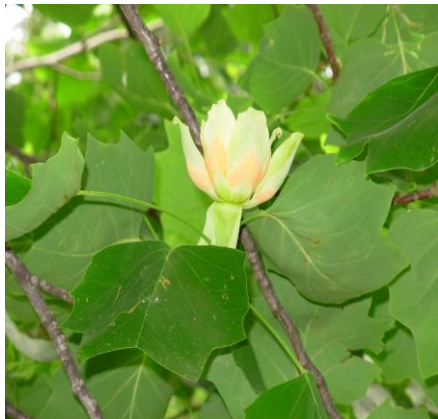


Southern Illinois Al-Anon Family Groups (SIAFG) Area 16 News-O-Gram---Summer 2013



Area World Service Committee Meeting

Saturday, July 13, 2013 1:00pm

Nightingale Room

Memorial Medical Center

701 N. 1st Street, Springfield, IL

Southern Illinois

Area Assembly Meeting

Sunday, July 14, 2013

9:00am **Room 149**

Memorial Medical Center

701 N. 1st Street, Springfield, IL

FROM THE DELEGATE (CATHY B.) – FOR THE NEWS-O-GRAM, 2013 SPRING EDITION

Hello everyone. Once again, I'll have lots of information to share about what I learned at the World Service Conference this past April. Virginia Beach was beautiful and in full bloom during Conference week. The pollen was so thick you could literally see it on the cars. The Conference meeting room(s), the hospitality & mail room, and of course, the meals was accommodating and beyond expectations. I'll have pictures, but they just don't capture the full essence compared to being there in person. Maybe one day you too will have that opportunity.

During the Conference, I shared our Area Highlights; I shared a 3-minute personal sharing about my Spiritual journey of changing "me" to "we"; I was the chairperson for presenting our Thought Force; and to wrap it up, our Panel 51 provided the entertainment after the evening banquet on Thursday. Whew, so glad that part is over!

One of the topics of discussion on the Conference floor was about the proposed structure changes. We truly need to 'think outside the box' and be creative in ways to provide this wonderful program to all those who so desperately need it. We have full autonomy in how we want to structure our districts and where to draw the boundary lines. We also have autonomy in where to draw the boundary line between Southern & Northern Illinois (as long as Northern is in agreement). And, we have full autonomy to define the length of service for our officers & coordinators – except the Delegate. Something to think about... Talk to your groups, discuss at district meetings, and be prepared to share your thoughts at the Area Assembly meeting in July.

When I give my report at the Area Assembly, you'll hear about the financial status of the WSO. Something else to think about is our Area's financial status, particularly our reserve funds. What exactly is a reserve fund? What is its purpose? How much is enough or too much or too little? This is a topic that needs to also be discussed at the district level and group level as well. Please give this some thought for some serious discussion. There will be a Q&A session on this topic.

The Thought Force I was on (Use of Computers at WSC) presented to the Conference and was so well received that the Board of Trustees will be defining a Task Force. The Task Force will focus on coming up with strategies that identify some of the ways this can happen. They will present at next year's WSC so I'll have to ask our Delegate (in 2014) how that turns out. For this year, I am on a Task Force to compile Area Guidelines for trusted servants not fulfilling their responsibilities. We've had one meeting so far.

That's enough for now. I hope to see you all again in Springfield at the AWSC meeting on Saturday and the Area Assembly meeting on Sunday (July 13 & 14).

With Love in Service, your Delegate Panel 51,
Cathy Blakey

Alternate Delegate –Lyri M

Discussion Forum: There are now two topics posted on the Knowledge-Based Decision Making (KBDM) Discussion Forum: one on how we make motions, and one on procedures for the upcoming elections in July. To sign in to the Discussion Forum, click the Discussion Forum link on the bottom of the member's page, then click on the upper right-hand tab "other account" to sign in with your social media or email account.

Regional Delegate's Meeting: In March, our Delegate Cathy Blakey and I attended the North Central Regional Delegate's Meeting in Milwaukee. It was a great opportunity to exchange ideas with Al-Anon members from other Areas in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin. Some of the topics we discussed were attracting inactive groups and districts to Area Assembly, improving the retention of newcomers, and utilizing the wisdom of past delegates and other leaders in our fellowship.

