

District 53 meeting minutes, 3/21/2026

Present were

Angel B, our District rep

Martina, Secretary

Gerry, member at large

Kathleen

Arlene

Lynn

The meeting was opened by Angel B with the Serenity Prayer

Martina read Concept 4 paragraph on page 136 in the Reaching for Personal Freedom workbook.

We discussed the time zones we are in. Angel is at 6 pm in South Africa, West Coast members are at 9am, and Arlene is 10 am, Jerry is 11 am.

Minutes from last month were accepted, with a correction of \$99/year (not month) in the treasury

Gerry gave his report from the AWSC meeting: The AWSC is the Area we belong to, as a district in the Global Electronic Area. (GEA) He was able to go to the meeting for Angel.

The agenda was voted on and passed.

1. The WSO has approved that the GEA website can be a subset of their domain, so they can have control over it, across all the global time zones and legal issues. This would help with international issues.

So far a final decision of how to do the GEA website has not been decided upon. Gerry presented that he thinks a task force should be appointed and a thought force should be able to give input for true KBDM.

This will be discussed again— there will be 3 more AWSC meetings this year, May 16, July 18, and Sept 26.

He recommended we again look at Concepts 1,2, and 3 in the service manual.

Aside: The structure of AI-Anon is from the groups, to the District, to the Area, to the World Service Committee, and then to the whole AI-Anon. We at district 53 are part of the GEA area, and Angel B is our representative to the GEA area. There are 55 districts in the GEA!

Aside: We are one of the only districts which has our own website and our own bank account. We have Steve R. to thank for this. We recommend others contact Steve if they need help setting up their own website or treasury.

2. The trustee selection process was voted on, and #3 proposal was chosen, with 67% of the votes. This is meant to streamline the process and get more candidates into the process.

3. An urgent matter was brought up by Melinda that the current GEA site was suspended twice for volume overload on emails sent. [Groups.io](https://groups.io) warned that we would be shut down if it happened again. There are 493 members who receive every email, and automatic posting overwhelmed the system at groups.io. SO Melinda shut down the ability for every GR to post to this webserve. Gerry brought up at the meeting that there should be a way to get 1 group email a month. He proposed a task force and thought force, to discuss how to accomplish this. There ought to be a way to share between meetings, without overwhelming the system.

4. The AWSC voted to suspend the AFG connect, because it was used initially to get to the groups, as they were setting up, but now most groups have Group Reps, who can receive emails, and it is

preferred that they be the source of information to the groups, not double-sending through the older system. It is recommended that each GR be able to get the notices. If they are a CMA (current mailing address) for the group, for AL-Anon, messages will come to them which may be from the WSO, not the WSC which goes through the GEA.

GR reports:

Arlene— a problem with Paypal, in one person's name, not the group's name. They are working to fix this. We all agree that a separate account is needed, and it is best to have several people aware of and signing off on any use of the group's funds. Arlene feels her group has less members and energy, and she has been trying to beef it up. She is willing to get suggestions, and Kathleen sent her a link about the structure of A Serenity Place, which has a clear and orderly structure. I mentioned that it is important to thank people for their shares, and try to share information to the group, so they are informed about the wider Al-Anon structure.

Kathleen— some recruiting potential members for service has yielded 6 new applicants for the member-at-large. They have 40 shares a week, and many a day. The structure and clear roles help keep it really strong. They have a chair everyday, and rotate every 6 months. They have a greeter for newcomers, and Secretary and Treasurer, a Steering committee, and Administer/list manager.

Martina— Our group has weekly writing answers on email for the 36 legacies. We were going to try a zoom meeting but only one was able to come, but we had a good conversation. We will try for quarterly zooms, to help us get more connected. We have a Meeting after the Meeting, on Sundays, so people can share more personal updates if they wish.

Lynn — there are 400 members on their whats'app program. Getting people to share ESH is somewhat hard, but one-to-one requests are often honored. The meeting is truly world-wide, and each chair person can pick a topic. Slogans are popular. Kathleen will send her a schedule so they can see how A Serenity Place does this rotation.

Gerry mentioned that the Al-Anon service manual has a note of links of service, on pages 174 & 175.

Martina pointed out that the real issue which makes it hard to chair is being personally vulnerable, and many people do not feel safe in a big group, especially of anonymous people in cyberspace. We need to keep recognizing this.

General:

Angel went over the issue of the mailing list. A request from the WSO is that GRs share information with the group.

In our District 53, there are
8 email groups
2 Whats App groups
3 phone meetings
1 Facbook group
1 Boxer group (ham radio or satellite phone)

We discussed the issue of cross-talk, and it was pointed out that in the service manual pages 49 & 50 cover some of this group dynamics and communications solutions. ASP has signups for business meetings.

We all agree that common courtesy (saying thank you) and respect (acknowledging someone's service) is important. Figuring out how to give feedback that people are valued and their shares are heard is important.

We decided at Lynn's urging, to have a real AL-Anon meeting at the end of the business meeting, to get to know each other better. Arlene volunteered to be the first to share her journey and ESH.

The next meeting will be 4/18/26

The meeting was closed with the AI-Anon Declaration and the Serenity Prayer.