

Minutes for D53 meeting, August 17, 2026

Zoom 872 7863 5783

Pw: 214963

Members present:

Angel B, DR

Gerald,

Kathleen

Jayden (from Arlene's group— participating as potential new alternate GR

Arlene

Martina

Opening with Serenity Prayer and Al-Anon Declaration

Minutes from last meeting approved (reviewed online before meeting)

District Rep Report

DR meeting for July was cancelled. The next DR meeting of the GEAWSC will be in September, Angel will attend.

Alternate District Rep Report

Jerry- no news to report— has not been able to connect with the meetings which still are not participating in our district.

Treasurer's Report

Steve— Treasurer's written notes accepted. *[copy attached]*

Discussion of anonymity and treasury deposits, that what is really wanted is to know if groups are participating.

On this topic, it was noted that there are many members of electronic groups who are participating in several other geographical meetings, and it is hard to know which group to donate to, sometimes. Also, many of our groups do not yet have a treasurer or bank account to accept donations, and the usual practice is to send donations to [AlAnon.org](https://www.alanon.org). Because of wanting to donate to our district, some of us have donated as individuals to the District.

GR Reports:

A Serenity Place: Kathleen noted that the ASP group did donate in 2025, but she is not sure if it has done so this year, yet.

Jayden was unable to use her microphone, and Arlene came later, so no update was given from that group (A key to Harmony)

Martina (3 legs) — no news, stable group, still no treasurer. I need an alternate for the meeting October 17; so far no one has offered.

Audrey was unable to attend today

DR report:

GEA WSC meeting is coming up: potential discussion is around the idea of shrinking the number of groups in the GEA to 35, from 55. Because not all of the electronic groups have a GR, or a CMA (current mailing address member) it is not possible to keep a viable communication and to know if all of these groups are active or not.

20 Districts (281 groups) do not have a DR. So the GEA has been discussing shrinking and rearranging the districts down to 35.

For us this would not be optimal at all, because they would want to move Angel B to be DR for another district, to which her group does not currently belong, and we would lose her as our DR.

281 groups do not have any connection to the GEA. The original structure (Jerry's input) was to work in accordance with time zones, with 3 time zones for a district.

The new system would work by UCT time zone meeting start times. Also, there is awareness that meetings' length can be problematic, if someone is attending at night, so more than 4 hours should not be standard.

Martina proposed that they audio or video record the talks, and share them online (YouTube or other venue) so that groups could see them and then respond in the next meeting.

This would solve the problem of no discussion time, and allow people to sign on when it is convenient, to absorb the materials being shared.

We had a lively discussion about this issue, of how the GEA functions, and the consensus was unanimous that we would like to keep Angel as our DR, and maintain the integrity of

Our district. We also were grateful for Jerry sharing his experience, strength and hope, about maintaining the unity and attention to principles, rather than personalities, and not over-controlling what should be allowed to evolve, as people decide what is best for their groups, and how to participate.

It seems to us that if groups are unable to propose a DR, it may be that they do not want one. We also recognize that this job is tough, and many members are still not

feeling good about their skills in the electronic media. We again come back to the issue of getting volunteers to do service.

Perhaps some thought should be given, that if these groups want to be in a district, they need to provide a person as the DR, and that this is how Al-Anon always has worked.

Angel will also be sharing some of this at the district meeting.

Jerry again reminded us that to get participation and service we need to approach people 1:1, and explain why we think they would be a good fit for this position, and offer to be a support, if they need it. We always want to have people voluntarily contributing and participating.

The meeting closed with the Al-Anon declaration and the Serenity Prayer

The next meeting will be September 19

Respectfully submitted,
Martina