

Southern Illinois Al-Anon Family Groups, Inc. (SIAFG)
Area Assembly Meeting
Zoom Meeting
March 12, 2022

The meeting opened at 9:04 a.m. by Chairperson Becky R. with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. Al-Anon birthday/anniversaries were recognized. Rules and guidelines of the meeting were presented. Becky reminded all that the Group Representatives (GRs) are the voting members of the Area meeting. The Al-Anon 12 Steps, 12 Traditions, and the 12 Concepts of Service with Warranties were read. There were 31 members present (17 voting members) at this regular Zoom meeting. Jane F was designated timekeeper.

BOARD MINUTES: Rowena A read the Board of Director's Meeting Minutes from November 6, 2021. No vote required.

AREA ASSEMBLY MEETING MINUTES: The November 6, 2021 SIAFG Area Assembly Meeting Minutes were presented by Mary P. Corrections were made and will be posted on the SIAFG website with corrections in red. **A motion was made to approve and accept the minutes with corrections. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

TREASURER'S REPORT: Carol W. first reported on the period from September 1, 2021-December 31, 2021. Beginning balance was \$15,709.85 with receipts of \$1,647.15 and expenses of \$3,696.80 leaving total cash on hand \$13,660.20. The Savings/Reserve Fund beginning balance was \$6,011.93 with interest of \$0.18 leaving \$6,012.11.

The next report was on the period from January 1, 2021-December 31, 2021. Beginning balance was \$15,157.63 with receipts of \$4,400.40 and expenses of \$5,897.83 leaving total cash on hand \$13,660.20. The Savings/Reserve Fund was \$6,011.57 with interest of \$0.54 leaving \$6,012.11. Carol reminded officers and coordinators to ask for reimbursements per Tradition 7. Her email is carolwielgus@hotmail.com She also wanted to clear up question at the November 6 meeting about giving her report in a timely manner. According to Al-Anon guidelines, officers are to send reports out to the members 45 days before the meeting. That means most reports are 6 weeks old. Carol also brought up the discussion around excess funds at the prior meeting. As the treasurer, she acknowledges that Al-Anon expenses are increasing (alateen, insurance, IT). At the last meeting WSC had a large increase. This was explained that the Conference has an expense including interpreters since this is a global event. The Excess Funds Committee reported at various meetings with ideas of using these funds to help Districts for public outreach or fellowship. Carol advised to table that idea since expenses for Area are increasing.

GROUP RECORDS SECRETARY: Jane F reported that Kyra N (webmaster) and she are coordinating information to insure accuracy as far as meetings and Zoom go. There's still confusion over meetings that are in person one week and Zoom the next. Jane needs current information on Group Reps and District Reps, knowing that much of this will be changed in the coming year with elections. Any changes in meetings, whether time, location, Group Rep, anything, should be sent to Jane F at grouprecsec@gmail.com She will communicate with WSO. If you are a District Rep or members that want Al-Anon information distributed to all Southern Illinois, please send it to Jane F. Jane is working hard to keep information current.

All Coordinator and Officer reports for the July 16 meeting should be sent to Jane F by May 28, 2022 so she can get it to the members in 45 days.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. ALATEEN UPDATE: Mary S has done a superb job in updating Alateen documents. In her work she discovered that a new Illinois law, changed in January 2020, demands that “Any child-care worker affiliated with a church, other house of worship, or other non-profit (whether in a paid capacity or as a volunteer) is now a “mandated reporter”. There is much confusion around this law. If we are to continue Alateen in SIAFG we must have an AMIAS step forward to work through these legal details as Alateen Coordinator and AAPP (Alateen Area Paperwork Process Person.) Although no one stood at this time, the group decided to make a motion to help with legal consultation. **MOTION: A motion was made to authorize up to \$1,000 for legal consultation concerning Alateen if needed.**

This motion was seconded . The vote was 11 yes, 5 abstained and 1 was absent. At the Nov. 6 meeting, Susan B, District 18, offered to contact a lawyer to get a legal opinion. She has met with a lawyer and has new information, which she will report at the July 16, 2022 meeting.

