



## NEWS-O-GRAM

Southern Illinois Al-Anon Family Groups

Hope and help for families of Alcoholics

Area 16

October, 2008

### Al-Anon Declaration

When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, let the hand of Al-Anon and Alateen always be there, and—*Let It Begin with Me.*



#### Delegate's Report / Marcy M.

I want to thank everyone for the cards that I received while at Conference and I displayed them on a board for all to see at the July Assembly. It really felt good when you went to your mail box and you had mail. And thanks to the Area and District 17 for the "love tokens". I hope next year I will have more love tokens to share with the Delegates. Al-Anon members present at Assembly were welcomed to take a love token from the side table.



#### World Service Conference

We had two agenda questions that were picked prior to the conference. Are we adequately preparing our future Trusted Servants for their positions? Do we need to spend more time training the future leaders with job description, workshops and using the Service Manual?

There is a desire for consistency in service. The best resources we have available are our past Delegates and the use of Trustees. We talked about having service training and discussed ways leadership could be implemented to reach the entire fellowship. Our Trustees are available to come and help any way they can be of service.

Creating and maintaining healthy groups focused on our Spiritual Principles and keeping meetings free from program dilution.

Some of the needs wants and preferences in our fellowship are:

- The importance of principles above personality
- Creating and maintaining healthy Al-Anon groups that adhere to the spiritual principles of the Al-Anon program found in Concept One, Tradition One, and Tradition Four without losing the very broad spectrum of types of group members that provide diversity in our program and appeal to many different kinds of people.
- There is a concern for the newcomers and their impressions of the program.

Within meetings there are true Al-Anon leaders, new and seasoned members who want to share experience, strength and hope that focus on the principles of the program (our spiritual quest). Then there is some dissension within the fellowship caused by members' misunderstanding of leadership roles, including "dual members" and an occurrence of a type of sponsorship which is overpowering and demeaning. Certain practices of many Al-Anons are diluting the program giving many newcomers a distorted impression of Al-Anon. Some of these practices are: Chants used at the end of the meeting, use of the A.A. Big Book, pushing pyramid sponsorship, and words and phrases from treatment centers. There is a great concern for the newcomers and their impressions of the program. Again, Concept One, Traditions One and Four are spiritual

principles that can guide the groups to remembering to place principles above personalities.



#### Stepping Stones

What an inspiring trip that was. We talked about what to expect on the way and it kept building our enthusiasm. When we arrived there was a hush that came over the bus. When I stepped off, I knew I was in for a spiritual journey of adventure. And it was. We had a short orientation on the history of Bill & Lois toured the grounds, Bill's studio (Wits End) and their house. The only pictures we could take in their house was in the kitchen and Lois's desk. We then had a sack lunch outside. It was very special to read the letter that Bill had written to Lois the times when he was living elsewhere. There was a spiritual tone that you felt when you entered their house and I could see how Lois was inspired to start building the bridge to start the Al-Anon Family Group. After lunch we headed back to the conference and our session started at 2:30 sharp with the policy motions.



#### World Service Conference Motions

- Motion to amend the paragraph titled "Introductory Meetings" from the 2006-2009 Service Manual on page 78-80 between Open/Closed Meetings and Electronic Meetings.
- Motion to amend the text on page 78 of the 2006/2009 Service Manual "Limited Access Group" (this title will be deleted) and inserted under first paragraph under "Registration of Groups" on page 77.
- Motion to amend the text on pages 83-84 of the 2006-2009 Service Manual "Anonymity". New text is in underlined and bold, strike through text indicates deletion. Just a few suggestions on this motion. Area's need some guidelines in regard to newsletters: Need to be careful not to disclose any last names. If you post on the web site it could get out to the public. Be careful when taking photos at Conventions and posting them on the internet. Business email addresses might not provide privacy and could imply affiliation. We are in modern times, but need to be very careful about forwarding to other members. Even a password protection site is not safe.
- Motion to amend the text on page 85 of 2006-2009 Service Manual "one-time legacy" to "one-time bequest". Allow a one-time bequest to the WSO in any amount desired by the member so long as it is not earmarked. Report separately on the Financial Statement any amount that exceeds

10% of the total revenue of the WSO General Fund as identified in the previous year's audit. The World Service Conference would authorize the expenditure of this amount. The Board of Trustees would then administer those expenditures with the Conferences guidance. The Policy Committee is requesting your feedback on "Using Excess Bequest Funds Process" by December 15, 2008. The Policy Committee will review your feedback in January 2009 and send Conference members the compiled information before the 2009 World Service Conference.