Next Area Workshop: Our next workshop will be the Delegates Report and our Area Elections of new officers. Please come and invite other members from your groups to attend and be part of our fellowship at the Area level. The workshop will be on Sunday, July 14th (part of our SIAFG Assembly meeting). Descriptions of officer and coordinator positions are being posted on the Member's page of the website under Officer and Coordinator Updates.

MOTION FOR VOTE AT JULY ASSEMBLY: (As per our decision made at the last Assembly)

1. Whenever possible, all suggestions for change(s) requiring a vote of the SIAFG Area Assembly (Group Representatives) will first be offered for discussion on our Knowledge-Based Decision Making (KBDM) Discussion Forum on our Area website www.siafg.org. SIAFG officers, past delegates, and other interested Al-Anon members will help explore and clarify the suggestion(s), and, as appropriate, help refine the resulting motion(s) before they are communicated to the SIAFG membership. Any Al-Anon member can propose suggestions for change. Anyone wishing to propose such a suggestion who does not have access to the Discussion Forum on our Area website, may submit suggestion(s) to any SIAFG officer for posting on the (KBDM) Discussion Forum, or may present their suggestion in person at any Southern Illinois World Service Committee (SIWSC) meeting.
2. Whenever possible, any motion(s) requiring a vote of the SIAFG Area Assembly (Group Representatives) will be communicated to the membership by being posted on our Proposed Motions Discussion Forum on our Area website, www.siafg.org, and be sent to the membership at least 45 days before the next meeting with the announcement of the meeting, to ensure that all members, including those without access to our website, will receive the motion(s).

Alateen Coordinator's Report-- Dottie Y.

This was an enjoyable and busy period for your coordinator. I got to travel with my husband, adventure into unexplored areas of the state, and meet some terrific folks!

In February, I first went to Champaign. We have three Alateen Sponsors and a young Alateen group there. I believe they started meeting last October. I was able to visit the space where the meeting is held. It is in a very old, picturesque church which is located right near, or actually on, the University of Illinois campus. The evening we met, there happened to be a demonstration in support of the Homeless. There was a lot happening!

The Champaign Alateen group is going through some fine-tuning. They've changed the name from "Friday Night Alateen" to "Trustful Alateen." Now they meet an hour earlier at 7 pm. At the point of our visit, the group was considering shifting the meeting day to Wednesday night. We'll keep you posted; or check our website, www.siafg.org

We have three dynamic Alateen Sponsors in Champaign. Sally S. has been a sponsor in the past. Sally stepped forward to support a dedicated Kim K. I got to meet Carie H., an enthusiastic, newly certified Alateen Sponsor. We held our sponsors' workshop in a café a few blocks from the church, just off University.

To get there, we had to maneuver around television lights, some loud speakers, and a few too many 'No Parking' signs. Demonstrators were camping out in large, wardrobe-sized packing boxes for the night. And it was a very chilly 20 degrees!

Except for the temperature, I felt a bit nostalgic about home and my visits to U.C. Berkeley. A number of years ago, I happened to be on the Cal campus during a few of the protests there. Fortunately, the demonstration in Champaign felt noticeably calmer and more congenial, an improvement over the tumultuous times in Berkeley.

"Trustful Alateen" is in good hands and headed in a positive direction. The sponsors have found a comfortable, central location to hold meetings. They are well-prepared and will be able to attract more young people to Alateen. Currently, four Alateen members are attending.

Trustful Alateen meets at 7:00 PM Fridays, upstairs in the Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 208 W. University Ave., Champaign, 61820. If you have any questions about this meeting in District 12, Kim K. is the contact, 217-721-7224.

Our next trek in Area 16 was further south in District 17. We enjoyed a long but pleasant drive over many gently curving roads. A brand new group recently registered with WSO there in Pinckneyville. The temporary group name is "Pinckneyville Alateen." As is required to register a group, there are two recently certified sponsors. They also have a newly certified AMIAS (Al-Anon Member Involved in Alateen Service). An AMIAS may step in to be the 2nd sponsor or might provide some other service to Alateen as it arises.