2. Electronic Meeting: This committee consisted of JoEllyn P, Jane G, Donna S, and Evelyn M. Because there are so many Zoom meetings that have popped up since the pandemic, the question is, “should electronic meetings register and be accepted by Area?” Hybrid meetings are not affected. After some discussion, a motion was made. **Motion: The motion is to take the recommendation to accept permanent registered electronic meetings as part of our Area structure. The vote was seconded and passed with 13 yes, 3 abstain, and 1 absent.** The next step will be to form a committee to make recommendations on creating the operational guidelines for the functioning of these meetings. This will be tabled until the July 16, 2022 meeting.

3. WEB/EMAIL UPDATE: At the November 6, 2022 meeting it was approved for Kyra N to purchase all email addresses for SIAFG officers and coordinators, and also to renew the two year contract with Weebly to extend the website. Kyra reported that she had done both. The emails will contain the Al-Anon position followed by siafg.org. For instance, the recording secretary is **recordingsec@siafg.org** She asked that all coordinators and officers get comfortable using the new emails for Al-Anon business. She is available at **webmaster@siafg.org** if you need help. All should be using their new account by the July 16 meeting.

4. DISTANCE MEETING CHECK IN- Becky asked how people felt about continuing to use Zoom for the Area meetings. The consensus was affirmative.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. BY-LAWS UPDATE: At the November 6, 2022 meeting, it was determined that the pages concerning Registered Agent were confusing. Cindy P and Cathy B volunteered to straighten it out. Cindy agreed that it needed updating. The pages were presented and a motion was made. **The motion was to accept the recommendations of additions and corrections in the by-laws pages 20 and 21 (Article VI,2-12: Board of Directors). The motion was seconded and passed with 17 yes votes.** Cindy P stated that the by-laws are part of our article of incorporation, so she wants to continue to update.

2. OFFICER ELECTION: Becky explained that a position is usually held for 3 years, but it is acceptable to stand for the same position twice. At this time there are three positions which

definitely need a new volunteer because of the time limit. They are: **Recording Secretary, Treasurer, and Delegate.** (Delegate can only stand for 1 term.) The other positions are also open, but have been held for three years. They are: **Chairperson, Group Records Secretary, alternate delegate.** Members are asked to consider one of these positions or any coordinator position. Al-Anon states that participation is the key to harmony and we do our best as volunteers. Perfection is not expected.

3. SIAFG HOSTING 2023 NCRDM(UNITED STATES NORTH CENTRAL REGIONAL DELEGATES MEETING) Becky R explained that this ~~convention-meeting~~ needs to be hosted by SIAFG. It is our turn. In comparison to the Illinois State Al-Anon State Convention, it is only expecting 35-40 people. It includes a short Friday evening, all day Saturday and a Sunday morning. The budget is set. Guidelines are available. The Wyndham hotel in Springfield will be used this fall for our State convention. They have said they are open to hosting the NCRDM also. Members who volunteered are JoEllyn P , Tim E, Carol H, Suzanne D, Carol W, and Claudia P. There was consensus that JoeEllyn would take the Chairperson position.

DISTRICT REPORTS & GROUP CONCERNS/SUCSESSES

DISTRICT 11: Suzanne D is the DR for the Decatur area. She reports that many members are tired of Zoom, but aren't quite ready to be face to face. They have 3 registered meetings and are working on updating contact information and public outreach.

DISTRICT 12: Cathy B has retired as the DR for District 12. Kelly T has taken the helm, but couldn't attend today. District 12 has 13 registered groups, 6 are meeting face to face. All others are meeting on Zoom. At the last District meeting, there were 10 members in attendance. The District 12 website is www.centralillinoisalanon.weebly.com . This has been a successful way to bring in newcomers. Kyra is involved in her local meeting on zoom. Evelyn is continuing to meet on Zoom with usually 6-9 people attending. Carol H hopes to start a meeting for new people which explains Al-Anon in 6 meetings. She is using Al-Anon ~~Guide G-2~~ guidelines.

