations Coordinator is leading the pack with enthusiasm. Many thought forces are in progress preparing for the Assembly in May. With an exceptionally large geographic area to cover the opportunity to meet is greatly beneficial. The Area Newsletter was sent out with a fresh look and a brand-new editor. Improvements to our communications network have been ongoing over the past few years and the Webmaster is busy with a new platform to make email easier. The Area Convention will be held on the first weekend of June near Calgary with many exciting speakers and activities to draw the fellowship from all regions. The ongoing dedication of maintaining our history of service strengthens the challenges we face daily.

Arizona; Melody Gallego; Panel 65

A Meeting List Publishing Policy created by a task force was approved by the Assembly in March. The policy has been submitted to the WSO, and we are awaiting approval.

Roving Area Workshops were conducted by Area officers in two rural districts. Topics included Tradition 5, Four Primary Ideas, Service, Slogans, and Sponsorship. These workshops provide opportunities for members in rural areas to interact with Area officers and to be of service.

Completed certification for 32 AI-Anon members interested in Alateen service and re-certified 122 AMIAs. Five new Alateen groups were started, but teen attendance at meetings continues to be low. Sadly, our Arizona Alateen Conference was cancelled due to a lack of participation. So, efforts were turned toward outreach at 39 Phoenix area high schools as part of the Suicide Prevention Program which included the distribution of literature. A holiday gathering for Alateen's and their families included teens sharing their experience, strength and hope with each other.

Our convention offered weekend meal packages for the first time which were a huge success. Total member attendance was 355. The program included Alateen, Spanish and AA speakers, workshops and meetings. Spanish interpretation was provided. Proceeds from the convention were contributed to the Area.

The Area meeting hybrid thought force was moved to a task force by a vote at the spring Assembly. We continue to have all five of our Area meetings as hybrid while awaiting the results of the task force. We are using a professional tech person along with volunteer members. We have worked out most of the bugs with the professional tech and our meetings are now productive with few interruptions. A temporary hybrid sub-coordinator position has been created to help with the coordination of volunteers needed. Our professional tech had a need to raise his prices by \$500 per meeting which has resulted in having to raise registration fees and our 2025 budget deficit of \$5000 has been increased to \$6000 or by 20%. A review of registration data has shown that with hybrid, Assembly attendance and attendance at Area meetings by members living in rural areas has stayed the same compared to a similar period without hybrid.

Arkansas; Marti Pedigo, Panel 63

In Arkansas, our Public Outreach has been very active developing ways to reach out to underserved portions of our communities. A bill board has been secured in central Arkansas. We are looking into magnets and pens that can be given away at community events. We are hopeful those that these items will fall into hands of those that are looking for help and hope. Our Area Assembly has task force looking into incorporating Spanish interpretation for Assembly. And for the first time, our Arkansas Al-Anon State Convention will have Spanish interpretation. All great indicators for growth and expansion of our fellowship.

British Columbia/Yukon; Nancy Matthews Cyr; Panel 65

CHALLENGES

- Service participation in all Links of Service is low. Area has 171 registered groups and 115 GRs and 31 Districts with 17DRs
- The Chair resigned, for personal reasons. Two past Chairs filled in for the remainder of the year. this lack of continuity challenged our progress.
- Service participation at the Coordinator level has struggled, Equipment Coordinator, Event Assistant Coordinator, (Hybrid) are vacant, it creates challenges operating the Hybrid component
- The Area Archives position has been vacant since 2021
- Virtual attendance takes away the opportunity for us to mentor new members into Area Service and is difficult to include hybrid members in all capacities of presentations.

- More communication dialogue is happening by email resulting in lost connections by phone, and in person contact with virtual meeting options. This has cost us in misunderstandings of topic discussions, thus misleading of the context of business. During breaks in person, provides an opportunity for clarification of information. It is a very different experience than leaving your computer post at home without opportunity to discuss and ask questions, also fellowship, and encouragement hugs, are not possible virtually.

- Contributions were low last year resulting cancelling the in-person AWSC. An appeal yielded results, but the contributions are not consistently continuing, so despite an awareness and Budget adopted, we are headed for another shortfall.

SUCCESSSES

- AA's Internation Convention in Vancouver BC, July 3rd to 6th 2025 has Al-Anon/ Alateen participation. Area has a host committee, composed of BC/Yukon members Past Officers/ Coordinators and WSO support for volunteers.
The volunteer Kick off Rally with Al-Anon/Alateen participation was held January 2025 another one is scheduled for June 8th.
- The updating of Areas ASBRs was approved by WSO and accepted by our GRs. This allows Alateen participation at the 2025 convention. Sixty Alateens are registered so far.
- A Chair to complete the last year of the service term was voted in.
- Officers' positions are all filled.
- Area voted to keep Hybrid meetings permanently at Area events.
- The Chair held an Officer, Coordinator and Liaison meeting, early February welcoming new trusted servants in their positions, the energy and fellowship was uplifting.

Thru the successes and challenges, trusted servants worked together for the greater good of Al-Anon by keeping the focus on our common welfare. Some challenges have become success' we could not have fathomed would happen.

California North; Chris Mowrey; Panel 64

Northern California is home to 770 Active Groups (11% increase over the prior year): 616 In-Person, 120 Electronic, and 34 Alateen. Overall service participation is positive and fellowship is strong amongst the members. Challenges have occurred and the members have risen to the occasion to overcome these challenges with higher power and the principles. Connection and communication between members, understanding our roles and responsibilities, asking for help, making service fun and trying something new and talking to each other and reasoning things out were key to our success.

Successes included:

- Continued Assemblies and AWSC meetings in-person with a virtual option when possible.
- Continued to hold Area events, like the Sponsor R&R, in-person and we began planning for an Area Convention with great enthusiasm.
- Continued to support Alateen by having Districts host one-day Alateen events to encourage fellowship until the teens are ready to support the Alateen conference.
- Continued to update area guidelines to provide clarity for our volunteers.
- Approved and conducted an Area Inventory and will review results in 2025 with a past Trustee, Bev A
- New District 28 for electronic groups elected a DR by the end of the year.
- Donations exceeded expenses resulting in excess funds.
- Continued to use excess funds to support special projects and donated the remainder to the WSO since our 12 month ample reserve is funded.
- Volunteers provided simultaneous translation in Spanish at Assembly whenever possible and translated reports and documents.
- All remaining service positions were filled by the end of the year except Alternate Bylaws Coordinator and the Alateen liaisons.

Challenges included:

- Difficulty locating facilities that are reasonably priced with good wifi for business meetings.
- Delays in business meetings due to challenges with tech for hybrid meetings.
- Reduced Alateen service participation has led to a pause of the Alateen conference, NOCAC.
- Members voiced concerns over the new Choosing a Group Name Policy and Procedure and we created a survey to find out more what our members think and how it effects their group and the members especially the newcomer.
- Area spending and donations has not fully resumed to pre-Covid levels.
- Reduced long time service experience and understanding from the newer members about the importance of in person events and meetings.
- Not all documents and reports were translated into Spanish.

California South, Teresa Frazer; Panel 64

Highlights: California South continues to thrive. We have 1,014 Al-Anon Groups and 43 Alateen Groups, totaling 1,255 meetings as some Groups meet more than once weekly. Of the Al-Anon Groups, 774 are In-person, 97 of which meet Hybrid, and 240 are Local Electronic. Regarding language, 181 Al-Anon Groups are Spanish or Spanish/English speaking, including 3 Alateen Groups, and 5 Groups are Farsi-speaking. Of our 43 Alateen Groups, 11 Groups meet in high schools, which are limited access and not listed in meeting directories. Only six Al-Anon Groups remain registered as Temporary Electronic Groups. We continue to work in healthy cooperation with our Al-Anon Information Services (AISs) to list only registered Al-Anon Family Groups, which include Alateen.

In May 2024, the Assembly elected an Area Alternate Delegate and Area Treasurer. In November 2024, the Assembly elected a new Area Chairperson. We now have all Area Coordinator positions filled, new exciting plans are on the horizon in the coming year, and the Officers of the Assembly and Coordinators are working together to share information with District Representatives. We continue to offer GR/DR Orientations, each offered twice annually, and an annual Sharing of Service (SOS) Workshop.

Concerns: 2024 included tremendous challenges regarding breakdowns in communication across our Area between Officers, Coordinators, the remaining AWSC, and Assembly members. There was misunderstanding regarding the descriptions of service positions and the balance of authority. We consulted the current Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual and found that Traditions One, Two, and Ten, as well as Concepts Three, Four, Five, Seven, and Ten, applied to our situation. Differences in interpretation of the Traditions and Concepts also affected the communication difficulties. We were at an impasse, needing to “agree to disagree”. This resulted in the turnover of some Area service positions and a learning experience for all. We discovered that our Area Bylaws incorrectly blended the Legal and Traditional aspects of our Corporation and our fellowship. After consulting with a non-profit attorney, as well as our World Service Office, it was determined that we would need to develop an Area Policies and Procedures Manual and establish restated Area Bylaws. This will appropriately separate the Area’s legal responsibilities from the traditional fellowship while maintaining the integrity of our legacies.

We attempted a hybrid AWSC that had mixed results. We are continuing to explore and overcome challenges to have successful Area hybrid meetings in the future.

Colorado; TMF Freeman; Panel 65

Successes:

Colorado continues to enjoy the gift of fabulous cooperation with AA at our Assemblies and in the AA Convention with AI-Anon participation. In November, we completed our first proof-of-concept hybrid Assembly for non-voting members.

Had workshops on Concepts 9 & 10 with focus on the Leadership Essay by Bill W. in the AI-Anon Service Manual (p200-203) and Widening My Circle of Awareness as well as our Service Journey.

Through the diligence of our Area Records Coordinator, Colorado finished 2024 with no remaining "temporary" electronic groups in the Area. After adopting a process for accepting Electronic Meetings into our Area, Colorado finished 2024 with 28 electronic and 62 hybrid meetings.

Colorado AMIAS training is in the second year of a three-year trial, ending in 2025. The AMIAS survey for new AMIAS training was overwhelmingly positive. Colorado added 1 new Alateen meeting for a total of 7 in 2024. Colorado has 251 active AI-Anon/Alateen groups: 215 in person; 29 electronic; 7 Alateen.

Filled all Officer and Coordinator and Special Events positions during November elections.

Concerns:

AA of Colorado has begun an evaluation process to determine if they will continue to host assemblies with AI-Anon. They have invited AI-Anon representatives to serve on their workgroups and we have two past delegates working with AA during the beginning stages of this process. Will likely take a few years before any change, if any, is seen.

Connecticut; Elaine Mitchell; Panel 63

Over the last three years as Delegate in Connecticut I have found it to be both rewarding and challenging however, the challenges for me has been where obtain my most growth

Our theme of Investing in Each Other to Preserve Our Legacy, I have encouraged Past Delegates to become involved during my term. They have taken on challenges such as revisiting the job/roles in Connecticut and updating them to accurately summarize the jobs/roles. Also, to have a Past Delegate in as a Public Outreach Liaison. There was a dark district who has not had any representation for over ten years, after reviewing the number of groups a plan was created to reassign those meetings to a surrounding district. This was done with the help of District Representatives as well as discussions with the group members of the dark district to have a conversation with the members and bring it to a vote.

