



News-O-Gram—Summer 2011
(SIAFG) Southern Illinois Al-Anon Family Groups
Hope and Help for Families of Alcoholics

**Area Assembly & Area World Service Committee
Meeting
July 9 & 10, 2011
Memorial Medical Center
701 North First Street
Springfield, IL**

ROOM B-149

**Area World Assembly –Saturday July 9th 1:00PM
Area Assembly—Sunday July 10th 9:00 AM**

Directions:I-55 to Clearlake Ave. Stay on Clearlake heading west, turn right onto 9th Street. Go north past St. John’s to Carpenter Street. Turn left (heading west) to First street—Hospital on your right.

**Lodging: Exit 98B President Lincoln Hotel
701 East Adams 866-788-1860**

Exit 98B Best Western 217-525-7420

Exit 94 Hampton Inn 217-739-7670

Exit 96B Red Roof Inn 217-753-4302

**--And many more via internet—Springfield lodging
Any Questions: call Alberta W. at 618-317-1586**

Remembering Marcy

Past Delegate Marcy M. died April 3, 2011 after prolonged illness. Marcy was a dedicated Al-Anon member for many years and active in service at the group, district, and area level. Marcy touched many lives in our program and will be deeply missed. “We can let the wisdom of our [Al-Anon friend] live on through our own gift of service, in whatever form we choose. In this way, we can pass along the love that was given to us so freely.” (excerpt adapted from Al-Anon’s *Opening our Hearts, Transforming our Losses*, p.102.



Delegate's Report—Cathy B

Hello everyone,

First, I'd like to say that losing Marcy was so incredibly sad. I really thought we would see her again at Assembly meetings for a little while longer. We may have lost a friend and colleague, but we know that God had a much bigger plan for her that you and I can't possibly imagine. She'll always be in our hearts, thoughts and prayers as we all continue the journey of recovery.



This year Al-Anon celebrates 60 years – isn't that fantastic?!

I'm back from Conference and I'd like to invite you and all Al-Anon & Alateen members to come hear about all the exciting things I learned at our next Assembly weekend on July 9-10. I'll have gifts to give away, pictures to view, lots of information to share, and as always, lots of hugs!

Virginia Beach was incredible and exciting, although not as warm as I had hoped. But the ocean front view from the hotel made it possible for me to sit out on the balcony and enjoy the ocean. And visiting the World Service Office was great too. I met all the delegates from the US and Canada, as well as delegates from visiting countries of New Zealand, Mexico, and Puerto Rico. I also met the staff of WSO, our executive committee members, and the trustees. Everyone was friendly, helpful, and never made me feel alone or unwelcome. It was like going to a great big family reunion! In essence, it really was a family reunion. Even if I didn't know anybody, we already had a very unique bond.

Enough for now ... If you want to hear more, come see me in July and I'll tell you the whole story!
Love you all!

Convention Liaison—Jan T

2010 IL State AFG Convention reported total attendance of 202 (172 Al-Anon, 3 Alateen, and 27 AA). Chairperson submitted check in December 2010 to CRC treasurer which was distributed as follows: CRC treasury (seed money return & prudent reserve); remaining amount (based on attendance %) was distributed among Al-Anon/Alateen (SIAFG, NIAFG, WSO); and AA (South, North, & Chicago).

2011 IL State AFG Convention will be held October 21-23, 2011 at Eaglewood Resort & Spa in Itasca, IL. Check NIAFG website for most current information.

2012 IL State AFG Convention will be held in southern Illinois. Bids have been received from the Marriott in Normal and The President Abraham Lincoln in Springfield. SIAFG Chairperson and Convention Liaison are reviewing the bids and will be committing to a location within the next month.

