Area 61 – Al-Anon/Alateen
Wisconsin & the Upper Peninsula of Michigan
For families & friends of alcoholics

Policy Committee Minutes
SUNDAY, JANUARY 30, 2022 AT 3:00PM
Zoom Meeting

January 30, 2022

Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

3:00pm

Zoom Meeting

The meeting opened at 3:00pm with a Moment of silence & The Serenity Prayer
12 Steps: Renie and Joanne
12 Concepts: Rhonda and Cathy
3 Obstacles of Success: Iris

Announcements: Iris

If you are not on the Policy Committee (guests), you have no voice and no vote.

Approve Minutes: Rhonda

Approve the minutes from the last three PC meetings in 2021:
Tabled until February 2022 PC meeting so all can review. Renie and Susan did not receive because their email addresses are not part of "all officers" email.

Business: Iris

Preferred Email addresses
Give Iris and Rhonda preferred email address. We will still use the Area 61 email address so you may get the email twice.

Zoom and nonprofit status
A DR reached out to WSO about subscribing to Zoom at the nonprofit rate. WSO told DR to reach out to Area and talked with Chair. Discussion concluded: Districts and groups are not nonprofit organizations so no discounted rate. Area does get the nonprofit rate.

List of Committee Members
Who is on what Committee? Committees first get formed at first AWSC in the 3-year term we are in so no list yet. However, Finance Committee up and running. Ann J will Chair Finance Committee. We need a Tech Committee because Iris doesn't think we have any members anymore. Cathy thinks we still have the Tech Committee. Iris will reach out to Elizabeth to see who is on the tech committee.

Financial Audit before AWSC
Cathy and Ann said can do the Friday night prior to the AWSC. Could do it in the Dells at their individual Al-Anon group. If okay with PC, Ann and Cathy can set up the audit. Reminder: you don't have to hold a position to be on the Audit Committee. Let's send an email asking for volunteers. Chair appoints per our Area 61 Policy Manual. Iris said she'll talk with Cathy and Ann later.

We need to stress the importance of a united front
Even if you didn't like vote at PC or AWSC, don't get up at Assembly and voice your negative opinion. In other words, drop it after something is voted on. We want to have a safe space. Accept a vote when it's made. It is okay to disagree, as long as we do it respectfully. That part is missing. Stick to principles. We want to avoid issues going from PC

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to AWSC to Assembly – same thing all over again. Takes up too much time. Hash it out at PC. Once voted on, show united front at AWSC and Assembly.

Supporting officers/coordinators creating committees to help them complete their tasks
We can have others help – can form a committee. Let Iris know who is on committee. Example Deb T has a committee of three. Not voted in so no voice or vote unless we vote that they can have voice/vote. Area 61 policy manual does not say that PC meets every month. If not necessary to meet do not hold a meeting. At this current moment, Chair said a PC meeting needed monthly. If we don't need a meeting, we won't have one just to meet.

We need to come up with a way to reduce interjections and dominance in the meetings
At AWSC and Assembly. Because rule is one time at mic for same topic and 2 minutes maximum. Same person has gone to mic for same topic of what has been stated. Chair wants help. Also, same group of people trying to dominate topic at meeting. At AWSC, two minutes one time at mic unless it is a question. When a question, go to the front of the line when meeting in person. If it's been said don't go to the mic. Chair will find 1-2 people who can help Chair follow the guideline.

Communication
From Area to general membership. Is there a disconnect: is everyone aware of how to use the website? We don't have lots of DR's. We can use Mail Chimp to communicate beyond DRs as many districts are not represented. Let's rally up more DR's. Secretary will follow past Secretary's process of emailing Assembly info to GRs with unrepresented districts.

Currently, PC minutes only available to PC members; AWSC to AWSC members; Assembly minutes to general members. Some members of PC want all meeting minutes posted to general membership. Including Committee minutes.

Comment: A reason not to post to all members – certain task forces, committees may have brain storming sessions which end up in the minutes. That can be confusing to general members.

This PC can only vote on posting PC minutes. AWSC can do their own vote. Comment: we can ask membership if they want to see the minutes and they can decide. Another comment: if we vote to approve, website coordinator can change security level. Another comment: if we do that, we need to notify membership that those minutes can be reviewed. Chair: let's continue discussion and could be brought to AWSC. Possibly also take to Spring Assembly.

Motion made by Renie
Approved PC meeting minutes going forward will be posted on the website with access to general membership.
Seconded by Joanne
Motion carries: 7 yes; 1 abstain; 0 no. Iris will reach out to Website Coordinator

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Pending Deferred Items from 2021
Iris will bring up five today. If you feel other ones are pressing and should be brought up at next meeting, let Iris know.

1**. Electronic meetings**: Carol from Growing Services – Zoom meetings that are not Area specific. For Area 61, Area comes up with guidelines.

Susan: Before the COVID-19 pandemic, permanently electronic meetings met solely online: phone, video chat – they were permanent meetings. They were not Al-Anon. Dealt directly with WSO. They were not even groups.

    2021 WSC: vote taken to give them AFG status; and they can elect GRs

    2022 WSC: an Electronic Area will be brought up for all meetings that only meet online. A meeting may have two separate groups: one in-person and the other electronic. The electronic meeting would not part of Area 61. What needs to happen now? As an Area, will we accept electronic groups as part of our Area? And what will that require? An electronic group, once there is an Electronic Area, would have to ask to be released from the Area.

    If your group is still meeting via Zoom, there is no deadline to be back in person by a certain deadline. But if you decide as a group to never go back, then you need to register as an electronic meeting.

    Member: we could start a Task Force sooner rather than later. Iris and Susan will work together to form a Task Force. Rhonda would like to be a member.

2. **AAPP needs a guideline, AMIAS procedure task force**. Can we get that together to help the AMIAS's? Two-year AMIAS term is a WSO requirement per Delegate. Area 61 has also established some of its own guidelines. If WSO rules are stricter, then those rules apply.

3. **Discuss at next meeting: P 2 of Area Policy Manual**: should we expand under assembly: look at expand to committee meetings to not meet on major holy days. Maybe a thought force.

4. **Steering Committee thought force disbanded to conduct an area inventory**

5. **Wording under PC that gives active past delegates lifetime membership** – looking at wording change. That's all.

Next meeting February 27, 2022 at 3:00pm

Adjourn

Close with the Al-Anon Declaration

The meeting was adjourned at 4:48 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rhonda Plotkin
Area 61 Secretary
Term: 2022 – 2024

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These minutes are not official until approved by the Policy Committee.

ATTENDEES

POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERS		Present*
Delegate	Renie	P
Alt Delegate	Joanne	P
Chairperson	Iris	P
Secretary	Rhonda	P
Treasurer	Cathy	P
Alateen Coordinator	Deb T.	P
Active Past Delegate	Susan	P
Active Past Delegate	Carol	P
GUESTS		
Denny		
Jan C.		
Terri R.		
Reno		
Jay		
Ann J		
Laurie T		
Mary Sc		
Sue G		
Doug H		

* Present column: P*resent,* ***E****xcused,* ***A****bsent (unexcused)*