Our website is currently under construction in order to make it more accessible and user friendly. With the help of many we members we reestablished the Fall Workshop focusing on Sponsorship and Service Sponsorship which will be held in October of 2025.

Due to many challenges at our AWSC meetings, we implemented an AWSC Inventory as well as an inventory for the fellowship on individual reflections. We held a successful Serenity Breakfast in January in 2025 and am looking forward to the upcoming Connecticut AI-Anon/Alateen Convention. We recently added a Tech Coordinator to our Area which has been long overdue. Encouraged a member to stand up for Spanish Liaison who doesn't speak Spanish but enlisted the help of a Past Delegate who will support him/her.

We progressed in Alateen Public Outreach by engaging with schools and community resources. The Alateen Subcommittee Liaison, established last year, participates in both AI-Anon/Alateen events and AA events to share information and support for teens.

Seeking guidance from Past Delegates for their experience, strength, and insights when addressing challenges within our fellowship. They have also assisted in reviewing and revising "Gratitude in Working Clothes" to identify roles in Connecticut.

We are currently reviewing Connecticut's eligibility criteria for Area Officer positions after a six year trial period.

My commitment to this program is demonstrated through my investment in others by means of sponsorship, attending meetings, and providing reports to the fellowship. I consistently aim to convey the message with dignity. I encourage members and reassure them that they have the capability to succeed as I was encourage. It is an honor to return from the Conference and witness the eagerness of others to learn about the insights I gained.

When faced with challenges, I utilize Steps, Traditions, Concepts, and warranties, and consult with my service sponsor, and seek guidance from my Higher Power. There are challenges in my role, but when considering the successes and support from many members in the fellowship who express their

appreciation, Lois's words come to mind: "We are brought together through a common program; united by a common goal" *How AI-Anon Works* (B32).

I am deeply grateful for the invaluable contributions of all the Area Officers, District and Alternate Representatives, and Coordinators I have had the privilege to serve with.

Delaware; Philomena D, Panel 64

General Information - 6 AWSC meeting all virtual; 2 Assembly all hybrid; 45 AFG meeting to include in-person, hybrid, and electronic

Success –

- Prudent Reserve – through discussion as an Area, some members were questioning our prudent reserve; with the pandemic brought on challenges to maintain our prudent reserve and was our prudent reserve realistic; moving forward it was decided when funds were available, we would add to the prudent reserve. We as an Area is moving in the right direction and have a separate account for our prudent reserve and we add to every year. This moved from a concern to success.
- Area Elections – all position were filled except for 1, Institutional/Prison Coordinator
- Public Outreach – Our activities are very robust. One of the goals for 2025 is to reach the underserve communities throughout our Area with the assistance from our Districts and groups.
- Enthusiasm for Area Assembly & District meeting; great discussions
- Assembly –
 - o Presented the goals of the meeting (adapted from the WSC) and members shared the goals they felt most closely aligned with their purpose for attending the Assembly.
 - o Survey for Assembly – feedback helps with future Assembly
 - o New GR training with swag bags which contain information to assist the GRs with their new service role
 - o Celebrated the Forums 70th Birthday with a writing workshop and cake
 - o Great energy and discussion around Hot Topics, and Chosen Agenda
 - o Bringing fun, celebration, door prizes, giveaways, and fellowship to the Assembly
- Area Treasurer expanded electronic payment using Zelle as well as PayPal for Area contributions
- Alateen – WSO approved our ASBR – Area Safety and Behavioral Requirements

Success/Concern –

- Alateen AMIAS recruitment; bringing New Alateen Meetings to schools and facilities
- Members stepping up for services in various areas: public outreach, Alateen, workshop/events just to name a few; and the importance of rotation of service
- Tradition 7 – the importance of donating through out the year to assist the Area paying expenses, instead of one lump sums
- Voting at the Assembly – current practice GR, Alt GR or interested member can vote, the Area is having an ongoing discussion, should we align with our service manual, more will be revealed
- Currently we do not have job descriptions for most positions, our sources of reference are guidelines, service manuals and/or rely on the previous service member in that position; no formal written description, Area chair is in the process of creating job description for next rotation of service and remove the hidden norms

Concern –

- Mandatory Reporting at Al-Anon meeting in reference to minors attending Al-Anon meeting – Delaware is Mandatory Reporting State; we create a taskforce to address this, a lot of discussion, currently no group conscience at this time; it's about awareness and guidance
- Financing Alateen meeting especially the meeting in the schools – A taskforce has been created to work through the pros and cons. FYI . . Unable to collect funds at school meetings. More will be revealed.
- Electronic Repository – the Area need a safe and secure area to store our electronic documents; more will be revealed
- Lack of members stepping up to the service position as a GR. Which in turns the groups will not have representation at the District and Area Assembly.
- Some resistance from some GRs not bringing information to their groups; not understanding announcements are just as important as the meeting itself.
- Our Area currently does not have a Tech Coordinator, which is needed to help support the technically needs of the Area; thought force has been created to address this issue
- Working through the process of posting AA events with Al-Anon participate on our website

Florida North; Gretchen Sciarrino, Panel 64

Successes:

Our first AWSC of Panel 64 was held in January over two days, instead of three, to the delight of many participants! The event ran smoothly and on time, including a workshop on the “Pros and Cons of Helium Hand,” and break-out sessions for District Representatives, Coordinators, and other participants. Our Area Chair, Mark F. filled me in on the details, as I was unable to attend due to a brief illness, which has since resolved.

Our Alternate Delegate, Mary W. presented one of the Current Agenda Items from 2024 WSC during the time that was scheduled for the Delegate’s Report.

2024 Conference Summaries were distributed to AWSC members on my behalf.

Optional AI-Anon meetings were available each day outside of the AWSC Agenda.

All of our Area service positions have been filled, and one new District Representative was welcomed to her first Florida North AWSC.

We are preparing for our Area Convention, “Listen to Your Heart” in August, and our Public Outreach Coordinator proposed working with Alateens, which passed and will be up for a vote at our first Assembly in May, 2025.

Our AWSC ran so smoothly that it ended early.

Concerns:

At this time, we do not have a Chairperson for the 2025 Alateen Conference, and our Alateen Coordinator and AAPP are working on it for now.

Our Group Records Coordinator has had technical challenges and has yet to submit a contact list for the Area. She has gained the assistance of another member to help with technical challenges.

Several districts are still experiencing smaller and fewer groups since Covid.

FLORIDA SOUTH; Kathy Donnell; Panel 64

Successes

1. All Officer/Coordinator/DR positions filled.
2. AWSC/Assembly Meetings are “in-person” – they include reports, motions, fun, fellowship, and an Al-Anon Meeting.
3. Technological purchases and “know-how” allows members to see documents projected during meetings - extremely helpful.
4. Successful trial of “On-Line Registration” and “Electronic Voting” at Winter AWSC; will be implementing both at Spring Assembly - big time-savers.
5. Enthusiasm continues to be prevalent; Panel Members & Past Delegates are willing to chair Area Events, Committees/Forces.
6. Current Forces:
 - o One-day AWSC/Assembly Meetings; Online Registration; Electronic Voting
 - o Alateen
 - o Area Website
 - o Electronic Meetings
 - o Translation Equipment
7. Area Service Event scheduled for June.
8. 2025 Convention Committees are filled and meet monthly; members can register online.
9. Area Processes for Electronic Meetings have been developed for groups to enter or leave FL S.
10. Electronic donations are accepted on Area Website and through other applications.
11. Area Convention Guidelines and Election Procedures are being reviewed.
12. Officers/Coordinators are reviewing Job Descriptions.
13. AWSC/Assembly packets (all reports) are emailed to Panel members a week in advance of Meetings.
14. Delegate visiting District Meetings either in-person or virtually. (One down, 10 to go)

Concerns

1. Two (2) Al-Anon Information Service Liaison (AISL) District positions are still open in year 2 of panel.
2. Rising costs of in-person AWSC/Assembly Meetings; have had to dip into Reserve Fund.
3. Contributions are down; Area may need to send out Appeal Letter to its membership.
4. May need to shorten AWSC/Assembly Meetings in-person, go hybrid or have electronic business meetings. Unsure of what it involves re: equipment, tech knowledge, etc.
5. Challenges with Area Group Records and Area Website – inconsistencies with meeting information.
6. Electronic Groups participating in Area and having knowledge and understanding of District & Area Processes during this 3-year trial.
7. Getting more participation from group members at Area Events and Meetings.
8. Past Area motions, guidelines, and policies may need to be reviewed, discussed, and possibly revised to meet the needs of current times.
9. Ability to Host a FL S Alateen Conference.
10. Low Alateen membership; future Electronic Alateen Meetings.
11. Many group members are unaware of the “types” of meetings available in our Area.
In-Person (physical location) Hybrid (in-person and virtual) Electronic (virtual only)

GEORGIA; DEBI SAPPINGTON; PANEL 65

Successes –

Georgia is slowly growing back to pre-COVID size. Five new groups have registered this year. Alateen is being revitalized with 16 new AMIAS currently in the certification process. We held our first one-day Alateen Conference and are on track to have two more this year.

Georgia finalized creation of two overlay Districts – Spanish Language and Permanent Electronic Groups. The Spanish language groups have become active, thriving members of our AWSC and Assembly under the new structure. Our Spanish language district will have an Alateen group by year's end. The PEGs District has grown to 27 groups and we are hoping to see their service participation grow.

Our Area Board of Trustees, formed in 2018, has continued to fulfil its primary responsibilities by relieving individual Assembly members, Area Officers, and potentially the chairpersons of Area entities (such as the AI-Anon/Alateen Convention, our AIS, and the Alateen Conference) of individual legal and financial liability. The Board has responsibility for issues that have historically consumed much of the Assembly's time and attention allowing us to focus on the Traditional aspects of our program.

Challenges -

Georgia is a large state with 238 groups and 21 geographic Districts. Groups are primarily located in our three largest metro areas. Our rural areas have struggled to grow. One District no longer has active meetings; another has consistently had no DR. We need to continue to look at how to engage and encourage participation by these small Districts.

Our in-person Assemblies and AWSC meetings (both three times annually) are held at a geographically central location. It can be difficult for the majority of groups members to attend due to travel through the metro-Atlanta area or across the state to reach middle Georgia. A thought force has been formed to consider options for virtual and/or hybrid AWSC meetings. Our challenge around that is that the Technology Coordinator position is currently vacant.

Our other open Coordinator position is Public Outreach. Many groups are engaging in outreach but no one is willing to serve at the Area level at this time. One of the "barriers to service" frequently mentioned is the difficulty traveling to Assembly and AWSC.

We currently have only seven active Alateen groups, all in the metro Atlanta area. We have moved from an annual overnight conference (last held in 2019) to multiple one-day events to help grow interest and accessibility by the teens.