- Motion to amend the text under Al-Anon World Service Charter in the 2006-2009 Service Manual pages 152-153. This is to protect the Alateen Traditions. Will continue at the 2009 Conference.
- Motion that the 2008 World Service Conference give conceptual approval to develop a piece of literature on Al-Anon's first 60 years.



### e-Cal Committee

I was put on the e-Cal committee and even though I know nothing about the electronics they assured me this is where I should be. E-Cal is in the first year of a 3 year trial and there have been a few problems that are being worked out. They want personal sharing not from our literature and must be done along with audio, song, and or poetry. It must be done on PowerPoint. Text only sharings are sent to the Forum Committee. They want us to have workshops and a Service Representative, such as a Trustee or Board member, will come and give the workshop if needed. They also want to come up with another promotional program to attract members to participate. Maybe a trivia question-type contest in hopes to generate a greater awareness of e-Cal within the fellowship. At the International Convention in Pittsburgh they honored five winners of the e-Cal contest that ended May 31, 2008.



### Financial Audit and Quarterly Appeal Letter

We went through the Financial Audit and then the Quarterly Appeal Letter. As always, money is needed. We have to remember that we are self supported and depend on the groups and individual contributions. Since 1951 the group members have not supported the World Service Office through their own voluntary contributions. \$1.00 in 1951 is worth \$3.40.

Most groups do not understand that the appeal letter is for individual and not the group. Some think it's a reminder to the group. They still want group contributions, but not through the Appeal Letter. Since 1960 the percentage of group contributions has only increased by 1.5% in 2007. (I have a printout that shows where the Area stands.)

**Money is your messenger in places where you cannot be.**

### How can we motivate groups to increase contributions?

Suggestions included:

1. Emphasize in local Areas the need for contributions
2. Placing articles in Area newsletters with a personal touch
3. Using and explaining the Seventh Tradition

*Alateen Coordinator / Cindy P.*

I'm trying to learn what is expected of me as Alateen Coordinator. I have gotten a number of emails and a website I can go to for information on all Alateen groups. In August there will be a phone conference call. I'm planning on participating in it. I received notice from WSO that our area had not recertified with World Service Office (WSO). Marcy informed me that Cathy B. (Alternate Delegate/Alateen Processor) had it taken care of.

I believe the Springfield Alateen has disbanded. The Alton Alateen in District 18 has moved their time, meeting place and name. They are now the Tuesday Alateen and meet at the Baptist Church in Maryville 7:30-8:30PM.

Peoria is trying to start an Alateen group. I sent paperwork to two members. They are not registered yet. Jerseyville is also in the process of setting up an Alateen meeting.

*News-O-Gram Coordinator / Rita C.*



There was a savings of \$73.51 on this issue and the previous issue because of a smaller font and thinner grade paper which reduced postage. Comments welcome.

Please send any events, reports and updates from your district for the next News-O-Gram by the Feb. 11, 2009 to Rita Cox, 751 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Carlyle, IL 62231 or e-mail. [ritamcox@att.net](mailto:ritamcox@att.net)

*Forum / Literature Coordinator / Mary S.*

**The FORUM** – I participated in a conference call with WSO on June 14<sup>th</sup>. Forty (40) areas of sixty-seven (67) participated. Subscriptions have dropped by 20 % since last year. The Group Representative is *The Forum* Representative at each group. Listed below are ideas to use, submit articles, and increase subscriptions.

1. Take an inventory of how many attending your meeting receive subscriptions to *The Forum*. Encourage others to subscribe. *The Forum* is self supporting. Report the percentage at your district meeting.

2. *The Forum* is the only piece of Al-Anon literature that goes to EACH registered meeting monthly. The index for *The Forum* is published in the December issue. It is also on the membership website (<http://www.al-anon.alateen.org/members>) by the month. Put in **your group name followed by AFG**. Put your cursor in Publications and then on *The Forum*.

How does your group use their issue? Some suggestions: put old issues in New Comer's packets; encourage use during meetings; designate one night a *Forum* night, "Need a meeting topic" can be found in each *Forum*; hold a meeting on writing an article for *The Form*; or hold a subscription contest.