Al-Anon International Convention will be held in Vancouver, BC July 5-7, 2013. Registration and housing information will be available in the fall of 2012

Check out upcoming events on the following websites:
www.siafg.org (Southern Illinois Al-Anon Family Groups)
www.niafg.org (Northern Illinois Al-Anon Family Groups)
www.al-anon.alateen.org/members (World Service Office)
www.aa.sia.org (Southern Illinois Alcoholics Anonymous)
www.aa-nia.org (Northern Illinois Alcoholics Anonymous)
www.chicagoaa.org (Chicago Alcoholics Anonymous)
www.aa.org (Alcoholics Anonymous)



IL State AFG Convention Guidelines were reviewed at CRC meeting in December. Updated guidelines will be provided to Convention Planning Committees.

I am looking for anyone who might be familiar with the 4H Memorial Camp in Monticello, if you are please contact me.

2011 IL State AA Conference will be held August 5-7 in Skokie at the Holiday Inn North Shore (5300 West Touhy Ave).



If anyone is interested in becoming SIAFG's next Convention Liaison please let Alberta or me know. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about the position.

Jan Tucker – SIAFG Convention Liaison & Past Delegate
105 Susan CT
East Peoria, IL 61611
Ph: 309-208-5897 janimtucker@gmail.com

News-O-Gram Coordinator—Rita

Most of you have received this News-O-Gram via email because you have subscribed to the Southern Illinois Al-Anon Family Groups “list serve”. I assume this is working well for you because I haven’t heard any complaints. If you are receiving the News-O-Gram in the mail and have access to email, it’s easy to subscribe to this list and will cut the cost of mailing. Just go to www.siafg.org. Scroll down the left side of the page to “News-O-Gram”, read the SPECIAL NOTE with instructions for subscribing. After you have subscribed, (*Thank you sooooo much!*) send a notice to the Group Records Coordinator Mary S and ask her to remove you from the regular mailing list. Regardless of how you receive the News-O-Gram I hope you realize that it is only as good as you help make it. Remember that I will also accept a personal writing about how Al-Anon has helped you. See you in July!

Ways & Means Coordinators—Kathy H & Ruthanne A

When we took over the position of W & M coordinators last fall, there were approximately 350 “Think”Pen/highlighters left from the 1210 fundraiser. About 75-100 of those have been sold at the price of \$2 or 2 for \$3.50 since the last Assembly Meeting.

We propose that the remainder be sold at \$1.00 each.

In February, Kathy took the pens and fundraiser trinkets to the Al-Anon Serenity Day and sold quite a few of the coins, tie tacks and bracelets but only a few pens.

For the next fundraiser, we have investigated tote bags at two different suppliers. The first (Branders) can sell us 500 bags at 78 cents apiece, if we provide the artwork. Total cost (including shipping) would be \$503. The second (4AllPromos) can sell us 500 bags at 95 cents apiece and will provide the artwork. The total cost would be about \$570.

We decided to use the word ‘Serenity’ with a butterfly above the “I”, with the design in lime green on a royal blue tote. Cindy P. has a friend who can do the artwork for us in the format needed.

We propose to order 500 bags from Branders and have them available for the next Assembly Meeting, to be sold at \$2.00 each. Today’s Ways and Means raffle will be a few items that were donated by members. For the July Assembly Meeting raffle, we are asking everyone to bring baked goods.

Group Records Secretary—Mary S

Group Records at WSO has modernized the method of updating information. As of Jan. 2011 the Area Group Records Secretary has the ability to change the records at WSO. I’m blessed to have begun this position of SIAFG Group Records Coordinator at this time. Please note the

group records form on the WSO members’ website still has the instructions to send forms to WSO. If sent to WSO they will change records but they must wait for volunteers to complete this task and the volume of changes is worldwide. The form is then sent to the SIAFG Group Records Coordinator.

In order for Southern IL groups to take advantage of this FASTER method, group changes need to be SENT TO THE **SIAFG GROUP RECORDS Secretary** instead of WSO.