Global Electronic; Burt Peterson; Panel 65

Successes:

AI-Anon members around the world have come together in new ways to build something new and beautiful, which continues to evolve. This is an expression of the care and guidance of a loving Higher Power.

- Demonstrated Spiritual Principles: equality, mutual trust, unity, common welfare, humility, confidentiality, acceptance, respect, commitment and anonymity.
- Most of our fifty-five Districts have a District Representative.
- Elected Panel 65 officers, including an Alternate Delegate, at a global Assembly.
- Transitioned from the first Panel of Trusted Servants to the next without loss of life.
- Contributed \$9,000 to WSO and paid more than the Conference Expense Full Amount for 2025.
- Maintained a 12-month operating expense reserve.
- Appointed Area Group Records and Technology Coordinators.
- Achieved substantial progress toward Area Unity.
- Held seven Assemblies and other Area-sponsored events.
- Have 950 Groups and 1,575 meetings; 469 Group Representatives (almost half).
- Bilingual translation is underway and interpretation is beginning.
- We meet as an Area, even with our numerous time zones (+/-24).
- GEA Groups use 17 distinct platforms and 20 meeting languages.

Challenges / Opportunities:

Many opportunities for continued progress exist and will be addressed taking into account "First Things First" and "How Important Is It".

- Will splitting the Area make sense; if yes, when and how?
- Will four-hour Assemblies (GR preference) continue to work?
- How do we continue the transition from a small AWSC (eight members) to a large size (60+)?
- How do the Area's corporation and the Area best work together?
- How do GRs transition from direct Area communication to the Links of Service via DRs vs. Groups.io for GRs & AFG Connects for CMAs?
- What Region assignment configuration will work most effectively for GEA and AI-Anon as a whole?
- Create financial policies, such as Reserve Fund and contribution guidelines.
- Area Guidelines and Procedures remain to be created.

Hawaii; Kauai Poaha; Delegate

Successes

Panel 64's Officers and Coordinators have brought a fresh face and enthusiasm to the Hawaii Area with our focus not only on attracting new members, but supporting current members. Our Mission of Hawaii AFG is to provide an abundance of resources to those affected by someone else's drinking and we are staying focused on that.

In sharing what I have learned at Conference the Area was open to implementing Conference activities in our own Assemblies. It allowed Assembly participants to communicate their views on current issues as it affects Hawaii. It allowed them a glimpse into being at the WSC and hopefully excite others into becoming Hawaii's future Delegates.

Our Alateen Coordinator has developed a comprehensive and cohesive AMIAS training program and certification process which Hawaii had lacked. We are fortunate to have an Assistant to our Alateen Coordinator who herself was an Alateen member with a heart for Alateen. Our Archives Coordinator is actively collecting Hawaii's AI-Anon history which we realized if not preserved for the future will only get more difficult to acquire. The Windward District on the island of Oahu has been inactive, however, they have since elected a DR who is ready and willing to revive the District. They will be hosting our Spring Assembly in May this year.

Challenges

Hawaii currently has only (1) active Alateen meeting in the Kona District, on the Big Island of Hawai'i. We continue to look for ways to introduce Alateen to our communities. Just this year both our Public Relations and Literature Coordinators had to step down. We are hoping to attract willing members to these vital positions. Obtaining a meeting location for our groups has been an ongoing concern as more facilities are asking for insurance which most of our groups are not able to provide. We are seeking a viable solution to this challenge

Idaho; Cheryl Sorenson; Panel 63

Idaho is a rural state with seven Districts. Most districts are smaller, with fewer than 6 meetings in each. Boise and Coeur d'Alene are the largest metropolitan areas with approximately 20 meetings in each District.

Challenges: The elongated geographic area of the state make it difficult to host AWSC and Assembly meetings that are conveniently close to everyone. In the past, we have settled on a rotation of locations to allow all Districts to participate in person. Often the location is a 9 hour drive from the most distant Districts and travel time constraints and cost prohibit DRs from attending. We have tried hybrid meetings with mixed success. Idaho has settled on a trial, for two years, where we will have Zoom only AWSC meetings, a Zoom only Spring Assembly and an in-person only Fall Assembly. This will save on travel and lodging costs to Area for Coordinators and Board members as well as DR travel expenses. The Spring Assembly will include the Delegate's report and business discussions, whereas the Fall Assembly will include voting and more interactive sessions such as speakers, workshops, entertainment and more. The Fall Assembly will still rotate throughout the state as there is no centralized location for all.

Idaho has had a challenging decade of instability in the Area board. Our previous Delegate passed away mid-term with no alternate to take over. Our interim Delegate attended the 2022 WSC with no information. With no "mentor" to let us know what to expect, job duties and advice passed down, it difficult to step into the Delegate position. This year Idaho lost our Area Chairperson midterm to death. Because she was so sick for so long during her term, little communication was forthcoming, and little was accomplished in Area meetings. Once again, we elected a past Area Chair as an interim Chair. This instability has shown us how important it is to get younger members involved in higher Area positions going forward.

Successes: Despite the uncertainty of the past years, for the first time in a long time, Idaho has all Area positions, and all DR positions filled. The DRs are young and enthusiastic and bring a new energy and outlook to our Area.

We rectified a line-item error in our yearly budget that has been overlooked for years and has now been corrected. Idaho is now actively contributing to WSO again and we apologize for the oversight.

We believe that with the next election in the Fall a new, younger board will be in place. Idaho will have turned a corner and will be successful in carrying Al-Anon Family Groups forward into a new era in helping friends and families of alcoholics

Illinois North; Liz Pazik; Panel 64

The area had enough money to present a plan to purchase technical equipment to the Group Representatives so each service meeting could support a virtual component so members can attend the meetings virtually as well as adding translation equipment to include all Spanish speaking members.

This one action also led to adding an additional coordinator position by the Group Representatives labeling this new position Electronic Meeting Platform Coordinator.

Illinois North also cooperated with WSO, SIAFG and members in our area who wanted to move four AI-Anon groups into SIAFG. With support from both areas, the members of the four groups were able to successfully navigate into a different area following a thorough plan. We are now updating our Area map.

We have started a virtual Concept Study meeting on Tuesday nights.

In addition to a New Group Representative Orientation now held virtually before Assembly, we have added a virtual meeting on Monday evening following Assembly for GR's to circle back to get support and ask questions regarding the Assembly and gain clarity on procedures and Guidelines. We have filled 3 open coordinator positions - Editor (of our monthly newsletter AIMS), Web Content, and Literature.

Illinois North's Concerns:

Illinois North still struggles with filling coordinator positions including Alateen and Alternate Alateen Coordinator, Public Outreach, Institutions and Web Tech.

Our other concern is dominance and double headed management in our area. This has led to some of the vacancies in our coordinators at the AWSC and lower attendance at our assemblies. A District Representative courageously included a statement within her report that the Group Representatives of her district are concerned over the behavior they have witnessed during this service meeting by the panel members.

The Area is also brainstorming how to bring more enthusiasm for service.

Illinois North's website is over twenty years old and dated therefore we are starting to build a new website platform. The policy committee is tasked with picking from three different

web building companies supplied by our Web Consultant and begin the journey to bring our website into 2025.

Illinois South; Carol Wielgus; Panel 63

Successes

Illinois South successfully hosted US North Central Regional Delegate Meeting on March 15-17, 2024 in Bloomington, Illinois. There was strong participation with a delegate and alternate delegate attending from each area in our region. This was the first time in sixteen years that IL South hosted the event.

2024 Illinois State AFG Convention was held in Collinsville, Illinois during October, and hosted by Southern Illinois area. Illinois North participated in the event, and it was a wonderful weekend.

Previously, Illinois South has struggled with filling officer and coordinator positions. During 2024 all officer positions are filled. The following coordinators have been filled: Alateen; Alateen Process Person; Forum/Literature; Archives, and By-Laws. Ways & Means, NewsOgram and Public Outreach are the open coordinator positions.

During 2024 assemblies, the alternate delegate has been conducting short workshops (15 minutes or less) to discuss the concepts. This has been a welcome addition to the agenda with positive feedback from members.

The treasurer is investigating our area using some kind of cash app for donations, e.g. venmo or zelle. There will be more discussion at the next area assembly.

Several groups from Illinois North area have asked to join a physically adjoining district in Illinois South (Knox County). Both areas have approved the move and are in process of getting the revisions to group records, so all data bases are revised.

Concerns

Unfortunately, our area was not compliant with WSO Alateen requirements, and have not been able to conduct Alateen meetings. The alternate delegate is the Alateen Process Person, and progress has been made by setting up a new committee to

Our area purchased email accounts for our officers and coordinators, so we can have standard email addresses, that can be passed on to the next officer or coordinator. There has been discussion to set up a thought force to investigate a lesser cost option.

A task force has been formed to discuss participation qualifications for GRs, DRs, Officers and Coordinators. A district has asked area to assist with qualifications because minority opinions in the district are being enforced. There has not been much progress with this committee during 2024.

A thought force has been formed to discuss procedures for Exceeding Budgeted Expense Amounts.

Iowa; Becky Vodraska; Panel 63

Members of Iowa Al-Anon are continuing to encourage service work and show how fun and rewarding all positions can be. We have created "Salons" on powerpoint to help GRs and DRs understand how important their service role is in their group and/or district. These virtual salons are held randomly throughout the year and have become important particularly this year as we approach our elections in October. We have presented "gallery walks" at service workshops to give members an idea of what the current coordinator or officer has experienced through their term of service.

Iowa experienced terrible flooding in 2024, and some archival material was threatened with being lost. This event has increased the importance of getting as much of our Areas history electronically stored sooner than later. We have also updated our Policy and Procedure guidelines and our Iowa By-Laws. Both items were interesting to work on and members discovered how important they are by going over them word for word.

Our Area Inventory has been reviewed, and it appears that most members feel they are kept up to date with the most current events in Al-Anon. Public outreach has been beneficial to help districts and groups share the importance of Al-Anon and our virtual groups have seen in some cases an increase in membership. Our AWSC meetings and Assemblies are hybrid, and members are happy to have this opportunity to participate virtually, especially living in Iowa and the weather unpredictable.

One of the concerns for Iowa is the lack of Alateen groups. We have found as the teens rotate out; it is hard to keep the groups alive. We are continuing to keep the current groups active in Iowa, as it is known this is an issue for other areas as well.

We also are working on filling coordinator positions in the Area. Currently we have some districts without DRs yet there are members in those district that will attend our AWSC meetings and Assemblies. We have not had a Newsletter coordinator for a couple of years and are reviewing how to possibly include that duty with the Webpage Coordinator.

As my Panel 63 ends, our theme of "Service is the key" has created great enthusiasm for me. I will continue to encourage service work to others and enjoy the growth we all will experience in this program.