3. WSO would like members to share on any topic, but especially the three legacies (Steps, Traditions, and Concepts). They are especially looking for sharings that apply the traditions and concepts to family or other situations.

4. *The Forum* now has a new feature, "CAL Corner", in which members review Conference Approved Literature. Members are welcome to submit reviews of Al-Anon books and pamphlets for consideration.



**Literature** - I have received a complimentary copy of the **NEW BOOK** *Discovering Choices* (B30) (\$15.00 plus 8% on orders \$87.50 or above or \$7.00 minimum S&H) I will have a review and suggestions in the *New-O-Gram*. Order forms will be included with the July *Forum* and Fall *Area Highlights*. The *Forum* will also have an order form on the August backflap.

The shopping cart on the web will have the book listed beginning in July. Check the web page for brief excerpts from the book also.

Selected topics and questions using *Opening Our Hearts, Transforming Our Losses* (B29) will be posted on the Sample Chapter pages of the Members' Web site ([www.al-anon.org/members](http://www.al-anon.org/members)). **Put in your group name followed by AFG.** These postings will be available in English, French, and Spanish from July through September.

Progress on audio books: *Courage to Change* (B-16) has had the audio recorded and WSO is exploring various ways to make the audio version available to our members. *How Al-Anon Works* (B-22) has been sent out as a Request for Proposal to audio production companies. WSO is evaluating their responses and will then select a vendor.

Tradition Seven speaks of the importance of being "self-supporting." Sales of the CD-ROM version of *Courage to Change* were not sufficient to make the project self-supporting. A down loadable version of Al-Anon literature will not be available due to Tradition Seven and Copyright protection.

Another Literature conference call is scheduled tentatively scheduled for September 6<sup>th</sup>. I am planning on participating.

*Ways & Means Coordinator / Cindy S.*

We have lots of program related items (jewelry and bookmarks) for sale at the Area Assembly side tables. All money from *Ways and Means* stays at this level (Area Assembly) to help with expenses like mileage, meals, and hotels, etc.

The 2008 fund raiser for Area Assembly is the letter openers @ \$1.25 each with the inscription *Attitude of Gratitude, Illinois South Area 16*. Group Representatives (GRs), District Representatives (DRs) or their representatives were encouraged to buy them at the assembly to take back to their groups and take time to explain to groups members what this fundraiser is used for at the area level and encourage them to try service—it aids, strengthens and promotes recovery. We received a little bit better deal when ordering letter openers through Cindy P.'s work. Thanks! Our potential profit for 2008 is \$528

**November Assembly Raffle:** Bring wrapped item/gift to assembly and we'll sell tickets 2 for \$1.00 It will be like a gift exchange.

*By-Laws Coordinator / Brenda F.*

A tidbit you may find interesting and able to incorporate into your group or district: SECTION 14 REMOVAL FROM OFFICE

A. Officers: If an officer does not participate in three (3) Southern Illinois Al-Anon Family Groups (SIAFG) meetings, including Southern Illinois World Service Committee (SIWSC) meetings in succession, the members may replace that officer upon a vote of a majority of those present. The officers may also be recalled and replaced if they fail to perform their responsibilities.

B. Coordinators: If a coordinator does not participate in three(3) Southern Illinois Al-Anon Family Groups (SIAFG) meetings, including Southern Illinois World Service Committee (SIWSC) meetings in succession, the SIAFG Chairperson or SIWSC may replace that coordinator. Coordinators may be recalled and replaced if they fail to perform their responsibilities.

*Public Outreach Coordinator / Dottie Y.*

### **The Best of Public Outreach**

Have you seen "The Best of Public Outreach" yet? It's Conference Approved Literature in booklet form, #P90, and it's only \$3.00. Inside are fun family ideas, celebrations activities, and project suggestions. You'll find sample agendas, sign-up sheets, budget forms, and a whole lot of good themes to get things started. Who is it for? Al-Anon members, group meetings, districts, information services, and area assemblies. "The Best of Public Information" is especially planned out to keep it simple.

It's a great resource to help us get the word out about Al-Anon. From the Al-Anon Declaration: When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, let the hand of Al-Anon always be there. And Let it Begin with YOU

*Group Records Secretary / Cathy S.*

Hope you have had a fantastic summer!

