

REPORT for NCWSA HYBRID FALL ASSEMBLY

October 28 - 30, 2022 -- San Ramon Marriott 2600 Bishop Dr, San Ramon, CA 94583

I attended the Assembly in person, and transportation and hotel expenses were shared with Ellen K, Group Rep for the Saturday Morning Women's Meeting.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28th: We arrived at about 4pm, checked into the hotel, and had dinner on our own with another Group Rep (David R). After dinner, we checked in with Assembly Registration, and attended an informational session from 6-6:50pm, on agenda, voting, finances, and assembly in general. This was followed by a Speaker Meeting, featuring Norm W., from New Mexico from 7-8pm, and a coffee and dessert reception. Norm was an excellent speaker, who shared his Experience, Strength and Hope, with a focus on Sponsorship and Service.

SATURDAY OCTOBER 29: Breakfast was on our own (thank goodness for in-room coffee!). Assembly began at 8:00am with the Serenity Prayer, Readings (Traditions, Concepts, Warranties, Alateen Safety Statement), and instructions on Assembly Etiquette. For example: we clap after reports, but never for opinions; and No audio or video recording of any kind was permitted. The room was set up so that those who chose to maintain their anonymity were never on camera. There were several large screens where we could see the virtual participants on Zoom.

The Chairperson, Rosanna, gave her Welcome & Opening remarks, followed by a Roll Call of the Northern California World Service Committee, Panel 61 (2021-2023). This included our delegate, committee officers and coordinators. Secretary Kristie gave her report, and reviewed Voting Procedures, and who had a Voice and Vote. Point Solutions application Voter Login and voting procedures were reviewed and tested.

A CONSENSUS VOTE was taken, and passed, to allow voice for non-NCWSA members (ie: guest speaker). A VOTE was taken to approve October 2021 Assembly Minutes, which were approved as amended. There was a break from 10:00-10:15am.

Following the break, ELECTIONS were held to fill the positions of CHAIRPERSON and SECRETARY for the remainder of Panel 61 (through 2023). (The interim Chairperson and Secretary stepped up when unexpected vacancies occurred.) One Candidate for each position spoke, and both were elected.

Chris M. became the new Chairperson (vote was 167 Yes, 1 No, and 0 Abstained).

Jim M became the new Secretary (vote was 158 Yes, 1 No, and 1 Abstained).

Between agenda items, there were Bell Ringers (trivia about the history of Alanon), and Questions for swag (like longest Alanon member).

From 11:15 – 12:00 PM Carol P presented the Treasurer's Report, and Kim C gave a 2023 Budget Presentation. Carol stated that groups, districts and individual need to increase our donations to NCWSA in 2023. Suggestions were made on how to encourage more donations. Carol also requested someone to step up as Financial Assistant, with the goal of becoming Treasurer for the next panel.

Kim's budget presentation included information about the Pink Can Fund, which provides literature for locked institutions (prisons, mental hospitals); unrestricted set-asides which are funded from the prior year's excess funds. These include the public outreach campaign, using Public Service Announcements in theaters, on television, and on our website.

On Site Buffet Lunch was from 12:00 – 1:00 PM, and was followed by a delightful "Character Defects Fashion Show" featuring our own Ellen K as a "People Pleaser!"

After lunch and the fashion show, we reconvened with the Serenity prayer. From 1:00-1:30pm Questions about the budget were answered, and a VOTE was taken to Approve the 2023 Budget (vote was 156 yes, 0 no, and 4 abstained). In the discussion, it was noted that the new budget reflects the transition from face-to-face to virtual to hybrid and back to face-to-face meetings. WSO estimates that each Group costs about \$300 per year to support. NCWSA took a \$6000 hit on our May 2022 Assembly, because the contract with facility had been negotiated before Covid, and it ended up being virtual only. (Rosanna expressed her appreciation several times for the members who helped fulfill our financial obligation by attending THIS assembly in person.) The idea of NCWSA considering a suggested set amount, or % donation by groups was discussed... Finally – it was noted by raised hands that at least 10% of the groups represented had substantial rent increases when they returned to in person meetings. Our delegate, John, believes the number is much higher. (*OUR group's rent increased more than 100%, from \$20 to \$50 per month.*) It was noted that WSO has a \$330,000 deficit in the current budget!

From 1:30-2:00pm, there was a presentation by the 12-STEPPER editor, Andrea G, and discussion about a motion to change the way the 12-Stepper is distributed. A VOTE was taken on the motion, which passed. The 12-Stepper will be distributed to Group Reps by EMAIL, and will no longer automatically be mailed to each group's Current Mailing Address. Those who do not have email, or wish to receive a hard copy will need to request it through a subscription form, which will be emailed to all CMA's in January.

From 2:00-3:00pm, a WORKSHOP was facilitated by Norm W on the topic of "Managing the Transition from Virtual to In-Person Meetings." The workshop included sections on Background, Options, General Principles, Spiritual Principles, and Issues that have been raised by NCWSA GRs and DRs.