Kentucky; Pauline Wolfe; Panel 64

The Kentucky Area includes the state of Kentucky as well as portions of Indiana and Illinois. We have approximately 164 (in-person/hybrid and electronic only) meetings. Yearly, we have one electronic AWSC and three AWCS/Area Assemblies that are hybrid. Highlights of 2024:

Alateen:

- Held a workshop on Alateen at Area Assembly focused on the history of Alateen and included breakout sessions focused on increasing awareness and promotion of Alateen in communities.
- Held a Mini-Convention and followed it with a fund-raiser for KOMIAC (Kentucky, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana Alateen Convention)

Tech:

- Purchased additional equipment for Tech team to improve the experience of online attendees at AWSC and Assembly.

GR Corner:

- At each assembly, workshops were held focused on information pertinent to GRs.

Public Outreach:

- Conducted a two-month Digital Media Campaign.
- Conducted an AI-Anon poster campaign, hanging AI-Anon posters in public spaces
- Participated in two events focused on informing professionals about AI-Anon and Alateen.

KY Area AI-Anon Convention

- 59th Annual convention was held in Lexington KY. 291 registered for the event.

Louisiana; GW; Panel 63

ALoha Y'all,

In 2024 the LA Area Assembly laid the groundwork for major projects that are materializing in 2025. In 2024 we created a Task Force that is creating a LA Area Assembly Policy & Procedure Handbook and more importantly, the Assembly is creating a Policy & Procedure Standing Committee to keep this a living document with a shared responsibility of maintaining this document going forward. After all, this is a WE program.

The Tech Team is in the process of making a major upgrade of our website including moving to a new platform to keep up with the ever-expanding footprint of technology in our fellowship.

Some regions of our Area submitted proposals to redistrict in such a way as to provide better DR representation. The two proposals were approved by Assembly.

Another thing that really impressed me in 2024 was the way that our Officers stood together in unanimity to set a healthy boundary with the World Service Office.

Maine; Carol Gammon; Panel 63

Successes

We created and approved a Technology Coordinator position which remains unfilled. However we continue with all our AWSC and Assemblies as hybrid, so we purchased equipment to enable us to improve the quality of our hybrid meetings -- a laptop and camera/microphone/speaker. We also had a projector donated to the Area.

We have purchased a scanner which will enable us to digitize our paper Archives.

Our Public Outreach Coordinator is spearheading a multi-level outreach project through Facebook Ads, business cards and posters with QR codes directing people to the area website meeting list which are being distributed around the Area. The possibility of doing a direct mailing project is being investigated. Also, the PO team has signed up for a Canva design platform account.

We have about 80 meetings, 50% in person, 25% hybrid and an increasing number of electronic meetings.

We have a successful Area Convention during the summer at an oceanside retreat center with workshops and meetings, and opportunities for walks on the beach. It is a wonderful event at a very reasonable rate for a weekend on the beach in Maine in the Summer.

Challenge

Our Alateen program is active with groups in schools and a recovery center. The Alateen Coordinator holds quarterly meetings with AMIAS. They are excited about the new Alateen Public Outreach tool kit recently released. There is a challenge to attract young people to our meetings and to keep enough AMIAS for the possible meetings.

At our last AWSC meeting the issue of getting GR's to attend District and Area meetings was mentioned. At the time no further discussion was held. Our Area has some positions unfilled, some for several panels. We also have some quiet Districts; however, we do have active Districts reaching out and including active meetings from those Districts in their meetings and events.

Manitoba/Northwestern Ontario; Brenda Wood; Panel 64

Successes:

Manitoba/Northwestern Ontario is pleased to announce the restoration of Alateen in our Area. In the fall of 2024, the doors opened for the "Welcome Alateen" group in Winnipeg and we were delighted to welcome two Alateen members at our Fall Assembly. We have six AMIAS's who have recertified this year and we will elect a new AAPP at our Spring Assembly. The former and current AAPP worked diligently to update the Alateen Safety Behavioral Requirements which have been approved by the WSO.

The AWSC meetings in our Area are held virtually and last fall the membership voted to permanently incorporate the hybrid component for all Assemblies, thereby increasing the access to these meetings for all members.

The Area has also undertaken the task of updating the Area Handbook Supplement, this is our guideline for our Area meeting processes and it outlines the requirements and supports available for every elected position. It is our intent to present the updated document to the membership at the Spring Assembly.

Concerns:

The struggle to fill vacant service positions remains a challenge for Area 82. Only three of the ten districts currently have a District Representative and many groups do not have a Group Representative. As a result, the links of service within the Area and with the WSO are significantly impacted. We are exploring the option of merging districts in an effort to better serve the dark districts and support the membership to fill the vacant positions.

Maritime Provinces; Dagny Gravert; Panel 65

Maritime Provinces includes Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. We total 17 Districts. Few groups are French speaking only, some are bilingual. We hold one in-person Assembly per year in June in English. The new AWSC panel started in 2025.

Success

- All AWSC positions filled. We have an interim Alt Chair (past delegate) until Assembly elections.
- 2024 Assembly voted to separate the combined Forum Coordinator and Alternate Delegate position to make more AWSC positions available to members. Also separated were the Alternate Chair and AAPP/Alateen Coordinator, originally combined to save Area travel costs. This is now feasible with AWSC virtual since 2020 – travel necessary only 1/year
- Continue to pay the full amount to send the Delegate to the WSC.
- We have one inactive district with many French members, some that had joined Quebec East for many years, that has recently become active again. The new DR, and new GR attended the 2024 Assembly. They presently have one group in their District.
- Celebrate Alateen, one of the five pilot groups on the AFG App, is steady in teen commitment. The 5-12 attendees are mostly from the US, rarely Canada, and by times international.
- Maritime Literature Depot implemented a \$20 surcharge on orders < \$150, to make up for lost revenue with increased Canada Post shipping fees. Districts now submit larger orders for their groups or arrange to pick up in person.
- A group has seen an increase in new members since participating in local mental health fair

Challenge

- A local AA roundup weekend was changed and since 2024 it has coincided with our Assembly. An attempt was made to negotiate a different date with the AA Chair and for now it seems the weekend will overlap.
- Not all Districts have DRs, some only have a contact person; some groups do not have GRs or not rotating leadership; not getting full GR representation at Assembly
- An Alateen group was started during the last panel in response to interested teens attending an in-person AI-Anon meeting. However, meetings are on hold for now as no teens are attending. On the upside, we now have 1 additional AI-Anon member registered as an AMIAS (the 2nd member did not recertify).
- No active in-person Alateen group in the Maritime Provinces

Massachusetts; David Cymbala; Panel 65

Massachusetts has been very busy lately. Starting back in August, our multi-talented office manager retired, leaving the LDC, AAPP, and AGRC work up for grabs. We now have a new office manager, who is doing a great job picking up from where our former office manager left off. Our new office manager has learned new ways to use QuickBooks, including producing better financial reports for our treasurer, and has also found ways to reduce our notable shipping costs. We also have efforts underway to archive a great load of documents which have lain unorganized for a long time. Proposals for projects to spend money from a sizable bequest continue to come up, which will be voted on at our assemblies. The new panel of officers has begun to meet and our chair is committed to shorter meetings, which should please officers, district reps, and coordinators alike and encourage others to serve by requiring a smaller time commitment.

Our area is still missing an Area Secretary and a Public Outreach Coordinator. Our public outreach was so good last panel that perhaps some are concerned they will not measure up to that standard, but we are trying to encourage potential candidates that they have to make the role their own and learn as they go. Alateen remains an ongoing concern, but does show some signs of new life. Some of our districts still have no district rep, but we have been actively encouraging group reps in those districts to meet in any case and think about the benefits of having a district rep. We are also eager to see if it is possible to get CAL in many more languages than just English, Spanish, and French, as the area is very multi-lingual and the translated literature would be well-received.

Michigan; Theresa Sistrunk, Panel 64

Concerns:

Sadly, not only are we in Area 27 having the worst time filling and retaining the three following coordinator positions: Archives, Newsletter, and Public Outreach, but we are also struggling filling and retaining DRs and GRs. While virtual meetings originally helped overcome obstacles for pandemic AI-Anon recovery, Michigan has seen possible drawbacks emerged such as a burgeoning breakdown in quality fellowship, retention of members, continued long-term recovery, mutual aid, and reduction in spontaneous interaction among members which may have ultimately led to lessening service commitment participation. Personally, I wonder if/how much the influx of hybrid and/or electronic meetings has had any bearing on these deficits in Michigan service commitments. (109 words)

Successes:

Toward the end of 2024, we incorporated three MIAFG Thought Forces: Convention Feasibility, Hybrid/Electronic Meeting, and Physical Storage.

For the past three years, Michigan has been testing a one-day State Convention format. Recently, our body requested information regarding shifting to a longer convention. As a result, the Convention Feasibility Thought Force developed an Areawide survey, reflecting Area choices for future MIAFG Conventions, which dropped on March 7 and will run through June 30. Hybrid/Electronic Meeting quickly shifted from a Thought Force to a Task Force at the November AWSC. Finally, at the March 8 AWSC, the Physical Storage Thought Force gave suggestions for a future Task Force to which the AWSC body voted to move. Unfortunately, many of the newly created Task Force's charges will need to wait for an Area decision regarding eventual Hybrid/Electronic Meeting Task Force propositions.

Thanks to Ross F., our Chairperson, and the Policy Committee, this fall we produced an updated Policy Manual, which, sadly, had not been updated since 2018-2020. (165 words)

Minnesota North; Marcy Flaten; Panel 65

Successes in our Area:

- A project was approved in October 2023, to reformat our current Minnesota North Area Assembly Al-Anon and Alateen Policy Book. The new document, all but two sections, was completed at the end 2024. It is now called Minnesota North Area Service Manual. It contains our area service descriptions which were previously in a separate document, policies, procedures, guidelines, and a motion log. Our service positions were updated to specify which positions require in-person attendance or have the option of either in-person or virtual attendance at area meetings. There were several dedicated members in our area that devoted many hours to complete this project.
- We are very fortunate to have all our positions filled on our Area World Service Committee. Since this is the first year of the three-year panel, many members being newer to service are asking for guidance which will only strengthen our area. Service sponsorship is encouraged.
- We also have many past delegates that remain active in service in our area.

Concerns in our Area:

- To achieve Area Alateen certification once again in Minnesota North.

Minnesota South; Colleen Clancy Dummer; Panel 64

Successes:

New faces, younger members

Technology Coordinator/Tech Work Group have purchased equipment to support hybrid meetings. This includes laptops for the Chair and Treasurer

An updated MNSA website was launched. The committee meets monthly to make improvements such as being able to conduct surveys and registrations online. They are also working on an email system that can be transferred from one panel to the next.

Forum/Literature coordinators have put on very well attended writing workshops

GRC – has been diligently working towards having the listings up to date, encouraging districts/groups to do updates online

We have 287 active groups, 44 of which are online meetings

Together with MNNA, we are working with Oregon to host the NAAC starting in 2026 – 2029. We have large Native population in MN that are definitely underserved.

POC is reaching out to underserved groups such as the Pride Festival. PCO has also made use of the PO Toolkit to reach out to professionals. Each district has been asked to participate.

Held a Meet and Greet the Officers to provide an environment where members can ask questions of officers outside of assemblies.