Well, it's that time again, and I'm gearing up for the November Area meetings.

Thanks for your attention to the lists I passed out in July and the corrections/changes you gave me. It has helped me tremendously.

Since I will have lists again in November, I am asking you to take a little time before our November meetings to contact your groups and confirm their information: the Group Representatives, the days and times of their meetings, the group's address, and, of course, their group name so that, together, we can insure that ALL the groups in our Area are recorded correctly and they can receive their information from Area and World Service without delay.

You can reach me at [odat07@charter.net](mailto:odat07@charter.net) or my phone number as shown on the list in this News-O-Gram.

Enjoy the fall and, I hope I will see you in November at the next Area Assembly.

*Webmaster Coordinator / Sarah R.*

<http://www.siafg.org>

Convention Coordinator / Jan T.  
janitucker@comcast.net

- **AL-ANON CONVENTIONS**

- **IL State AFG**

- 2008

- Oct.24-26 Best Western Ashland House in Morton IL Theme: *As A Result of These Steps*. Planning meetings are being held monthly. With the exception of an Alateen speaker, all speaker slots have been filled. Committee continues to finalize the rest of the program. DJ has been secured for Saturday night. Enough squares were received to make a queen sized quilt. The quilt has been sent to quilter. Basket raffle will be held at the convention. Please bring basket(s) wrapped in cellophane with you to the Convention. Please remember that hotel rooms must be reserved by Sept 26<sup>th</sup>. Convention registrations should be in the mail by Oct 6<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in helping at convention or need raffle tickets please contact Convention Chairperson Ruthanne Arnold on 309-674-7887.

- See SIAFG website for more 2008 Convention information.

- 2009

- Convention will be held October 23-25 at the Crowne Plaza in Rosemont, IL.

- 2010

- Southern Area will be hosting the 35<sup>th</sup> IL State AFG Convention. Now is the time to begin preparations. If interested, please let me know.

Convention Guidelines

Planning meeting will be held in December, 2008. If you have anything to be brought up at that meeting please let me know.

- **International Conventions**

- **Al-Anon**

- 2008

- Convention was held July 3-6 in Pittsburg PA.

- 2013

- Convention will be held in Vancouver, BC.

- **AA**

- 2010

- Convention will be held in San Antonio, TX.

- **AA Conferences**

- 2009

- Southern Illinois Area 21 Spring Conference and Convention will be held April 3-5 in Champaign. Illinois State Conference / East Central Regional Conference will be held August 7-9 at Holiday Inn City Centre in Peoria

- You may also visit AA's website at

- [www.aa-sia.org](http://www.aa-sia.org) for additional information or updates on their conferences or conventions.

- Please contact me anytime with suggestions, questions, etc.

Treasurer Report/ Rowena A.

Thank you to all the groups who have sent in their support funds. Thirty- three groups sent in monies to support SIAFG. Thank you again.

In Service Rowena A.

## REPORTS FROM THE DISTRICTS



Thanks to all the districts that had representation at the Southern Illinois Al-Anon Family Groups (SIAFG) Area Assembly and Southern Illinois World Service Committee (SIWSC) meetings in July. We hope to see everyone including those who haven't been in attendance for a while at the meetings in Springfield Nov. 1st and 2<sup>nd</sup>. Before that: **SEE YOU AT THE STATE CONVENTION OCTOBER 24-26 IN**

### **MORTON!**

District 10A Mary S. (Absent from Area World Service Committee in July)

Eleven meetings were visited by the District 10A Representative. Mary gave each group an updated list containing names, addresses, phone #'s, and e-mails of district officers and coordinators, Southern Area Delegate, Southern Area Chairman, Southern Area Treasurer, and the World Service Office. She also updated them on the 2008 Illinois State AFG Convention to be held in Morton, IL. She delivered convention registration forms and gathered names and phone number of people willing to volunteer at the convention.

Mary was contacted by an Al-Anon and AA group about starting an Alateen meeting again. The place will be at Hilltop at 8:00 PM on Monday night. An Al-Anon and AA meeting are available at this site at the same time. Three volunteers are in the process of being certified by Southern Area. The Monday Night Hilltop Al-Anon meeting made a donation to the district designated to purchase materials or pay rent for the Alateen meetings. The volunteers will hold a meeting later in July when their schedules will allow.