It is my opinion that the following methods will help SIAFG keep updated records:

1. Please send Mary S. the contact information for the individual in the District’s position who maintains district group record information. (e-mail, address, & phone #). This individual could be the District Representative, Secretary, Group Records Secretary, etc.)
2. Send all changes to SIAFG Group Records, Mary S. The group information could be any of the following: group name, meeting address, meeting time, current mailing address, group representative, or group contact and group e-mail or e-mail of person willing to download SIAFG minutes and News-O-Grams. **Reminder DO NOT send it to WSO.**
3. About a month before the Area 16 Assembly I will e-mail the current district information on SIAFG records to the District Representatives so they can proof the information. I would like them to send me corrections.
4. At the SIAFG Area Assembly and World Service Committee meetings, updated group information will be given to the District Representatives asking them to check the accuracy of SIAFG’ group records. Any errors will be corrected and **I will update WSO records.**
5. Districts Representatives not at the meeting will receive by e-mailed or US mail their districts group information. They are requested to notify the SIAFG Group Records Secretary with changes or that all information is current.

I also request that the **District Representatives include an announcement at their District meeting** about the change in Group Records processing.

If anyone has a suggestion of a better method of doing this, please contact me.

SIAFG Group Records Secretary
Mary L. Sutton
608 W. Teton Drive
Peoria, IL 61614-2047
H 309-691-7073
C 309-635-3867
m-sutton@att.net





Treasurer—Rowena

Thank You to everyone who has helped to start this year out. You all make my job successful. In Service Rowena A.

DISTR ICT	GROUP ID NUMBER	GROUP NAME
11	3948	Mt Zion Born Free
11	40272	Sunday Night Steppers
11	3703	Beginners Al-anon
12	3909	Tuesday Al-anon Family Group
13	3741	Effingham Co. Al anon Group
14	60839	Powerless Rangers
17	61493	Carbondale Weds. Noon Group
17		Mt. Vernon Weds. Night AFG
18	63747	Troy Joy
18	26501	Monday Night Serenity Group
18	3451	Mon. Night Elm Street
18	305283	Thursday Night Al-Anon
18	80	Edwardsville
18	34856	Hopeful Serenity Seekers
18	3811	New Life Al-Anon Granite City
18	3491	Bethalto Wed. Morning
18	25607	Highland AFG
19	42664	Wednesday Butterfly Al-Anon
10A	35525	Thursday AMAFG
10A	004023	A New Beginning AFG
10A	24161	Monday Morning Al-Anon Group
10B	99739	District 10B
10B	61535	Friday Nite Happy Hour Group
10B	3495	Tuesday Fellowship

**AL-ANON DECLARATION
Let It Begin with Me**

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

Alternate Delegate—Lyri M

Our March Assembly workshop, *FUNdamentals of Healthy Meetings*, presented by Brenda F., was very well received. All of the feedback was very positive. Comments included: "Very informative and thought provoking," "Excellent," "Fantastic," "Great!" "I learned a lot," "Wonderful!! Keep 'em coming!!" "Very informative and exciting," "Good learning experience," "I like hearing how to problem solve," "Great idea for a meeting topic."

You'll have another opportunity to participate in an Assembly workshop at our July Assembly on **Sunday, July 10th**, when we present **The Colorful Concepts: Applying Their Principles in All Areas of Recovery**. We will have some fun interactive activities, a guest speaker, and handouts to help you take what you learn back to your groups and to help you apply the Concepts in your own recovery. Our guest speaker, Joe O. of **St. Louis, MO**, current Missouri Area Chairperson, will talk about how he uses the concepts in his recovery. Joe is an entertaining and insightful Al-Anon speaker. Like the Assembly, the workshop is open to all Al-Anon members. so consider

District Reports



District 10A—Rowena A

As the acting Dist. 10A representative, I am happy to report that attendance at the February 2011 meeting was more than we had seen in a while. Our district is still active even though we have three main positions open: District Rep., Alternate Rep., and Recording Secretary. We hope we will find volunteers for these positions soon.

Until they are filled we are rotating service between all of the past Dist. Representatives.

We had a fun time at our holiday party in December. The raffle monies went to buy books for our local libraries, and to supply our groups in need with newcomer packets.

