

## **AWSC ---Minutes of November 11, 2017, St Louis, MI**

Start Time: 10:07 AM

Matt opened the meeting with the Serenity Prayer

Hosted by District 16

Kris read Tradition 4, Rosemary read Concept 4, Tracy read the General Warranties

Roll Call: Chairman-Matt D, State Delegate-Mike D, Alternate Delegate-Ann M, Secretary-Steffi K.

Treasurer-Jodi B-Absent

Welcome to our new DRs today! FloAnn and Sandy who have been involved in Area MIAFG for a long time, are now DRs

### **Reports and Communication**

**BUSINESS SERVICES/FINANCE**: Secretary, Treasurer, and Technical Coordinators (Tech & Web)

**SECRETARY**- Roll call of Board Members was done by Steffi.

*Secretary's Personal Comment: I forgot to thank everyone for entrusting me in this service position, so please accept my sincere thanks now. I think perhaps I was nervous and sad that this was my last time working for you.*

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES from August 2017 made by Ross F. Seconded by Cheryl B. Minutes approved by consensus.

**TREASURER** – Jodi B was absent so there is no financial report today.

Cash Balances as of \_\_\_\_\_, 2017:

General Checking       \$ 0,000

Prudent Reserve       \$ 00,000

MIAFG Convention       \$ 0,000

**Total Cash Balance:   \$00,000**

NO MOTION NEEDED TO ACCEPT/FILE THE TREASURER'S REPORT.

Love Basket = \$75.95 today.

**WEBSITE** – Jamie H – Most people are now sending monies to the right PO Box, they are aware of where the address information is located so there should be a smooth transition for the new treasurer.

As a reminder, there is a page for AI-Anon groups to share information and or events that are happening in their areas. Just email the information to me using the "Contact Us" link through the web site.

**TECHNICAL** – Kristine G – it's her last meeting as Tech Coordinator, that position is still open for the next Panel, she'll be happy to assist in training whomever takes that position next.

**MEMBERSHIP OUTREACH** – Delegate, Alternate Delegate, Chair

**DELEGATE REPORT** – Mike D

Mike handed out his written report then spoke about new info. He reminded us that the DRs are the most important people here today. He introduced the New Officers for the next panel (Panel 58). There is information on each table today outlining the coordinator duties and a resume that is for everyone to use to determine which opportunity they'd like for the new Panel. Explained the role of WSO within AFG. Explained the goals that were set by the officers of Panel 55. "If we meet every goal we have set, then we're not setting high enough goals. We need to keep growing." Mike

handed out certificates of appreciation to all members of Panel 55. He then read moving comments, a touching share of his growth through service, especially during this Panel, that he presented at WSC. (all below)

## WSC Delegate Report To the AWSC

Thank you for being here today. As the voice of your Groups, you are the most important person here.

This is my last report to the Area World Service Committee (AWSC) as your World Service Conference Delegate. Yes, you are an Area World Service Committee member and I am grateful for your participation. "Participation is the key to harmony." (Concept Four)

I have been in touch with your Officers, Coordinators, Past Delegates, a few DRs, Grs, AISs and the World Service Office. Attended your Fall Assembly where we had very good attendance for elections of your Panel 58 Officers. Your new Officers will be Ann M. – Delegate, Kristine G. – Alt. Delegate, Mike D. – Area Chair, Maggie S. – Area Treasurer, FloAnn Y. – Area Secretary. As per your Michigan AFG, Inc. Al-Anon and Alateen Policy Handbook, your new Delegate Ann M. is looking for Members to fill the Coordinator positions; a great opportunity to expand your growth in recovery and to give back for what Al-Anon has given you.

Vali F. started her new journey on September 5<sup>th</sup> as your new Executive Director at the World Service Office (WSO). She attended her first "Road Trip" Annual Board of Trustees meeting; last month in Colorado. Mary G. completed her Interim Executive Director position at the same "Road Trip" meeting and now begins her new own personal journey. I thank her for the wonderful job she did in such a short period of time.