Quarterly Delegate/DR meetings in hope of strengthening that relationship

Hosted a successful Alateen (Midlake) Conference in 2024

Challenges:

Limitations on locations to hold hybrid assemblies and AWSC meetings due to Internet strength. This also has meant having to hold our meetings in the metro areas vs outstate. Policy may need to be revised

Service in general is challenging. We are struggling to get more participation from group members. Whether it is stepping into service positions or being part of a thought force/work group. Several members resigned within the first year of service. Not having an Assemblies Coordinator has been very difficult and put extra loads on others. Which in turn causes burnout.

Lack of service experience and understanding about the importance of in person events and meetings.

How we can keep our past delegates involved. Many of the delegates are older and not necessarily participating as much. We need their experience and knowledge

Finding affordable and appropriate insurance for the area

We have 21 districts in MNSA. 10 are inactive. One district representative moved out of their district but they continue to meet regularly w/o a DR.

Lack of Alateen service participation has led to fewer Alateen meetings available.

Mississippi; Jennifer Shinn, Panel 65

*Last year our Chairperson, Ala-Teen Coordinator, and Ala-Teen ASBR Task Force worked tirelessly to revise our Ala-Teen Safety & Behavioral Requirements. In keeping with WSO criteria, we hired a lawyer to review our revision and confirm that our document was legally sound. Our ASBR was returned in September with suggested revisions from WSO. The second revision is still in progress. Four new people are in the process of becoming Alanon Members in Ala-Teen Service (AMIAS). As in many other areas, COVID took a big toll on our Ala-Teen meetings.

*Due to a decline in membership, our area has undergone realignment. Four districts have merged to 2, giving us a total of 5 districts for the state of MS. Only 1 district is currently without a DR. I would like to meet regularly with DR's and the Alternate Delegate over Zoom to field ideas and offer support; it will be strongly encouraged they utilize AFG Connects for District Representatives as a valuable resource.

*MS has purchased a conference room camera to use for assemblies which have become hybrid, allowing more members to participate. We are currently without a Technology Coordinator, but the former TC is working on a position description that can be used to help educate our members. The need for younger members to become active in service really shows up in the Technology Coordinator position.

*All officer positions except the Alternate Delegate were filled at our Fall Assembly. In addition to the Technology Coordinator, we hope to find someone willing to serve as Ala-Teen Process Person. Our past officers are doing a terrific job sponsoring their replacements.

*We had a well-attended convention near Jackson, MS last year. It also provided a financial boost to help meet the area budget. This allowed us to make a WSO contribution above the Equalized Expense to meet our delegate's full WSC expenses. Our then current and past delegates successfully hosted the Southeast Regional Delegate Get-Together (SERDGT) last March.

*Last term's delegate is now serving in the long-time vacant Archives Coordinator position. The goal is to sift through the many items and begin digitizing our Archives.

Nebraska; Lalit Jha; Panel 63

Nebraska (Area 33) is comprised of all Al-Anon Family Groups, Alateen Groups and Districts in the state of Nebraska. Area 33 consists of:

- 17 Districts
- 176 registered meetings of which 139 are active meeting and 37 inactive meetings.
- 4 Alateen meeting and 23 active AMIAS
- These groups reside within the 17 Districts of Area 33.
- Holds three (3) one-day long hybrid Area Assembly (April, June and October)
- Holds three (3) half-day long virtual only AWSC meeting
- Holds two- and half-day long Al-Anon/Alateen convention called Reunion in July each year

AWSC Position: Most of the AWSC positions are filled. New officers / coordinators will be elected in Fall 2025 for the 2026-2028 term.

Highlights:

Technical Coordinator: The Area 33 added the position of Technical Coordinator to the AWSC and purchased necessary equipment to facilitate the hybrid meeting. his position will add provide technical support for hybrid meetings.

Increase in service Participation Committee: Area 33 created this committee to research and implement ways of encouraging increased participation at Area Assembly meetings and other Area events. Membership of this committee consists of the chairperson (appointed by the Area Chairperson) and other interested Al-Anon members.

2025 Road Trip: You and Your Board Connect! Will be held in Omaha, Nebraska, USA on **Saturday, October 25, 2025.**

Alateen Credential: Area 33 was one the area that lost our Alateen credentials, but we got reinstated after meeting necessary requirements.

Reunion: Invited WSO staff Tracey Smith to be speaker at our Reunion. Tracey also facilitated the workshop on tradition.

Electronic Payment/Donation: Our Area purchased equipment needed for electronic payments/donations.

Following Thought Force/Task force Committee are formed:

Travel Reimbursement: To review reimbursement guidelines for Area Officers and Coordinators

Revision of District Boundaries: To review and revise District boundaries with the goal of improving and establishing better links of service to entire Area 33.

Communication and Email: To review the communication process and look at simplifying or updating the email service for AWSC members.

Concerns:

Like so many other Areas, we have trouble getting new and younger members to volunteer for service.

Nevada; Lisa Sheretz; Panel 63

AWSC

All positions on AWSC are filled.

AWSC meets F2F twice a year immediately before our FALL/September and SPRING/March Assemblies. AWSC meets virtually at least four other times/year. Plus, we have awesome PAST DELEGATES, traveling on their own time and dime.

ASSEMBLY

Two per year; Spring/March and Fall/September in Tonopah, Nevada. Face-to-face preferred by the GRs.

Spanish participation in Assemblies is strong! Interpreters and headsets provided. Members who interpret receive a stipend to help cover costs to attend Assemblies.

A new digital resource is the Group Representative Notebook for Success created by Assembly Ambassador Committee, available on our nevadaal-anon.org website.

TREASURY

At the Fall Assembly in September of 2024, the GRs approved sending 7th Tradition appeal to the groups to support the Area. Post-appeal donations in three months. \$9,078.77

Prior to our appeal letter, the largest donations in any month was around \$1600.

Nevada Bud

Alateen is recovering from pandemic impact on meetings.

Wednesday, at 4pm PT, WSO mobile app meeting, Nevada hosted.

2 face-to-face meetings – one in Reno area, one in Las Vegas.

Nevada revisions to ABSR complete per WSO. In review by legal counsel.

Thank you. Lisa Sheretz, Nevada Delegate, Panel 63, Service is the key.

2025 WSC Nevada Highlights negative

Among all the roses and buds that our Nevada area has, there is a thorn that is a chronic problem.

A thorn.

Pyramid sponsorship meetings in Las Vegas area. Complaint made to WSO about these few meetings brought to my attention as Delegate. I brought it to the attention of the AWSC, some of whom attend these problematic meetings.

Thanks to our study of the Warranties in Concept 12, Nevada AWSC resolved to remain positive in our response and bring our focus to what makes a healthy meeting, the importance of equality and anonymity in our fellowship, CAL literature sponsorship: what is it?

With GRs at Fall Assembly 2024, CAL literature on Sponsorship provided in GR folders, along with Sponsorship Task Force skits and readings shared from 2024 WSC shared with GRs on Google drive. Workshop in Las Vegas on What Makes a Healthy AI-Anon Group.

It will take time and leadership by example to help counteract the damage these pyramid sponsorship groups cause.

New Foundland/Labrador; Marilyn McCarthy, Panel 63

Our challenges are filling all AWSC positions. Presently our Area Archives Coordinator position is not filled. Because of our geographics reaching members in rural areas is a challenge. Filling positions at District level is not always successful.

We have had many successes this past year. Our Area Alateen Coordinator and AAPP position is filled and she is very active in educating members and getting them registered as AMIAS. Group membership has increased. Groups continue to meet in person, online and hybrid . Literature sales have increased.

Our Public Outreach Coordinator is very active and enthusiastic in getting updated PO information out to the Districts. She maintains consistent communication with the DRs. We still maintain an active and very positive relationship with the two Addiction Treatment Centers in the province.

As a result of an Al-Anon member doing PO at the university, the Wellness Center is interested in having an Al-Anon meeting on campus.

In one District a company who operates digital bulletin boards in the city allows space for community not-for-profit organizations and the DR has taken advantage of that opportunity to carry the Al-Anon message.

The NL College of Social Workers has received information on Al-Anon.

One District is inactive and the neighbouring District is working on a project to reach out to them.

We have one in person Assembly each year which is well attended. We have several workshops as well fun activities.

New Hampshire; Kate Marquis; Panel 63

New Hampshire Area highlights include fun! After discussions about Stepping Stones and hearing our Area Chair speak about the value of fun to his recovery at the NH Area Al-Anon/Alateen Convention last year, our Area AWSC was inspired to talk about and create opportunities for fellowship. During Covid, our NH fellowship lost some of the connection and events that we held pre-covid. We're empowering our members to be creative, find value in the togetherness, and intentionally create opportunities to connect within their district. Our connection with AA districts has also suffered post covid so we're creating awareness and empowering our members to reach out to cooperate with AA. We're having a similar conversation regarding public outreach.

We have some districts who have started new Al-Anon meetings in shared locations with AA meetings in hopes that they can eventually add an Alateen meeting there. We're taking a foundational approach to rebuilding Alateen.

We've been preparing for our panel turnover by talking about it at our Area meetings and sharing our imperfect service experiences to humanize the roles a bit, and speaking on the value of rotation of leadership as a way to avoid dominance issues within our Area. Our Alanews started a monthly DR & Coordinator column last year in preparation for our panel turn over. He has them share what they've received from Area Al-Anon service. I've heard great feedback from members.

New Jersey; Peter F. Murphy; Panel 65

Successes

The first time I attended an Assembly meeting in New Jersey, I was surprised that an Area with more than thirty Districts had only four or five District Representatives in attendance. The entire Assembly consisted of a mere forty to forty-five total in attendance. When I became District Representative of District 20/21 the Area had already begun, with our district's insistence, to consolidate our Area into ten Districts. My District 20/21 in Mercer County with approximately 23 groups became District 5, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset Counties with approximately 45 groups. Our panel this year has nine of the District Representative Positions filled. Our virtual Assembly held on March first and approximately seventy-five attended. All of the Coordinator positions are filled. Many Al-Anon members have worked together to promote service in our Area in order for this consolidation and growth to occur.

Concerns

At one time there were two healthy working Information Services in New Jersey. The South Jersey Information closed several years ago and the North Jersey Information Service has been operating with a lone paid worker and one other member helping for as long as I have been in New Jersey. The northern New Jersey members are at odds with how to move forward. Without a South Jersey Information Service the hope is that The North Jersey Information Service can be reshaped to, first have a service board of Information Service Representatives and then to update their by-laws. The animosity between members and the lack of consistent service from members is a great concern. We are making progress and some meetings to have taken place to sort out what the next steps shall be. The consolidation of the Districts has jumbled things but overall has provided an opportunity for the Information Service to begin to become alive again.

New Mexico/El Paso; Rocio D. Nasir, Panel 63

Before 2020 our Area had an Area Convention, and it stopped after Covid and now we have it planned for the 2026 summer.

New Alateen meeting are starting in our Area.

Copyright and Trademark workshops in English and Spanish thru out the Area.