Lynn W. attended the Al-Anon International Convention in Pittsburg, PA and will be giving a report at the September 7, 2008 District 10A meeting.

District 10B Marty H. (Present at Area World Service Committee in July)

District 10B has regularly held monthly meetings. There are currently 9 groups registered in the district, but only 4 group representatives (GRs) who are usually all present. In June we were asked to speak to a Day Camp consisting of children ages 11-13 about the nature of the disease of alcoholism. We passed out *Alateen Do's and Don'ts*, *12 Steps* and

*Just for Today* literature. One member read bits of *What's Drunk Mama?* Another focused on her Alateen days and all of us emphasized that they were not responsible for another person's drinking. It was sad not to be able to offer them a group to go to, though we did say they could come to Al-Anon.

Another thing we did in the district was generating a letter to the contact persons informing them of our budget and listed the groups who regularly contribute. This was signed by all the Group Representatives (GRs) and officers.

Some groups are doing public outreach and we are exploring ways to form a Public Outreach Committee.

District 11 Laura B. (Present at Area World Service Committee in July)

Laura B has resigned as District Representative (DR). Jackie L. has assumed the position as of 7/15/08.

District 11 continues to participate in the family nights at Heritage Behavioral Center to spread the word about Al-Anon.

Tuesday Night Serenity Seekers have re-started group conscience meetings utilizing the World Service Office (WSO) Guidelines which were well accepted by the group. They have started holding meetings every six (6) months. The district is also in the process of developing a Sunday night meeting with childcare.

District 12 Pat M. (Not present at Area World Service Committee in July)

The Monday meeting reports inconsistent membership, generally ten people per week and at times blockbuster meetings with several newcomers, with some choosing to attend regularly. They have started passing the basket at meeting to provide opportunity for donations. They are able to donate regularly to WSO etc. The Group Representative wants to discuss the Pyramid Sponsorship concerns received from Betsy C.

A note from District 12 Tuscola Monday Meeting-Just wanted to share that the Tuscola Monday night meeting has suffered a loss of membership during the summer. We are down to a very small number (2) but continue to meet on a regular basis. We are hopeful that membership will grow as it has in the past. We will continue to meet every Monday night at 6:30 p.m.

The main news for the Monday night downtown Champaign meeting is the changing of roles. Cathy P. has stepped down from being treasurer and Kimberly K. has become the interim treasurer. I am stepping down from being the Group Rep and one of our members is currently thinking about whether she can commit to the position.

The Tuesday New Lease on Life in Savoy continues to have large meetings (10-20 attendees) and has a fair number of new members attend monthly. We are holding our own financially and treasure's reports indicate that we have been able to send monies to district and area. We have passed the envelope for World Service and our donations have been sent. We have three members moving from our area and they will be missed by all. The members of the group are going to send them off with special wishes. We all know we will probably meet again at another Al-Anon in our travels and hope to see them again. All three have demonstrated amazing Al-Anon recovery. We will miss them all.

The Savoy-Tuesday Parents Group still has large numbers of attendees and seems to be doing quite well. This Parents Group and the Tuesday New Lease on Life Group hold closed Al-Anon speaker meetings quarterly and these are attended well.

The Tues-Thurs noon group at Wesley Foundation continues as it has for many years. They remain small but fill a niche and remain viable.

The Wednesday night Hope for Today AFG in Champaign, IL (District 12) reports overall attendance has been steady and we have also maintained attendance of a small group of newcomers. Jennifer G. will no longer be able to hold the position of group Secretary due to relocation. The group is looking for volunteers for the service positions of Alternate Group Representative, Secretary, and Literature Person. (Currently, Sara R. is Group Representative and Jodi K. is Secretary). The group is meeting in the New Choice Room E at the Pavilion. This has been updated on the District 12 meeting list.

Charleston reports that it still has an Alateen meeting, although no one attends regularly they do have one if teens attend. The Alan on meeting is held at the same time and location, therefore an Alan on sponsor is readily available should the need arise.

The Friday meeting in Bondville reports continued growth, full circles of chairs happening for several weeks!

District 13 Welcome Patty E. New District Representative!!!! Looking forward to seeing you at meetings soon.