Items I noted included the following. New meeting classifications (in person, in person being held electronically temporarily, hybrid, electronic, telephone meetings). There is no WSO deadline for returning to F2F meetings. It is NOT an option for a group to hold SEPARATE in person and electronic meetings under the same WSO#. Theoretically, New (permanent) electronic only groups should be listed in the "Global Electronic Area" rather than in NCWSA or local District. HOWEVER, since there is no WSO deadline for Temporary Electronic Meetings to switch, it was suggested that these groups stay where they are for now, as Alanon continues to access the new normal. One reason for this is that the rules require both the old and new areas to approve the move, and while our current physical areas have provisions in place to "release" a group, the Global Electronic Area does not... which means that once you switch, there is currently no way to switch back. Eventually, Electronic groups will be able to be linked/registered with local areas! Some of the issues raised have included how to hold an appropriate group conscience, service requirements for technology, financial considerations, anonymity, and continued Covid safety concerns. NCWSA will be deciding on policy for Permanent Electronic Meetings in our Area at next year's October Assembly. Norm included thoughts on principles like

“Spiritual Listening” and bringing our Higher Power into these conversations. Overall, it was an informative and thought-provoking workshop!

Following a break from 3:00-3:15, there was a report about Literature. All CAL is expected to be available in an electronic format by next year, but WSO contracts with outside vendors to provide CAL in that format, so it brings in only a very small % of profits from Literature sales. It was also noted that purchasing literature from outside sources (ie: Amazon) does NOT support WSO, and is discouraged! A question was posed about sharing CAL via Zoom Screen Sharing, and answered that Temporary Electronic Meetings may share passages on screen, but keeping pictures of literature or posting CAL online is prohibited.

Next on the Agenda, our Delegate John gave his report (I missed most of this), followed by the AAPP and Alateen Coordinator Reports by Jen A and Julie E. There are 32 Active Alateen meetings and 186 certified AMIAs, in the area.

Next were District Highlights from Districts 24, 27, 3, 23, 9, 11 21. Many included a District “Hollar.”

This was followed by Coordinator and EC Reports from Diversity (Grant), 12 Stepper (Andrea), Archives (Ruth), Group Records (Narissa) , Public Information/Cooperating w/ the Professional Community (Jocelyn), and the Executive Committee (Diana).

From 4:30-5:00, the business meeting ended with District Highlights from Districts 1, 18, 5, 22, 6, 19, and 4. Mary gave highlights for our District 19 via Zoom.

Dinner was on our own between 5 and 7pm. Ellen and I found a great little restaurant (Delarosa) at City Center Bishop Ranch – a nearby shopping plaza. After dinner, we enjoyed Fun and Fellowship onsite at the hotel, playing games, and even doing a little karaoke (what happens at karaoke stays at karaoke!). We ended the day with an evening Recovery Meeting from 8-9pm, on the Topic of Tradition 10 (double headed management).

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30th: The day began with an onsite continental breakfast from 7:30-8:30am, and with the traditional Serenity Prayer and Opening Readings. Since there were no votes on Sunday, we skipped the roll call and review of procedures. The first item on the agenda was District Reports from Districts 8, 20, 17, 15, 14 and 26. Then we had a break from 10:00-10:25am to check out of the hotel.

When we returned, we had Thought Force Updates. Penny talked about Welcoming REG (electronic groups) into our Service Structure, and noted that there are 16 different platforms being used to host AFG Group Meetings! DeDe gave an update on Technology Needs, and Julie talked about Earmarking (which I learned means setting aside funds for a specific purpose). The TF is to determine if this practice is consistent with our Legacies.

Next, we had our final district highlights from Districts 25,13,7,10, 16 and 12. Then from about 10:50-11:30am there was a Spotlight on Intergroups and AIS (Area Information Services), with presenters from 5 different intergroups. From 11:30-12:00pm we had reports from Coordinators for Literature, Insurance, Institutions, Websites, and ByLaws. There is a new introduction available for ODAT daily reader. Dave noted that the Pink Can Fund will be spending what they saved during COVID as the prisons reopen. I learned that we are covered by NCWSA insurance for meetings, but need certificates

of insurance for special events, or when requested by our landlords. There is Area financial support available for Districts Websites, and opportunity to have a professionally developed website template.

There was no New Business, and announcements were mainly thanking people for their service. The meeting ended at 12:30pm with the Alanon Declaration.

MY EXPERIENCE: I really enjoyed the opportunity for service at my first Assembly! The Tech Team – which included our local members Zen, Billy, Sheri and Christina -- was very busy, and did an amazing job! Assembly leaders were able to stick to the agenda at all times – this just does not happen in other organizations! The event was inclusive, and made everyone feel welcome. The fellowship, fun and service were outstanding. Thank you for the opportunity go participate and serve! I'm looking forward to next year!

Spring Assembly will be held on May 20, 2023 – Location to be determined.

Fall Assembly will be held in October 2023 at the Double Tree Hotel in Modesto. Dates to be determined.

Respectfully Submitted by: Myra C, Group Rep for WSO #927, District 19, NCWSA