New York North; Carol Cunningham; Panel 64

Successes:

- * We voted to accept electronic groups into the area.
- * In May we will be having our first Area Convention since 2019. This will be a combined Assembly & Convention and will be in-person only. We have changed the format to try and attract more members to service. It will be held May 30th - June 1st in Rochester. We are looking forward to sharing time together in fellowship again.
- * Our Area has been working to increase communication to reach and support the groups. We hold monthly electronic GR/DR Meetups to answer questions and discuss topics of general concern for GRs and DRs. It has been well attended and we have had a few more members step into service, especially in some of our more remote districts. We also hold monthly electronic Officer and Coordinators meetings to support each other and encourage engagement.
- * We are starting the process of updating our website and administrative platforms.
- * We are in the process of establishing a Technology Coordinator position. We have had 2 successful hybrid assemblies and have received feedback from our GRs that they like the hybrid format.
- * We have a Task Force that is working on updating our Area Policies and Procedures.

Concerns:

- * Attracting members into service has been one of our ongoing challenges. While we filled all of our Area positions at the start of the panel, we had two officers and two coordinators that had to step down for personal reasons. We had two past delegates step in to fill the officer positions, but we are still without an Alateen Coordinator and a Public Outreach Coordinator. We currently have many groups and districts that are without representation as well.
- * While we had a successful AMAIS Recertification and we have AI-Anon support for Alateen, our Alateen participation has fallen off. One of our Alateen groups closed and we cancelled our 2025 Alateen Convention due to a lack of interest.

New York South; Pat Giancontieri; Panel 63

Successfully completed 7 hybrid assembly with simultaneous Spanish translation.

Our Assemblies have rotate throughout the Area so no members are faced with always making longer trip.

Added fellowship and fun to our Assemblies with skits, quizzes, and ice-breakers.

All area documents are translated into Spanish.

Legacy documents were created by our NYS Area Officers, Coordinators and Liaisons to aide in the upcoming Panel 66 transition.

Service rotation Town Hall

Added a Technology Coordinator position to the Area-well defined descriptive position documents

Delegate Town Hall on the Joys and Challenges of being a District Rep.

We developed a "We Miss You" packet to bring when we visit underrepresented groups.

We've gotten very good at using thought forces and task forces to refine proposals and create motions.

Our Finance Work Group offers support to our Treasurer around budgeting and throughout the year.

Developed process for spending Excess Reserves to support our primary purpose.

Our website coordinator redesigned our area website.

Past Delegate Joan L p/45 . held her 9th Recovery Outreach meeting at her assisted living facility. She's 90 years old in May, 64 years in Al-Anon.

Strengthened our cooperation and rapport with AA with workshop series and events.

In process creating a NYSA Liaison to YPAA Events

Challenges have been this panel remained without an Archivist and Newsletter Coordinator.

Also we are missing Guidelines Coordinator and Discovery Convention Committee and Co-Chairs.

Out of 35 districts we only have 11 DRs. Actively working to contact these under-represented meetings and Districts.

North Carolina/Bermuda; Lyria Boast; Panel 65

SUCCESSSES

North Carolina/Bermuda AFG welcomed a new panel of trusted servants in January 2025. The Area World Service Committee (AWSC) has met twice this year, and we are preparing for our Spring Assembly in May. We have two Assemblies each year and the locations rotate through the Districts in NC. The Area has invested in technology to enable hybrid AWSC and Assembly meetings.

There currently are 277 active groups across nine Districts in the NC/Bermuda Area, including:

- 263 AI-Anon groups
 - 24 registered as electronic only
 - 6 registered as Spanish-speaking groups
- 14 Alateen groups

2024 was the first year since COVID that we had more new groups form, rather than close. Twenty-two new groups registered in 2024 and 18 groups closed.

At our last Assembly, 55 of 263 (21%) groups were represented. 42% of attendees participated by Zoom.

The Area Officers are meeting monthly to study the *Using AI-Anon Principles to Resolve Conflicts Kit* (K-70). At the last AWSC meeting, members started a discussion about how we can encourage the practice of spiritual principles at Assembly.

CONCERNS

We have a vacancy in the Alternate Delegate role (currently filled by the Area Secretary, as appointed by the Area Chair). Thus, elections will be held again at the Spring Assembly in May. At the election Assembly held in November 2024, there were only four service resumes submitted for five positions and eligibility requirements had to be waived to fill the Area Treasurer position as seems to be common with Secretary and Treasurer roles in recent past elections. Two of nine Districts have vacant DR positions. Encouraging service at the group, District, and Area levels is an ongoing challenge.

There are 19 groups in the Area with a special focus in their group name. We will follow anticipated guidance from the Policy Committee Task Force on the topic to familiarize Area groups with the new "Choosing a Group's Name" policy.

The Area continues to work on improvements to address the challenges of hybrid AWSC and Assembly meetings, including accurate attendee count for voting processes for in-person and online attendees. There also is a desire to encourage in-person participation.

Ohio; Rose Rollins; Panel 64

Achievements for 2024 in Ohio were a very positive forward movement for our AWSC and Assembly meetings as we voted unanimously to hold all 4 meetings (2-AWSC and 2-Assembly) Hybrid for a 3 year trial period. We are fortunate to have a central meeting place where there is up to date equipment and we are able to utilize it. At our Fall 2-day Assembly in October, we had 40 in person and 23 Zoom members!

The KBDM process was used and was extremely helpful with the approval of our updated ASBR (Alateen Safety and Behavior Requirements). We were grateful that our Task Force worked hard on this and also that our AAPP was a "whiz" at formatting and reformatting all of the changes and updates needed for approval. Breathing a sigh of relief that this is completed.

In 2025 we are very busy with hosting the USNCRDM, KOMIAC (Kentucky, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana Alateen Convention) in Dayton, OH, the OAC (Ohio Area Convention) in Cleveland and taking part in the Al-Anon participation for the AA State Convention in the Toledo area.

Donations and a good budget committee has allowed us to make a generous donation to WSO in 2024 also.

On the struggle side we still have challenges with finding members to step up to serve. We are in need of a Public Outreach and a Tech Coordinator. We have an interim Tech member who is working with a committee to decide how we want to update our Ohio Website. We need younger or "techie" members to make a commitment.

Oklahoma; Allison Taylor; Panel 65

Successes - Our Area currently has 5 active Alateen groups, 120 active AI-Anon groups, and 9 active Hispanic groups, and 4 AI-Anon groups with electronic locations. We have three information service centers across the state. One is in Tulsa, one in Oklahoma City, and the third one is also in Oklahoma City. It is the intergroup for our Spanish speaking community. We are seeing new faces at Area Assembly. Our Area Chair has taken the initiative to encourage us to be more inviting and welcoming to people who may be attending Area Assembly for the first time.

Concerns - Our Area has 19 districts and 5 of these are not represented. Some parts of our state are remote and/or far from Oklahoma City, where our Assembly is held. We do offer Zoom to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to participate, but these numbers of unrepresented districts are concerning. Any members in those districts could potentially be missing out on information from WSO and the Oklahoma Area. It is also concerning due to the fact that AI-Anon is more limited in those areas and this is detrimental to those in need of the program.

Ontario South; Jason White; Panel 64

Successes:

Ontario South is a physically large geographic Area of nearly 300 groups. To drive from one end to the other would take a person approximately 10-11 hours. We hold one AWSC meeting and one Assembly per year, both in-person. We recently struck a thought force to consider adding an electronic component to these meetings.

Our Area's revived Al-Anon/Alateen convention is back for another year! The Trillium Convention has sold out both of its last two years and organizers are hoping for a three-peat! This year's Trillium will be at Fanshawe College in London, Ontario, June 20-22, 2025.

I am grateful that all of our Area officer positions are filled! Our Alternate Delegate had to resign and our AAPP was elected in her stead. Fortunately, a member who had been suggested to me for the AAPP position said yes after I bumped into her while she was visiting my home group. She is working with the Alternate Delegate's assistance as she learns the position while we undertake our renewal year for all AMIAS in Ontario South.

Challenges:

One of our Area's challenges turned into a success, but not before some tense moments; we were looking at a second consecutive year-end with a sizeable deficit. After our Treasurer explained to the Assembly what the Area does for our groups and that less than 40 per cent of groups had contributed to that point in 2024, our Group Representatives requested a special appeal letter from the Chairperson. Our groups and members then stepped up and closed the financial gap, for which our Area's officers are tremendously grateful.

Finding members for service continues to be a challenge; I am trying to do my part by sharing the joys of service and speaking about the ways I find joy in getting to be the Delegate.

Growing Alateen and encouraging Al-Anon members to bring their teenagers to Alateen is still not where we'd like it to be. But Ontario South is fortunate to have a firecracker of an Alateen Co-ordinator who is sharing her enthusiasm with members to encourage more to serve as AMIAS. She and I also spoke together at a large AA convention on a panel about the ways Alateen has benefitted each of our recoveries.

Oregon; Stephen Y.; Panel 65

2024 Successes

1. Oregon's final and 4th Native American Conference (NAAC) will be held April 25th –27th in Portland. Our past Delegate, Katie W, is the Chair of the NAAC committee. This has been a successful set of conferences that has increased awareness of the AI-Anon program and broadened cultural understanding in our Area.
2. Our projected Area budget revenue for the past year was on target to match our planned expenditures.
3. We held a successful Oregon Alateen Conference in August of 2024. I was one of two male Alateen group sponsors that participated. The teens ran the Conference, and attendees experienced a deep felt connection to each other and the program.
4. An Area Task Force worked on a Policy and Procedure for Creating a Spanish Speaking Overlay District, and the Assembly voted to accept the policy and create the overlay District.
5. A Committee updated and revised the Oregon Area Alateen Safety and Behavioral Requirements which was then approved unanimously by the AWSC.
6. We set-up electronic registration for Assemblies. This created an efficient way to collect voluntary registration contributions from the on-line and in-person participants of our hybrid Assemblies.
7. Our CPC created a Linked-In Account and had a successful virtual training for Professionals.
8. Our Electronic District Overlay now has 10 electronic groups with a District Representative.

Challenges:

1. We would like to fill all of the Area service positions. This has been difficult to achieve in recent years. Several coordinator positions had to be combined during Panel 62. I am reminded of the slogan, "Let it begin with me." As Delegate, I plan to visit all our Districts' meetings and many group meetings. I hope this helps members gain a greater sense of their role in AI-Anon as a whole and excites them to do service beyond the group level.
2. We would like to increase GR attendance at Assemblies. This has proved challenging even with the convenience of hybrid meetings.
3. We have not had enough interested members to form a Committee to put on a State Speaker Meeting for 5 years. Perhaps we need to explore new ideas for fellowship.
4. An Area Thought Force made a recommendation to reduce the frequency of Assemblies from 3 per year to 2 per year (1 virtual and 1 in-person). After a challenging discussion, the AWSC voted not to accept the recommendation, and requested a broader set of options to include looking at content and structure of assemblies in addition to frequency. A Task Force has been formed to study multiple options and provide evidence based recommendations.