District 14 Phyllis J. (Absent due to illness)

The District continues its outreach to Gateway Treatment Center each month. Caylee for the O'Fallon Trailer Group has been conducting the Institutional Meetings for the past three (3) months. Thanks, Caylee. Phyllis J. had surgery late July for her cancer and asks for your continued prayers and support.

District 15 Judi M. (contact) not present/no report (See you in Nov.)

District 16 (?) not present/no report (How about getting together for representation at Southern Illinois Area World Service Committee in Nov?)

District 17 Paul C. not present/no report (Hope to see you in Nov.)

District 18 Mary B. (Present at Area World Service Committee in July)

We meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month in Edwardsville at 2-4. We're having good productive meetings. A lot of discussion on Adult Only meetings. Good representation of District 18 is evident at Area Assemblies. Our Alton Alateens have moved their meeting to Maryville on Tuesday evenings. Jerseyville is working on getting an Alateen meeting going.

We have an additional Al-Anon group meeting starting in Edwardsville.

District 19 Rich H. not present/no report (Next Area Committee and Assembly Nov. 1-2)

District 20 Vickie M. not present/no report (Hoping to see you in Nov. 1-2)

**SOUTHERN ILLINOIS AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP  
AREA ASSEMBLY**

**&**

**Area World Service Committee Meeting**

Hosted by SIAFG

November 1 & 2

Join in the Learning, the Fellowship, Fun, Raffles & Prizes

At

St. John's Hospital in Springfield

(All Meetings and Events in Rooms R & S in the Carol Jo Vecchie Center)

Saturday, November 1st--1:00PM  
**Area World Service Committee Meeting**

Saturday, November 1<sup>st</sup> -- 6:00 PM  
**Join us for Fun, Food and Fellowship  
at our "Monster Mash" Party**

Sunday, November 2 @ 9:00 AM **Area Assembly**  
Registration begins @ 8:00 AM - \$3.00  
**"Lunch Provided"**

Directions to St. John's Hospital: I-55 to Clearlake Ave exit (98B). Stay on Clearlake heading west, turn right onto 9<sup>th</sup> street (heading North). Turn left in between buildings at large RED sign "EMERGENCY, CHEST PAIN CENTER". Park in garage on your right. Carol Jo Vecchie Center is straight across from parking garage.

Lodging:

Exit 94	Hampton Inn	217-793-7670
	Pear Tree Inn	217-529-9100
Exit 96B	Red Roof Inn	217-753-4302
Exit 98B	Best Western	217-525-7420

And many more via internet – Springfield lodging

Any questions: Contact Betsy @217-944-2205 or [betsy.crang@osfelathcare.org](mailto:betsy.crang@osfelathcare.org)

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COME JOIN US..... AREA ASSEMBLY HOSTING -  
*MONSTER MASH*

SATURDAY, NOV 1 AT ST JOHN'S HOSPITAL  
ROOMS R & S

6:00 PM

FOOD, FUN, & FELLOWSHIP

YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THIS ONE!



# Action Committee Reports

## Fellowship Communication and Membership Outreach Committee:

The minutes were read from the 3/2/08 breakout committee and we discussed our group's goal.

We talked about many different ways to achieve our group's goal:

1. Remind all D.R.s & G.R.s to take a group inventory, refer to pg. 38 of the Service Manual – Groups at work. This keeps communication open between group members, group reps, district reps and at the area level.
2. Our committee discussed giving a "prize" to the District with the largest percentage of groups that took an inventory. D.R.s should get a count from G.R.s and if they took an inventory, when they took the inventory, number of members participating and give 2 or 3 "points of interest" from the group inventory. We'd like the D.R.s to share the results at Area.

*Thought for the Day-try taking a group inventory at the district level.*

3. We also discussed sending the current Delegates of our North Central Regional meeting a News-O-Gram so that we can share what is going on in our districts and area. We will also ask to get copies of their newsletters so that we can see what other areas do and how they operate. Cathy B., who attended the North Central Regional meeting with our Delegate, Marcy, is to send a list of the Delegates' addresses to Cathy S. and Cathy S. is to send those addresses to Rita so that those News-O-Grams can be mailed.

Until next time - in service & love,  
Cindy Stuckey  
Temporary Sec. of Fellowship, Communications & Membership Committee

## Area Public Outreach Action Committee:

Public Outreach Minutes – July 13, 2008

We reviewed the goals and challenges of our last Public Outreach Action Committee meeting from March 2008.