We met at Pinckneyville Hospital before the 7:00 PM Al-Anon meeting held there. It was a very good turnout for our planning and informational seminar. Several prospective candidates came. Two people drove in from Carbondale. A few people from the Al-Anon group stopped by early. The WSO training module we explored in Pinckneyville concentrates on starting up an Alateen meeting. We also ventured into the beginning of a module that opens discussion about a few of the early challenges. Since Alateen members are primarily responsible for their own meetings, it was fortuitous that the teens were present. Pinckneyville teens are already participating in Al-Anon meetings. (Alateen is part of Al-Anon. Alateen members are welcome at Al-Anon meetings). Added to this favorable pre-set, the two certified sponsors are

experienced in different ways with teens. Fern T., a long-time Area 16 Al-Anon member, has been a sponsor in years past. Rick N. has a relevant professional background in addition to his program experience. And the AMIAS in Pinckneyville is our Area Chairperson, Alberta W.

Pinckneyville Alateen will meet Fridays at 8 PM, Pinckneyville Hospital, 101 N. Walnut St., Pinckneyville 62274. The contact listed is Fern T., 618-357-8084.

Monday, February 25, I am meeting in Peoria with sponsors from around Peoria. There are eight Area 16 certified sponsors in the Peoria vicinity. Since we have not met at the time of this writing, my news will have to wait until the next report or Area Assembly. I hope to have an arrangement with the District 14 Alateen sponsors soon and will have a report that includes them, too.

"Top of the Hill Alateen" meets at 8 PM, downstairs at the Hilltop Club, 115 S. Western Ave., Peoria 61604. Contact is Cathy K., 309-265-6728.

"Courage to Be Me Alateen" meets at 7 PM, St Mathew United Methodist Church, 1200 Moreland Dr., Belleville, 62223. Contact is Karen D. 618-806-5939.

During the October, 2012, Area Assembly meeting, we combined the Area Alateen Coordinator position with the Area Alateen Process Person. Implementing this change for these few months between assemblies has demonstrated to me the wise efficiency of the decision. Lyri M., Area 16 Alternate Delegate, was our Area Process Person. Lyri has been very supportive and a valuable resource to me during the transition. Thank you, Lyri, for your service as AAPP and for your help!

In late October there was a Conference Call between WSO staff and Area Alateen Process Person(s) with Alateen Coordinators participation. I was able to be in on it. Now, as AAPP, I can read WSO Group Records data which shows all So.IL Area 16 Alateen Groups that have been registered with WSO. As Alateen Coordinator, I can read Area & WSO Certified Alateen Sponsors/AMIAS. This innovation and improvement has opened a new, picture window view of information to me, your trusted servant in these two roles. That means more efficiency sooner. In another breakthrough, I have been able to submit Alateen Group Record Changes, New Alateen Group Registrations, and Area approved applications for Alateen Sponsors/AMIAS by fax or electronically to

WSO. Except for the background check, I believe these two improve-ments (being able to read WSO data records and submit forms by fax or electronically) have cut, by nearly half, the time it takes for a *completed, accurate, and Area acceptable* Alateen Sponsor/ AMIAS application to go through the process of becoming certified. Good news!

At the Area Assembly, March 9-10, in Springfield, I will have some proposals to present for updates to our Sponsor Candidate Profile form and the two informational sheets that precede it. I look forward to seeing everyone at Area Assembly!

Group Record Report

March 2013 – Mary S.

16% of Southern Illinois Al-Anon Family Groups are NOT connected to the Group e-news communication through their CMA (Current Mailing Address). Two suggestions; 1. Have a group member submit their e-mail address as a connection and THEY print and bring the communications to the GR (Group Representative) or group CMA. Information needs to be shared with the group during your business part of your meeting. 2. Create an e-mail for your group and decide which member(s) can have access to it. If either of these suggested solutions are used, please submit information to Mary S. at siafggrprec@gmail.com. I will add it to the group CMA information at the Area and WSO levels.

Group e-news is now available in three languages; English, Spanish, and French. The newsletter is available:

For English:

<http://hosted.verticalresponse.com/1059861/9f2ef37854/521892303/5efb9214b3/>

For Spanish:

<http://hosted.verticalresponse.com/1059861/8f346071d9/521892333/fe8b3658d1/>

For French:

<http://hosted.verticalresponse.com/1059861/cafc2feb82/521892347/fc8b3658d1/>

Remember : ALL changes, registration of groups, and making groups inactive go through the SIAFG Group Records Secretary. Contact information is on the siafg.org website or use the SIAFG Group Records e-mail address. GR1 change forms are available WSO website.