DISTRICT 20: Mary P reported that all 12 registered meetings are in person. There are also 3 Zoom meetings and one of these is hybrid. A monthly newsletter goes to members and is also posted on our website. al-anonpeoria.org Jan C is in a hybrid group that has 20-25 people in attendance. She mentioned a concern about purchasing books. Books are scarce. When ordering, the message is to try later. They are low on many books. Her group is considering buying a computer for the hybrid meeting.

DISTRICT 19: Charlene is the DR for the Springfield area district 19. They are using in person and hybrid meetings. Their district meeting will be held as a hybrid event. Charlene keeps in touch with District 15 and hopes to get them involved with SIAFG.

DISTRICT 14: This District does not have a DR, but they are holding it together. Pickneyville has met person to person. They have 1-10 members and an Alateen showed up at an Al-Anon meeting as a new member. Carol W is still on Zoom but is looking for a hybrid location.

DISTRICT 17: Chris is from Murphysboro. Her group meets in a church. They don't have a DR, but are working on it. Carbondale also has a meeting. Chris is the District Contact.

DISTRICT 18: Bob R is in Edwardsville in a hybrid meeting. Average attendance is 15-20. This meeting bought a computer so the members didn't have to bring their own. There are 5 members who meet weekly to discuss service. Outreach includes donating a few Al-Anon books and bookmarks to libraries. Claudia is in a Zoom meeting, not hybrid. Nuroum has \$100 product

that is a camera and audio. It works well for Zoom. Barbara S is involved in doing an outreach project. The district has given \$50 to each group that has a project. Darlene is in a face to face meeting averaging 15-18 members. Newcomers tend to keep coming back.

COORDINATORS:

AMIAS: Mary S has been in the position for 6 years, so will be retiring. She has worked diligently on the paperwork for AMIAS.

CONVENTION: Janese H is co-chair. The Convention Planning Committee is filling many position but need help in these areas:

Speaker Chair: The speakers have been chosen, but need help in the organizing aspect.

Entertainment Chair: We have a portion of the entertainment scheduled after the banquet.

Fundraising Chair:

Volunteer Chair: This position is important. Attending members from Southern Area can volunteer for an hour or two to help guide people to rooms, chair a small meeting, any number of things.

Registration should start in April or early May. They are looking into hybrid for the main speakers, but have not contracted yet. Teresa asks that Districts ask for quilt squares for their districts. There will be instructions and squares sent with the due date.

teresadawn1970@yahoo.com

Although we have 2 Co-Chairs for the Convention, we still NEED a Convention Liaison. Cathy B is happy to mentor someone in the position.

FORUM/LITERATURE: NEEDED

NEWS-O-GRAM: Carol sets up the News-O-Gram with information from Districts. The District reps should send some info by May 28 for the next printing. Any articles of experience, strength and hope are also appreciated with a 3-5 paragraph limit.

BY-LAWS: When Cindy makes changes in the by-laws, she wants some clarification as to how to document that. This will be discussed at the May SIAWSC meeting.

PUBLIC OUTREACH: NEEDED

WAYS & MEANS: NEEDED

WEBMASTER: Kyra is coordinating with Jane F to get the website up to date.

DELEGATE REPORT: JoEllyn P reported that the Board of Trustees and the Executive Committee have voted to make a Road Trip to an AI-Anon Area yearly. This year it will be held in Cleveland, Ohio on October 29, 2022.

The North Central ~~Regional~~ Delegates ~~Regional~~ meeting includes Illinois, Iowa, Indiana, Ohio, and Minnesota. The 2022 ~~Conference~~ meeting will be held in Indianapolis, IN March 18-20. Donations to AFG continue to be higher than literature sales. AFG, Inc. ended with a loss for the year, but the loss was less than expected.

WRAP-UP:

NEXT SIAFG MEETINGS: JULY 16, NOVEMBER 12

SIAWSC MEETINGS: MAY 21, SEPTEMBER 17

The meeting was adjourned at 2:03 with the AI-Anon Declaration.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary P Recording Secretary

MINUTES WILL NOT BE READ AT THE MEETING