Goals:

To plan and carry out our primary purpose, through outreach to the public and professional community. To help reach the goal that every person will know that Al-Anon and Alateen are the best source of help for families and friends of alcoholics. To make getting in touch with Al-Anon and Alateen easier throughout the Southern Illinois Area.

We discussed and added more challenges to our list to bring back to the November 2008 meeting.

1. Put an advertisement in your local Newspaper, "Are you affected by someone else's drinking? Add your local answering service phone number.
2. Ask newcomer "How they found out about the meeting?" (This will help us find out what is working and what is not)
3. We are going to ask each District to keep one Public Outreach (P90) in stock for their use.

### Suggestions for each District:

1. It is a good idea to participate in Health Fairs and in the D.A.R.E program at the schools.
2. We suggest that each district contact WSO for any FREE public outreach materials they might have to be used at Health Fairs or D.A.R.E. programs.
3. Suggest the purchase of or print off line the G-10 Public Outreach.
4. Live presentations to hospitals, churches, schools, "Meeting on Wheel's, is a very helpful Public Outreach.
5. Encourage members to use the Website for information and suggestions on public outreach.

The Public Outreach committee will purchase \$80.00 of pamphlets and posters to hand out at the November meeting. These will be given out to active districts to encourage the group reps to take back to the groups.

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## Group Services Committee

### Take advantage of this special offer by the Area Group Services Committee:

**A FREE** copy of Al-Anon and Alateen Groups at Work-P24/27. Offer applies to Group Representatives OR substituting Alternate only. **Must present coupon for discount.** →



Assembly, July, 2008-Group Services Minutes

Eight people used coupons to pay registration fees and books. Brenda would like to repeat coupon in News-O-Gram for the book for group representatives or substituting alternates only. November assembly will be the last time to use the coupon for books.

It was discussed about creating a form for group representatives who aren't in attendance to give Assembly a report about their group.

Possible ideas to encourage non-attending group representatives: letter, phone call, visit group(s) that are not represented at Assembly.

Discussion of sending a letter to district representatives of those who are not attending assembly to remind them that District Representatives vote at WSC and group representatives vote at area level.

Discussion about ways to draw people to attend assembly. Try to provide Sunday lunch for a cost at hospital; RSVP by certain date, draw names from a hat for a dining partner.

Assembly is hosting the next Assembly.

Brenda is making flier for News-O-Gram and minutes for November 2008 meeting.

Tabled answering service/machine and Alateen issues.

God's Blessings,  
Angie H.

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**2008 Illinois State AFG Convention**  
**October 24-26, 2008**  
**Morton, IL**



**\*\* GIFT BASKET RAFFLE \*\***

We need volunteer groups to create gift baskets to raffle off at this year's convention.

These baskets have been a big hit at previous conventions with the funds raised going towards the seed money for next year's convention.

How your group can help:

Think of a theme for your basket to tie it all together:

Some examples are:

- Spa/relaxation (candles, lotions, bath salts)
- Pets (dog, cat, etc)
- Al-Anon literature (pamphlets, books, bookmarks, book covers)
- Cooking (cookbook, recipes, spices, utensils)
- One for the guys
- Chocolate lovers
- Sports (general or a specific sport or team)
- Tea/Coffee Drinkers
- Halloween (since it is that time of year and Morton is the pumpkin capital of the world!)

Collect Items for your basket. One idea is to keep a box at your meetings and members can bring items to the meeting. Remember to KEEP IT SIMPLE! We aren't asking that you go out and spend money on extravagant items. Be creative – re-gift something that you did not want or couldn't use.

Assemble your basket. Again reuse! Find a basket you don't use anymore. Assemble all your items. Please include at least one Al-Anon program item, such as a book, an issue of The Forum, or something with the Serenity Prayer on it. Please wrap the whole basket in cellophane to keep the items from falling out.

What to do when you are finished: Please bring the completed baskets with you to the convention registration table on Friday Oct 24<sup>th</sup> or early on Saturday Oct 25<sup>th</sup>. The baskets will be raffled off after the quilt at the convention on Saturday night.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact:

Ruthanne A. at [rla1247@aol.com](mailto:rla1247@aol.com) or 309-674-7887  
Jan T. at [janitucker@comcast.net](mailto:janitucker@comcast.net) or 309-266-9961



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