This report will be on the siafg.org website under Group Records Updates.

Treasurer's Report – Rowena A.

11	Mt. Zion Born Free	17	Carbondale Weds. Noon Group	19	Wednesday Butterfly AFG
11	Sunday Night Steppers	18	AFG	19	H.O.W. Al-Anon
11	Beginners Al-Anon	18	Troy Joy	10A	Thursday AMAFG
12	Step by Step AFG	18	Monday Night Serenity Group	10A	Wednesday Morn. Glories
12	Weds Night / Hope for Today	18	District 18	10A	Monday Hilltop Alateen
12	TGIF Bondville	18	Thursday Night Al-Anon Edwards.	10A	A New Beginning AFG
12	Blues Buster AFG	18	Hopeful Serenity Seekers	10A	Monday Morning Al-Anon Grp.
12	Savoy Parents of Alcoholics	18	Monday Night Serenity Group	10B	District 10B
13	Effingham Co. Al-Anon Group	18	Bethalto Wed. Morning	10B	Friday Nite Happy Hour Group
14	Progress, Not Perfection	18	Monday Morning Open Door	10B	Tuesday Fellowship
14	District 14 AFG	19	Experience, Strength, & Hope	10B	Fourth Step AFG
16	Mt. Vernon Weds. Night AFG	19	Happiness Is		

District Reports

District 14 held a very successful “Spring into Action” workshop in Belleville on April 20th. The room was filled to capacity, and participants enjoyed entertaining speakers, a fantastic skit, an opportunity to do a “mini” step four inventory, and a fabulous lunch. We had great participation from members of our district, including our Alateen members.

- We have a committee of dedicated members from Districts 14 and 18 working together on a metro-east Al-Anon “FUNFest” workshop. The workshop will be held Saturday, September 21st with registration starting at 9:30am. The workshop will include morning and afternoon speaker panels and workshop groups. Lunch will be provided by Districts 14 and 18. Mark your calendars—you won’t want to miss it!
- At our next Assembly we will have a new District Representative for District 14. I have truly enjoyed my tenure as DR and look forward to watching our district continue to flourish!
- Our new District Representative will be Don A. and Alternate D.R. will be Cheryl N.

District 17

Julie W. is the new DR and Kay W. is the Alt. DR. Welcome Julie and Kay of the Marion Group, and Heather as Group Representative of the Carbondale Noon Group. The Pinckneyville, Willisville and Nashville Groups will be joining District 14.



A BIG THANKS to Alberta Woodside who resigned as District Representative after many years of service. Thanks Alberta!

District #18 is trying to vamp up more Public Outreach so that we can attract “Newcomers” and try to retain them. Unfortunately we have lost two groups this year from Granite City; we lost them due to low attendance and not being able to retain newcomers. It was echoed by other groups within our District who said the same.

We are also putting 13 “How Al-Anon Works” books into Public Libraries. We already have had the Granite City “Open Door” and “Al-Anon Adult Children” groups place new ODAT books and Courage to Change Books in both the Main Library and Branch Library in Granite City. Our District seems unique; we fall within two different Library Systems.

I’m positive before the publishing of the News-O-Gram deadline comes I will be making an addendum to this report.

Respectfully Submitted, Your Trusted Servant,
MaryBeth G. Sandegren

July Workshop **DOUBLE-FEATURE:**

Annual Delegates Report



***Find out what's happening
at the International level***

***Let the Delegate know what
your group wants from the WSO***

An Exchange of Ideas

Area Election of Officers



WHEN: Sunday, July 14th, 2013

WHERE: Memorial Medical Center
701 North 1st St., Springfield, IL

Every Al-Anon group is encouraged to exercise their Right of Participation by sending a Group Representative to vote for our next panel of officers.

Open to ALL Al-Anon members

FREE with \$3 Assembly Registration!

SIAFG 2013 Fundraiser

*Available in red or blue
@ \$2.00 each*

ACTUAL SIZE

Simple Touch LED Key Chain
Red - Top



Simple Touch LED Key Chain
Blue - Top



Keep it Simple