Pennsylvania; Ralph Hueske; Panel 64

Hello, Friends! As I enter my second year as Delegate, I am deeply grateful for the continued love and support of Pennsylvania Al-Anon. This past year has been a testament to the strength of our fellowship and our commitment to carrying the message of hope.

Successes

Pennsylvania's annual Assembly in August saw 229 attendees, reflecting our members' dedication to unity and service. We were privileged to welcome Sue Perez, who shared her powerful story and service journey, as well as co-presenting with me on "Carrying the Message in Al-Anon Meetings." The presentation was well received and inspired meaningful discussions.

We have made significant progress in filling service positions, starting the year with ten of our 31 districts without a District Representative (DR) and now having six of those positions filled. As a result, our Area World Service Committee (AWSC) meetings have seen increased representation and engagement.

Our transition to integrating the Alateen Conference fully under the Area is well underway, ensuring alignment with Alateen Safety and Behavioral Requirements. We currently have 385 active groups, including 44 Electronic groups, with 294 (76%) having Group Representatives (GRs). Financially, we have worked to manage expenses while experiencing a significant increase in group contributions—an encouraging recovery after the pandemic's impact.

Concerns

Group naming has been a point of contention for a vocal minority within the Area, though it affects only 15 of our 385 groups. We continue to listen and educate our DRs and GRs about the updated policy, fostering understanding and unity.

While progress has been made in filling DR positions, four districts remain without representation, highlighting an ongoing challenge in encouraging service participation at all levels. We remain committed to supporting members in stepping into these roles.

Pennsylvania Al-Anon continues to navigate the evolving service landscape with resilience, unity, and a shared commitment to our primary purpose—offering help and hope to families and friends of alcoholics.

Puerto Rico; Lourdes Cividanes; Panel 63

Our Area 62, Puerto Rico, turned 50 last year, although our first recovery doors opened in 1956.

Currently our Area has 21 groups and 153 active members in 28 meetings, mostly meeting in person, five meet in a hybrid way and seven only through electronic, means using the ZOOM and WhatsApp platforms.

The Area Committee, made up of elected members and service coordinators, meets monthly for administrative meetings, workshops, talks and 2 annual assemblies.

We have the following committees to support the groups and strengthen the area:

- Delegate, alternate delegate and past delegates evaluate concerns or situations
- Electronic media, in charge of keeping the Web page, Facebook and WhatsApp up to date and announcing the meetings and activities of the day.
- Public dissemination on professional events
- Alateen, offers workshops and takes care of young people (they only meet twice a month)
- Servers of the information and literature distribution office.
- Newsletter, monthly magazine of the area
- Archive, keeps up to date writings of OSM and the area, including groups' history
- Annual Convention

Our Area, although small, has the genuine desire to serve, help and carry the message to colleagues for the well-being of the friends and family of alcoholics.

"We are all AI-Anon and AI-Anon are all we"

Quebec West; Kathy Hebert; Panel 64

In Quebec west area we have been working on a reference manual called Structure and Guidelines. This manual is meant to give descriptions of the different service positions at the area level, including the different coordinator positions to help those interested in getting a good idea of what they entail, and an idea of how our area is structured. It has been quite an endeavour given the added translation needed from French to English. I am glad to report that it will be presented at our next assembly so the GRs can vote on it for approval.

We are now undertaking the revision of the Alateen minimum safety guidelines that has not been updated in quite some time. We are thrilled that after many years of not having an Alateen coordinator, a member finally stepped up! Perfect timing! This member will now partake in the revision. Our hope is this will help revitalize Alateen in our area as we presently only have one French Alateen group.

Another challenge at this time is the missing links of service in our area: English secretary, web site coordinator, coordinator of technology, public outreach coordinator and lastly our English newsletter coordinator, a position that has been vacant for several years now. It has been a challenge to get members involved in service, and after much discussion during and after the pandemic, weighing the pros and cons of online meetings vs in person meetings, it was voted that we would do one AWSC and one assembly per year in person, and one each on line. In addition, it was decided that, rather than have all districts come to Montreal for each AWSC and assembly, that we, the provincial committee, would hold the AWSC and assembly in different regions, asking for DRs to inform us of different venues in their regions. This has been well received by most, and has been working very well. Our last in person assembly had over 90 participants!!! Which is the most we've had in many years, whether on line or in person! It was super exciting, and many have commented on the beauty of laughter and one to one sharing, encouragement and such that can not be done when meeting on line! Plus those much needed hugs!!

We continue to work hard at attracting new members to service and supporting the growth of the AI-Anon/Alateen fellowship in our area, by "Investing in each other to Preserve our Legacy"

Saskatchewan; Mary Calhoun; Panel 63

Successes - With the addition of a Tech Coordinator, we continue to host hybrid Assemblies with very few problems. Equipment has been purchased to be able to set up at any venue. While attending virtually is always an option, our members overwhelmingly attend in person. Each Assembly sees more GR's attending and becoming involved.

Communication through the links of service is strong and the structure of our Area Assemblies is well organized. All positions are filled, rotating 1/3 each year.

Our Area website is consistently up-to-date, easy to navigate and full of information while being careful with anonymity on anything posted.

We continue to host AI-Anon ZOOM Days that are extremely successful. Five days of "*Recovery Through the Holidays*" takes place for 2-3 hours each day during Christmas and New Years. As this can be a stressful time for many, having meetings available on-line has proven to be beneficial.

Area 89 Day of Fellowship is held each February. It is a 10-hour day with speakers and AFG meetings. We typically have around 100 people join us from Canada, the US and abroad.

Challenges – We continue to discuss ways to attract members of diversity, specifically our Indigenous communities.

While our Area positions are always filled, there are many Districts and AFG groups with open service positions. It is difficult to keep these districts in contact with the Area, and we look for ways to reach out to them.

Public Outreach in the Area has seen a slow resurgence since Covid. New ways of reaching out to prospective members, especially younger people, continues to be discussed.

South Carolina; Barbara O'Donnell; Panel 63

South Carolina Area formed 1961, approaching 60th anniversary, currently 9 Districts: 8 Geographic: one Overlay Electronic -vacant as all EG in Geographic Districts. SC AREA is indeed fortunate to have most Trusted Servant positions filled. Past Delegates, District and Area Officers or Coordinators, serve as mentors, service sponsors, involved in Group, District and Area meetings and events.

Approximately 136 registered SC Groups active

- 110 PHYSICAL, 83 Group Reps
- 17 ELECTRONIC, 12 Group Reps
- 9 ALATEEN, Approx 43 SC AMIAS
- AWSC 3x per year virtually, Assembly Hybrid, 3x per year, Tech support provided by Officers and AACC/Web Coordinator. Assembly in Columbia at a "Scouting" facility, hybrid tech and space for lunch. Area Officers meet virtually 1x month.

ROAD TRIP 2024 The SC Area expresses appreciation to the Board of Trustees, for hosting the "ROAD TRIP in Columbia on Oct 26, 2024. The event was very well received, with over 75 registrants.

ALATEEN: Monthly Ad Hoc meetings. 49th Alateen Conference, Aug 2024; 32 weekend Registrations, 12 Registrations for OPEN Sat. meeting

PUBLIC OUTREACH: PO Coordinator appointed P63 final year. implemented a statewide project to contact counselors.

- **SOUTH CAROLINA 50TH CONVENTION FEB 2025 MYRTLE BEACH**, over 300 registrants. WSO Sue P. was Speaker /Workshop: WSO Website. Sue C. past South Dakota Delegate Speaker. The Convention income exceed expenses, turning the tide of recent losses.
- One Area application submitted for WSO Volunteer Regional Trustee, held first ad hoc virtual Assembly.
- **Native American AI-Anon Conference** is a Public Outreach effort to Native American Community. Its rotated geographically, hosted by AFG AREAS New Mexico, Oregon, Minnesota. SC Area discussing it as Public Outreach effort.
- Less than half of registered Group Reps attend Assembly.
- **Trusted servants Area positions, Profile and Leadership Documents** issued 2019, are under review by a Work Group for accuracy and style. The old Area Handbook was discontinued years ago with the acceptance of the AFG Service Manual, currently only the ALATEEN S&B and Conventions Guidelines are approved in addition to Motions listed on website.
- **AA state Convention** District Reps have served as liaison on behalf of the Area, fostering relations by coordinating participation at the AA state Conventions.

South Carolina AI-Anon Alateen Family Groups invite you to attend:

- 51st SCAFG AI-Anon/Alateen Convention Thurs Feb 19th-Sun 22nd Greenville
- 49th Alateen 2025 Conference "Alateen Still Changing Lives in 2025": Aug 8th – 10th
- OPEN MEETING SAT <https://www.ai-anon-sc.org/conferenceconventions-20252026.html>

South Dakota; Renae Behlings; Panel 63

- We are working on clarifying the language in our Digest of Policies.
- We have maintained a healthy Area budget with sufficient funds to be able to make an extra donation to the WSO last year.
- All our Al-Anon Members in Alateen Service (AMIAS) have already been recertified this year. We currently don't have any Alateen meetings in our Area.
- We are currently working on our Bylaws for incorporation.
- We have been doing a lot of Public Outreach. We have put up 2 billboards in the state, which is new for South Dakota. One of the billboards is located on Interstate 29 and the other one is located on Interstate 90. These are the two main Interstates in South Dakota.
- We have a committee in District 5 working to establish an Alateen group. We haven't had Alateen in our state since before 2020.

Tennessee; Irene Faile; Panel 64

Successes:

The Area Guidelines Workgroup is updating the Area Guidelines. Some haven't been updated since before 2013.

Planning is in progress for our 2025 Convention. It will be held in Knoxville this year, rotating between Knoxville, Nashville, and Memphis locations.

All our Area officer positions are filled. There are 9 out of 10 Coordinator service positions, 1 of 3 Regional AIS Liaisons, and 8 out of 26 (30%) District Representatives service positions filled.

We hold 2 AWSC Meetings and 2 Assemblies each year in Lebanon, TN. We have committed to holding all our Area Meetings as hybrid.

We purchased all the equipment to support our online meeting needs last year. Now we are self-sufficient equipment-wise.

Our Area Chair, created an AWSC member "Welcome" to present during our Spring AWSC. It's was a mini-orientation for AWSC members. It was well received.

Our Convention was a hybrid event. It was a great success. We had an extra PC for in-person attendees to reach out to the online participants during breaks. It made the online attendees feel more "a part of" the convention.

Challenges:

Like so many other Areas, we have trouble getting members to volunteer for service. With 15 out of 27 Districts without representation, I intend to reach out to dark districts and encourage members to fill these empty service positions.