District 10B—Kathy H

Serenity Day held February 26, 2011 was successful. A district meeting was held April 21, 2011.

District 12—Janice R

The Tuscola group is showing increased attendance, almost double, after a long time of hanging in there with just a few people attending meetings.

Amy P. is now in charge of our web site. She and Janice R will be meeting to once and for all understand how to use our list serve to distribute district minutes, meeting information and other information to all Al-Anon members who join the list serve.

We now have four volunteers who are interested in becoming Alateen volunteers and we are closer to our dream of reinstating an Alateen meeting in Champaign-Urbana. A site and time have been located and we hope by our next district meeting in July to be up and running.

District 14—Lyri M

District 14 had a very successful Spring into Recovery Workshop on April 9th in Belleville. We had a great turn-out, widespread district participation, and even raised some money! Thank you to everyone who participated in what we hope to make an annual event. Our district is also hosting two meeting workshops, May 23rd and June 14th, in which members who participated in the last Area Assembly will present what they learned at the FUNdamentals of Healthy Meetings workshop from the March Assembly. We are grateful to have the opportunity to further explore the issues raised at the assembly workshop with members of our district.

July Assembly Workshop: **The Colorful** **Concepts:**

Applying their Principles in All Areas of Recovery

Guest Speaker: Joe O., St. Louis, MO, Missouri Area Chairperson

Games! **Handouts!** **Loads of Fun!** **Don't miss it!**

Bring your friends!

Sunday, July 10th, 2011
Memorial Medical Center,
701 North 1st St., Springfield, IL
OPEN to ALL Al-Anon
Members
FREE with Assembly
Registration

PLEASE MAKE COPIES FOR YOUR GROUP

The Harvest of Serenity



Reserve your room now!
Call 877-285-6150

- Mention "Illinois AFG State Convention" for discount rate
- \$99 plus tax per room (up to 4 people per room)
- Deposit not required - payment due upon check out
- Discount room rate available until 9/30/11

Eaglewood Resort & Spa
1401 Nordic Road
Itasca, IL 60143
www.eaglewoodresort.com
35 minutes west of Chicago

2011 Illinois AFG State Convention

One of the things we learn in Program is that change doesn't happen overnight. We come to meetings and the seeds of change are planted... we water the seeds, and soon we notice new ideas and habits springing up... every day, we try to weed out the old thinking and nurture our new beliefs... and we learn that we need sunny days and rainy days to help us grow strong.

It isn't easy - it requires hard work, patience and faith. But eventually, if we keep at it, we reap the most amazing harvest - Serenity.

Save the date
October 21-23, 2011

Join us as we explore this miraculous process at the 37th Annual Illinois AFG State Convention at the Eaglewood Resort & Spa in Itasca, IL.

Convention Information

Early Registration	\$20 per person
After 9/21/11	\$25 per person
Banquet	\$33 per person
Alateen Registration & Pizza Party	Free

For information updates look for our webpage at www.niafg.org.

2011 Illinois AFG State Convention Registration Form

One registration form per person *(Please print clearly)*

Name: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Phone: _____
Email (for online updates): _____
Special Requests: _____

YES, I WILL HELP OUT AT THE CONVENTION!

Registration

AFG AA ALATEEN *(Alateens are Free Admission)**

Early Registration \$20.00 _____

After 9/21/11 (& at the door) \$25.00 _____

Alateen (Includes Pizza Party Sat. Night)* FREE _____

Banquet Buffet (Reserved Seating 10 per table)** \$33.00 _____

Beef Chicken

Fish Special dietary needs _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Mail registration forms & checks to:

2011 IL AFG State Convention, PO Box 68806, Schaumburg, IL 60168

Make checks payable to:
2011 IL AFG State Convention

No refunds after 9/21/11

* Alateens must bring completed Convention Permission Slip (available from Alateen Meetings or Sponsors).

** If you wish to sit together at the banquet, please mail your registration forms in the same envelope.