The World Service Office is gearing up for the "2018 International Convention" (Celebrating One Day at a Time) in Baltimore Maryland. There is only 7 months, 3 weeks and 4 days until the Parade of Nations begins; but for the first time, festivities will start the day before with the "Day of Connecting." An Additional day with a full program of panels, discussion meetings and presentations. Registration started on September 5<sup>th</sup> (do not try to get hotel reservations before registering with WSO); the sooner you register the more you save and the closer to the events your housing could be.

The 2018 World Service Conference, to be held in West Harrison, New York, so that Ann and the full Conference can visit "Stepping Stones" (Home of Bill and Lois W.). The Conference theme will be, "Al-Anon – There is no standing still!"

This information (in more detail) and much more information is available in the quarterly letter of the Chairman of the board of Trustees' found on the members' web site. Also, there you will find a letter from the Policy Committee, Finance Committee and the Conference Leadership Team. From the Policy Committee you will learn about: Policy Digest Review – Implementing "Spiritual Principles" in the policies of the Service Manual. Electronic Meetings – Current progress and a breakout session at the 2018 World Service Conference. "Open" and "Closed" Terminology – Task Force to be created to change the language for newcomers and professionals. Getting in Touch with Al-Anon/Alateen (S23) – Not part of policy and should be re-located from Policy Digest Review. And much more.

The Finance Committee: Between donations and literature sales income is down \$376,000.00 from this time last year. Expenses are up by about \$450,000.00. So, Al-Anon as a whole is trusting that the fellowship will come through as it did in 2016 to increase donations for the last 3 months of 2017 (by \$600,000.00) so the budget will be met. Find out the why and more details in the letter on the members' website.

The Conference Leadership Team is gearing up for Conference; the Conference Procedures Booklet has been revised for this Conference. Finding more ways to have Delegates involved in the workings of the Conference Agenda. "Conference Rules" are now known as "Conference Etiquette". Vali F. will be speaking Wednesday evening at Conference, so at Spring Assembly, Ann can give us review of her talk. By the way, just for your information and continuing Panel 55 dedication to education – the Conference Leadership Team is made up of: Associate Director – Conference (Suzanne M.), (Trustees – Judy K. and Teri M.) Chair and Co-Chair of the Conference, Chair of the Board of

Trustees (Debbie G.), Executive Director (Vali F.) and Director of Programs (Marsha W.). See more info in the CLT letter on the members website as part of the Chair of the Board of Trustees' letter.

I hope that everyone is "In the Loop". "In the Loop" is the new "E-News" and all members are encouraged to go to the members' website and register to receive it directly through e-mail.

Hooray! The 2023 International Convention site has been chosen. It will be held in, pause, deep breath; Albuquerque, New Mexico. Congrats to New Mexico on their hard work.

As stated at the beginning of this report, this is the last meeting of Panel 55. It has been an Honor and Privilege, Educational and Humbling, Recovery and Growth to serve Michigan AFG. Thank you Panel 55: Members, GRs, AIS Liaisons, Host Committees, Thought and Task Forces, DRs, Past Delegates and Officers for their participation in the growth of Michigan AFG.

Thank you for this opportunity service.

*Learning and Growing Through Service*

*Mike Drumheller, MI AFG WSC Delegate*

Additional from Mike:

### **2017 Conference Panel 55 Delegate's 3 Minute Talk**

Mike Drumheller, Michigan, Panel 55

I thank God, for this experience; and Michigan AFG, who entrusted me to be their voice at the World Service Conference. It has been an honor and humbling - I wasn't ready and didn't feel worthy.

God doesn't choose those who are ready, God readies those who are chosen! In my years of service, I have only volunteered twice. Every other time I was asked (or told, it was my time) to serve. My sponsors drilled into me, "When asked to serve the answer is YES!!" I learned to trust in those around me; that they saw in me what I did not see in myself. My Higher Power has always been there for me; along with those, who have gone before me.