Texas East; Anna Anderson; Panel 64;

Concerns

1. **Hybrid Meeting Format:** In August, the Area will pilot our first hybrid format for a standalone AWSC meeting. We believe this format has the potential to provide greater flexibility, accessibility, and increased attendance.
2. **Expanding Leadership Opportunities:** To ensure a robust pool of candidates for Area Officer elections, a Thought Force has been established to review and better align the qualifications for Area Officers.
3. **Financial Education Workshops:** To support groups in financial matters, we're planning to offer workshops at assemblies on topics such as budgeting, the importance of contributing to service arms, and setting up electronic contribution options.
4. **Conflict Resolution Strategy:** To address a significant Area conflict more effectively, the Area Chair formed a special committee with representatives from different sides of the issue. This committee collaborates on Zoom and email to develop (ideally) unanimous solutions, which will then be presented to the AWSC for discussion. This "offline" approach prevents tension and preserves harmony in AWSC and Assembly meetings.

Successes

1. **Electronic Voting:** At assemblies, implemented electronic voting using Voxvote.
2. **Financial Management Upgrade:** Fully transitioned to QuickBooks Online at an annual cost of \$80, thanks to our non-profit status. This platform offers permanent books instead of spreadsheet files and has simplified the audit process.
3. **Enhanced Contributions System:** Launched a free credit card app designed for non-profits, which has significantly boosted Area contributions. We will soon expand its use to assemblies.
4. **Streamlined Reimbursements:** Launched bank-to-bank electronic payments to reimburse trusted servants more efficiently.
5. **Modernized Newsletter:** Now features QR codes, digital-only distribution, full-color design, and separate English and Spanish sections for better readability.
6. **Assembly Preparation Sessions:** A Task Force is holding preparatory sessions prior to each assembly to provide GRs with an overview of items to be voted on.
7. **Member Feedback:** Adopted QuestionPro, a free and user-friendly survey tool, to gather feedback from members after each AWSC and assembly.
8. **Enhanced Communication:** The Area Chair now distributes post-AWSC and assembly meeting summaries in a concise, easy-to-read format that follows meeting agendas.
9. **Adding Fun to Assemblies:** Introduced dance music during assembly breaks, with members joining Conga lines or dancing solo. It's been a big hit.

Utah; Dave Bailey, Panel 63

In the Utah area, our successes last year included:

- Registering our first electronic group.
- Complying with the 2025 Alateen recertification.
- Receiving approval for our bylaws and procedures for electronic groups.
- Completing the task force to give more members of our AWSC, along with past delegates, the opportunity to attend the Southwest Regional Delegates Meeting (SWRDM) regularly. The area passed the suggestions made by the task force and we updated our bylaws accordingly. Now there will be support for regular attendance by our delegate and alternate delegate, along with the immediate past delegate, area chair, and another AWSC member on a rotating basis. We also provided a path forward when one of those tapped to attend for the particular year is unable to attend.
- Publishing a professional, quality Alanews regularly—it is bringing our area together with its articles and sharings.
- Continuing to provide an area website that is state-of-the-art, with information about AI-Anon, along with meetings and area events.

As for challenges, the main challenge we are facing right now throughout the area is the attraction of more youth to our Alateen program. We have been blessed with many AMIAS volunteers, but our Alateen meetings are scarce. We could support more meetings.

We continue to use the principle of Knowledge-based Decision Making (KBDM) very effectively in our area. We continually enlist the help of thought forces and task forces to solve issues in our area. It is from this process that we have had great things come, such as our annual Utah Social AI-Anon Weekend that provides experience, strength, and hope to our members every year. KBDM is an inspired process that we find works very, very well.

Lastly, I want to stress again like I did last year that our area continues to implement the principle of abundance in all that we do. We have an annual Holiday Boutique, where we regularly receive enough money to support not only the district it is held in, but also the area, each year. Our AI-Anon Alateen Information Service (AAIS) has a successful chili/soup fundraiser and dessert auction every year that supports their activities for the year. The groups in our area are always so generous. They routinely pass on this abundance to our districts, area, and WSO. Our groups are consistently implementing the principle of abundance in contributing their fair share to being fully self-supporting.

Vermont; Joanne Vyce; Panel 65

Successes

Participation in AWSC meetings, which were Zoom-only, was very good during 2024.

At our 2022 Spring Assembly, a PEG Task Force presented suggested guidelines for accepting PEG's into our Area service structure. The Assembly voted to adopt these guidelines, on a trial basis, for two years. In fall 2024, the Assembly reviewed the guidelines, amended them, and adopted them on a permanent basis, with the understanding that they may be further amended. Vermont now has three geographic PEG's within our service structure. The entire process has been very unifying and enlightening for our Area.

Also, in 2024, an Archives Thought Force formed to sort through Vermont Al-Anon archival material, including memorabilia, notebooks, documents, and thumb drives. The Thought Force brought together current and past AWSC members, some with deep knowledge of Vermont's Al-Anon history. Kate G., Panel 62 Archives Coordinator, acknowledged AFG Connects as a valuable resource. In October 2024, the Assembly passed a motion that AWSC Panel 65 form an Archives Task Force following the suggested guidelines of the Archives Thought Force.

Concerns

After holding Zoom-only Assemblies during the pandemic, our Area moved to hybrid Assemblies in 2023 and 2024. Despite the best efforts of members familiar with technology, we had tech issues during both our Spring and Fall Assemblies in 2024. This has contributed to the lack of consensus within the AWSC regarding hybrid vs. in-person Assemblies going forward. The Area continues to try to fill the position of Technology Coordinator, which would make a huge difference.

A member of an Al-Anon group in southern Vermont was certified in 2024 as an AMIAS. Subsequently, the Alateen Coordinator was notified by the WSO that her certification was not valid because she resides outside of Vermont. The Alateen Coordinator had not been aware of this restriction. The AMIAS was notified that, to be a certified AMIAS in the Vermont Area, she first had to become certified in her state of residence. At Fall Assembly, a motion was passed to add this language to Vermont Alateen's Behavior and Safety Guidelines: *AMIAS may be certified in more than one Area, however, they must first be certified by the Area in which they reside*

Seventh Tradition contributions continued to lag in 2024 in online and hybrid meetings.

VIRGINIA; Laura Lovern; Panel 65

SUCSESSES:

- We are using the 2025 WSC Theme as the foundation of our Area Theme – Connections and Growth Through Service: Investing in Each Other to Preserve our Legacy.
- Our 2024 Convention was hugely successful. We hold our Convention once each Panel and in 2024 it was revamped somewhat and brought in \$12,000 to the Virginia Area. This was extremely helpful given the increasing cost of our Assemblies.
- Our technology allows us to hold hybrid, virtual, and in-person meetings. We currently hold officer meetings and VAWSC meetings by WebEx only; Assembly is hybrid. Just after the pandemic, attendance at Assembly was split about 50/50 for in person and virtual. Currently, most attendees are registering for in-person attendance. We hold Assembly twice each year, in May and October, over a Saturday and Sunday.
- We completed both an AWSC and Area Inventory to pass along to the new Panel.
- We established a policy for Group, District and Area boundary changes.
- We purchased equipment for our tech team to avoid the cost of hiring an outside A/V firm to help with Assemblies.
- We offered Alateen certification and recertification virtually.
- We created a Spanish Overlay District.
- We offered various Town Halls and training sessions for members who were interested in staying more informed and participating in additional training. Examples include GR101, treasurer training, and a virtual chat about Policies and Procedures.

CHALLENGES:

- It has been several panels since we've found a willing member to be our Archivist.
- Since the pandemic occurred, we have struggled to get all our Alateen meetings back up and running. Attendance is lower than pre-pandemic.
- We are beginning to feel the pinch of the rising costs of hotel meals and stays for our weekend long Assemblies.
- Realized we do not have an Area process for approving Southeast Regional Trustee applicants and helping them navigate their way through the WSO submission. This is something we are currently working on.
- We are also revising our Area's Alateen safety and behavioral requirements policy, as some of it seemed a little outdated, upon recent review.

West Virginia, Cheryl Williams; Panel 65

Successes

The WV Area is currently transforming a concern into a success.

District 1 was due to host this year's Convention. The District struggled organizing the event, as few members participate in active service. They recently informed the Area, they could not manage. Rather than cancel the event, an emergency AWSC meeting was held, including the Committee members of the Convention.

As District 1 had already picked a theme, arranged a workshop, finalized some decorations, and found a speaker, the Area decided to book a large shelter at Clarksburg Memorial Park and arrange for a day long picnic. The Area will be providing the meal and the registration fee will cover the cost of the shelter and food.

It is wonderful example of how the Al-Anon family will pull together in times of difficulty.

Over the past few years, District 4 has been working with Reynolds Memorial Hospital in Morgantown to enable nurses to attend an Al-Anon meeting virtually to increase their understanding of the problems facing family and friends of alcoholics.

The Area's November election saw new members step up for service and fill the AWSC positions.

WV is happy to welcome a new Al-Anon group in District 2.

Challenges

The West Virginia Area continues seeing a drop in attendance in our groups.

District 4 had a number of groups close. This pattern started with COVID, but the effects have stretched to present day.

The Area is also struggling with the lack of service participation of our members. We have made attempts across all Districts to engage our members and convey the benefits and personal enrichment of service, but it is an uphill battle. Filling the positions of GR has been especially challenging.

Dual membership has become an increasing issue in terms of service, as many members are also active in AA and not eligible for service.

WV has no active Alateen meetings. We have 6 certified Alateen sponsors in the Area.

Over the past few years, District 6 attempted to establish an Alateen meeting at Union Local High School with mixed success. This year, however, no teens were interested in participating.

District 2 has expressed interested in forming an electronic Alateen group and are hoping WSO will establish a procedure to allow Areas to host electronic Alateen meetings.

Wyoming; Donna Wardell; Panel 63

At our AWSC meeting in June of 2024, there were concerns about the website maintenance due to serious health issues of our coordinator. It was the consensus that the website coordinator needed to be respectfully replaced. A thought force was created to recreate the website. At our business assembly in August of 2024 the thought force recommendations were to keep wyomingal-anon.org as our website domain name. A member volunteered to complete the position of the vacated Web Coordinator. Another recommendation was to have a Web coordinator and an alternate Web coordinator. The new coordinator will ask for a Website Committee to be created to make decisions and suggestions. Due to this situation, we are more aware of the need to address our guidelines if necessary.

We have also completed the Thought Force to update technology. We now have a Task force on technology.

The three-year trial period for having one AWSC meeting and one Business Assembly on Zoom and two meetings face to face. The Zoom meetings have been the time of year when the weather is unpredictable making travel difficult and unsafe. It appears that this trial period has been successful, and many would like it continued.

Wisconsin & Upper Peninsula of Michigan; Iris Rivera;

Panel 65

Highlights:

We finally have more people coming to our assemblies in person after the Pandemic.

We have an annual AI-Anon Convention with AA participation that is well attended.

Our Assembly and AWSC meetings are hybrid. We use Zoom and we just implemented using an OWL to aid us with our meetings.

Disappointments:

One of our biggest disappointments is that we still have trouble with people stepping up for service at the area level. We currently have four vacant positions: Chairperson, Archives, Alateen & Technology. We thankfully had people Step up to be interim Chairperson, Alateen Coordinator & Technology Coordinator until we hold a special election in Spring.

Another disappointment is that some members feel that because no one else steps up some people feel that those that do step up term after term are being dominating.