

District 53 meeting minutes 2/21/2026

In attendance:

Angel B, district rep
Martina N, secretary
Steve R., treasurer
Jerry M., at large rep
Arlene, GR
Audrey GR
Kathleen, GR

Alanon Declaration and Serenity Prayer

Angel's report: The upcoming AWSC meeting was changed to 2/28. Jerry M will go in her place.

Discussion at the World Service Conference is about potentially restructuring the groups within the in order to get more participation.

Our district currently has 15 active groups. There are still 3 groups which are noted by the WSO but they have not participated with us, and may be inactive. The WSO will give more time to see if they decide to come into the GEA structure.

There is one new GR, Susan at "Parenting to Serenity", on our email list.

District reports:

Jerry reported that he spoke with Burt, the GEA delegate, about the issues we brought up at our last meeting, about concerns that not enough time for discussion is happening; and potentially top-down management more than bottom-up building by consensus.

Jerry spoke about Concept 4, and left it with Burt, about what he will take to the next WSC Work meeting.

The concern is for KBDM and enough time, and currently the number of hours for meeting is 8 hrs/yr.

Jerry referred to Page 183 in Hope for Today, second paragraph, in the balance between dominance and responsibility and consensus building.

If meetings are redone, it may make us lose people already serving as Dr's and Gr's. The whole point is to try and get more active service and participation. Making new districts more compact might be an upset.

Input from GRs

Arlene: Key to Harmony

topic is sent out on Sunday, and on Thursday there is a rotation of steps and traditions. People can post a topic, and the committee assigns a date for it to be shared. About 10 participants are sharing.

Some questions on passing the basket, and treasury, organization— Steve R. responded with his group, A Serenity Place does it – prudent reserve, for expenses (PO box, webpage, other expenses) after reaching the prudent reserve amount, usually quarterly, excess is split to district (district 53), area (GEA) and WSO.

Kathleen: A Serenity Place

There are some open positions haven't been filled, a new Secretary and a few other positions. About 40 shares a day.

Personally— needs memos of next meeting to personal email.

Martina— 3 Legacies

We are stable, still trying to grow group, and also possibly getting a treasurer.

Audrey, Hope for Today AFG

Stable group, no changes

Angel — discussion about the GEA website:

There is a possibility of making the GEA website a subset on the Alanon.org website. Jerry has some thoughts to discuss about this question. What would be better; if we had independent website, or being a subset of WSO's website?

Steve, — one worry is that this lack of independence doesn't square with the 7th tradition

Jerry— it was queried about whether it would be possible to be a subset of the WSO website; the answer was yes.

The problem is that this might give them (WSO) more control, rather than being responsive to the groups.

Also, this is going to be a problem, that the power may be more concentrated at the top.

Steve was asked to give an opinion, as our treasurer, and also someone with 35 years or more with the issue of websites in Al-Anon.

He said that he believes it would best serve the GEA to have its own website. If we suggest that they move onto Esosoft, which is what we have here in District 53, we would have an entire server for the use of the GEA, for \$99 per month.

Jerry was told that the cost of being a subset on the Al-Anon.org domain would be about \$3,000 per month; a sizable expense. We could choose the format, and experiment; and they are, as a business team, very responsive to the needs of their clients.

Because of independence, there would not be a subtle push to streamline and control information, and also there would be faster and more efficient responses to

requests for help. 1,000 emails could easily be hosted. Email support is very prompt. A Serenity Place has been using them since 2006.

Kathleen noted that recently it was announced that no new posts or questions would be allowed on the Al-Anon.org site.

The Traditions, especially #4, and our history of AL-Anon, point to the autonomy of the groups.

The history of American political life also encourages us to keep the power of voting with the people, not with the government. (Voting is controlled by the county and the state, and not the national administration)

Our website is District53.org .

Our bank account is specific to D53.

Also, the new D53 email list is. . . district53@district53AFG.org.

I hope we can see this more easily now. (For me this is still not populating to my computer correctly, which may be my fault or a browser problem.

Basically the question we face about separate websites for AL-Anon's WSO and the GEA (global electronic area) has to do with top- down hierarchical structure, or the traditional Al-Anon structure which is "bottom-up" from the individual to the group, the group to the District, and the district to the Area, and from the area to the Region or the WSO.

Trustee Selection

The last order of business question was brought up by Jerry, in advance of the 2/28 meeting of the World Service conference.

It is about the loss of service at the trustee level, and what to do about it.

The last 20 years have seen an average filling of positions in the trustee board at 88%, but the past 5 years have shown a drop to 72% fill.

This means more work for the remaining trustees.

The trustees are voted on, for the 9 regional trustees. The last trustee is appointed by the Board.

The usual procedure is for a member who wants to serve as a trustee, to go to the WSO site, to fill out the application. The WSO sends it to the Region, to see if the regional members approve and are willing to recommend this person.

Usually each area recommends someone who has acted as a delegate in the past. The voting is done by GRs.

But the at-large trustee is appointed by the WSO. This could be because a current trustee does not want to run for a second term, or the need arises to step down.

Still, these appointments are usually trusted servants who are qualified for this job as a trustee.

This year, no applications were submitted for the GEA trustee.

The deadline to apply is 8/15, and it takes about a year, before one actually begins to serve.

The conference committee has delegates from all 3 panels, and a candidate for the trustee-at-large suggested by the board would be voted for.

The desire is for more service, and a full number of trustees. There are 3 possible ways to get there. Jerry shared these, and it will be discussed at the World Service Committee meeting on 2/28.

Steve R. gave the important message that service always enhances our personal practice of our program.

Arlene shared how much she has learned from our meetings. We all affirmed that is true for us too.

Jerry gave us several quotes to look at:

From Hope for Today: pages 77,99, 183, and 222.

In the Service manual, pages 20, and from page 46-50.

The next meeting will be 3/21

We closed with the Al-Anon Declaration, and the Serenity Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Martina N.