I am grateful for my participation in the Task Force - "Welcoming other Communities, Cultures and Beliefs". Presenting it at Assembly; along with - the 2015 "The Big Question" and "Dream" have been major highlights of my time as Delegate. This year, "Spirituality in Area Money Discussions" has added to my gratitude. In communicating with the membership about the "Prayer for Today"; I have learned that the membership is much more passionate than I thought. I have learned from those who have spoken loudly; and from the "silent voices".

"Our Members: Our Hope for the Future" - I have always felt that the newcomer is the most important person in the meeting. I want AI-Anon to be there for the newcomer as it was there for me.

I practice what I am taught until I learn something different - hopefully better. Our Program is a beautiful thing (like crystal), but am I becoming so rigid that I may shatter? For "Our Members: Our Hope for the Future"; the Membership must evolve and grow along with today's, (and the future's) - communities, cultures and beliefs. Our Program must be more like leather - comfortable and flexible to fit the current society. I must not use tools of the Program, meant for individual recovery, to hold back the whole Program and cause it to become stagnant. Balance between tradition for the individual and evolution for the Program is difficult, but Balance is a wonderful thing to strive for.

"Our Members: Our Hope for the Future" - Let's make **"all"** newcomers comfortable at their first meeting so they will want to come back!

Thank you for all you do!!

And this opportunity to serve.

**ALTERNATE DELEGATE – Ann M**

Introduced new DRs (see above)

**CHAIR – Matt D**

He thanked the Officers and Coordinators for assisting him on this Panel. Also the committee members of executive committee, policy committee, etc. He gave a brief listing of the goals that were met by this Panel. Increase the quality of your growth by stepping up for service. He offered support to anyone considering any position on Area level for MIAFG.

**Old Business**

**46<sup>th</sup> MIAFG Convention 2018** -- at Shanty Creek. Sherree (co-chair for May 4-6, 2018) spoke about the upcoming convention, she brought flyers/registration forms today.

**47<sup>th</sup> MIAFG Convention 2019** -- at Shanty Creek. Ann M. Noted that nobody has stepped up yet to host this convention. Districts, please step forward. May 3-5, 2019

**TASK FORCE – Re-Districting:** Renee F. her team has revised their ideas several times. 42 districts now, trying to revise it to have only 31 districts. She's open to additional input from everyone. She hopes to present a final version at March AWSC so that it can be brought to Spring Assembly for approval.

**TASK FORCE – Al-Anon Day:** Michelle NOT PRESENTED

**THOUGHT FORCE – Social Media:** Jamie H. NOT PRESENTED

**TASK FORCE – AWSC Insurance:** Mike D NOT PRESENTED

**Reports and Communication cont'd**

**DISTRICT HAPPENINGS – District Representatives reports...**

DISTRICT REPS REPORTING:

Michelle D20, Cheryl D5, Sherree D23/24, Chris D11, Michelle D14, Kris D16, Sandy D2

11:20 BREAK FOR LUNCH

12:30 REGROUP

**Reports and Communication cont'd**

**AL-ANON INFORMATION SERVICES:**

AIS LIAISONS REPORTING:

FloAnn

**ALATEEN: AAPP, COORDINATOR – Marti W, Andy G**

AAPP – Marti – absent, no report

Alateen – Andy G reported on the Lock-Ins at Dawn Farm in Ypsilanti (April and October) Often the purpose of these is for communicating with other Alateens and build craft items to sell at Al-Anon Conventions to support their expenses. The most recent Lock-In was 31 people (11 sponsors, 20 teens)

**FELLOWSHIP COMMUNICATION:** Literature, Sentinel – Ross F, Maggie S

Sentinel – Maggie: the final newsletter for Maggie has a deadline of December 15<sup>th</sup>. Please get your shares to her.  
Literature – Ross: He has created a new process for setting up an LDC at conventions, he will oversee getting it set up for the 2018 Convention, going forward the Literature coordinator will oversee the second two in their Panel, plus the first one for the subsequent Panel.

**PUBLIC OUTREACH/WEBSITE** - Beth B, Jamie H.

Website – Jamie (See her report above)

Public Outreach – Beth: Learned a lot, saw personal growth, she hopes the next coordinator enjoys it too.

**GROUP SERVICES: RECORDS/ARCHIVES** – Renee F, Hugh W

Area Records – Renee: 40 new groups, still need to update “no-mail status” meetings. Still are meetings that don’t have email communication available.

Archives – Hugh: He worked hard to coordinate the archives so it’s all in order for the next person. He’s done two Panels in this role and it’s time for rotation of service.

Matt discussed the procedure is generally for all Task Forces to come to a close ending with this Panel, although the Re-Districting task force is very close to completion and he’d like it to continue into Panel 58. Requested a motion be made to allow this task force to continue. Verbal motion by Ross, Sandy 2<sup>nd</sup>. Passed unanimously.

**AWSC MEMBER CONCERNS AND SOLUTIONS** – “Looking for suggestions from other districts”

Andy G has someone attending his meeting who discusses their own problem with alcohol, how do they deal with it? Michelle asked when we can expect the new Policy handbook. Has a too-large group in “no mail status” and no GR yet they want to open a second group to divide into two smaller groups. How to register or not register groups that are “troubled”.

Michelle D14 sees several groups that are “over-monitoring” their meeting, wants to see wording added to the opening so that people keep the focus on Al-Anon. Some groups read the table signs at their meeting opening which helps to keep people on track.

Renee talked about deactivating groups vs de-listing them at the AIS

Kris Solved a group problem using Tradition 5 (each Al-Anon group has but one purpose....” And a problem was settled although a family left.

Jeanette Groups are being invited to non-Al-Anon approved workshops which can confuse the Al-Anon purposes.

FloAnn offered comments/solutions to some of the above situations. We should make sure our decisions are based on “are we doing something helpful to that person, or Al-Anon?”

Joyce offered experience/suggestions on above concerns.

Hugh offered suggestions for above concerns.

Vic wonders when will we acknowledge and put on the agenda the Absentia voting matter that was discussed at Assembly.

Chosen Agenda Item: “Should the Action Committee Spotlight Focus be Changed from Action Items to Educational/Information Topics”

Mike D presented details on this topic. Several years ago, MIAFG followed the idea of action committees as done by WSO. Are they still a productive way to hold Assembly? Are these action committees helpful at Assembly? Should we perhaps have the Coordinators lead workshops instead?

Feedback from Sherree, (more interaction, moving table to table to talk w people you might now already know),

Renee, (perhaps have workshops at Assembly)

Cheryl, enjoyed interactive things

Steffi, make it an assignment or challenge to the DRs to come up with new ideas

Vic, let's teach people the principles and how to disagree yet get along

Denise, enjoys the physical activities and she took things back to her groups and did the exercise there. i.e.: Q/A

Michelle, educational things getting people moving is good

Ann, would like the Action Committees to be more useful for participants

Andy, Concept 4 – participation is the key to harmony. “Can't have harmony if everyone is singing the same note”, people may be afraid to speak if they think they have a minority point of view, encourage everyone to participate and speak up.

Mike D Thanked everyone for their participation. That's why we had this Chosen Agenda Item. This shows that we need to make changes. All here are equal. Based on this discussion, we need more interactive projects.

Matt noted that the Policy Handbook is being updated and will be available in hard copy soon.

Meeting closed at 1:43 PM with the Al-Anon Declaration, followed by the Serenity Prayer

Respectfully Submitted, Steffi Korens, Secretary, Panel 55