

Southern Illinois Al-Anon Family Groups
(SIAFG)
Area Assembly Meeting
Zoom Meeting
March 11, 2023

MINUTES OF MEETING

(Accepted as Presented on July 15, 2023)

The meeting opened at 9:02 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 SIAFG Area Assembly Meeting. The Al-Anon 12 Steps, 12 Traditions, and the 12 Concepts of Service with Warranties were read. There were 27 members present (14 voting members) at the meeting.

Chairperson Becky R. shared that questions have arisen regarding whether members of Alcoholics Anonymous and Al-Anon can serve in certain positions. She has reached out to other Area chairpersons and Carol W. has reached out to the Delegates Forum along with the World Service Office. A “Knowledge Based Decision” form” will be sent out for SIAFG Area Al-Anon Family Groups input and for further discussion at the SIAFG Area Assembly Meeting scheduled for July 15, 2023.

BOARD MINUTES: Mary P. read the Board of Directors Meeting Minutes from November 12, 2022. No vote required.

The new SIAFG Area Board will consist of: Rowena A., Becky R., Carol W., Tim E., and Christy E.

AREA ASSEMBLY MEETING MINUTES: The November 12, 2022 SIAFG Area Assembly Meeting Minutes were presented by Christy E. Corrections were made and will be posted on the SIAFG Area website with corrections in red. **A motion was made to approve and accept the minutes with corrections. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES: The SIAFG Special Area Assembly Meeting Minutes of January 7, 2023 were presented by Christy E. They were approved as presented and will be posted on the SIAFG Area website. **A motion was made to approve and accept the minutes. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

TREASURER REPORT

(“Attachment 3” of SIAFG Area Assembly Meeting Agenda of March 11, 2023)

JoEllyn P. reported on the period from September 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022 and January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022 from the Treasurer’s Report prepared by Carol W.

Beginning balance was \$14,328.16 with receipts of \$3,463.50, expenses of \$2,687.10 and \$1,148.79 sent to IL State Convention, leaving balance before reserve fund donation \$13,955.77. The year-end donation was \$1,379.58 leaving cash on hand \$12,576.19. The 12 month columns had a beginning balance of \$13,660.20, with receipts of \$6,761.21, expenses of \$6,465.64 leaving a balance before reserve donation of \$13,955.77. After the reserve donation of \$1,379.58, cash on hand is \$12,576.19. JoEllyn P. mentioned that 2022 actual receipts were over prior year but under budget.

The beginning balance of the savings/reserve fund for this time period was \$6,012.47. With a transfer from the general fund of \$1,379.58 (10% of the 2022 year-end balance of general fund) and interest of \$0.18 the ending balance for the savings/reserve fund was \$7,392.23. JoEllyn P. stated that the goal is to get the Savings/Reserve Fund to \$10,000.00 as was voted upon. For twelve months, beginning balance of reserve fund was \$6,012.11, general fund deposit of \$1,379.58, interest of \$0.54, leaving ending balance of \$7,392.23.

There were questions about the “cash receipts due IL State Convention account” which Carol W. explained. Carol was treasurer for the 2022 IL State AFG Convention, and SIAFG checking account was used for all Stripe deposits from online registrations. The account was used as a pass through. Deposits occurred all month long, and Carol would transfer the dollars one time each month. The last treasurer report reflected convention deposits, and this report reflected the cash payment.

Jan T. questioned whether the Treasurer Reports are being posted on the SIAFG Area website.

GROUP RECORDS SECRETARY REPORT

Jane F. reported that two Electronic Group (EG) meetings were registered this week.

Jane F. also reported process of getting e-mail addresses flipped over to position titled addresses has some challenges and are being worked out.

GROUP RECORDS SECRETARY REPORT (continued)

Becky R. shared that the benefits of the e-mail system with position-titled positions are the flow through and retention of information and records as the members of those positions change due to rotations of service.

There are some reports from the World Service Office (WSO) of people going to meetings and no one being there.

The continuing process of getting WSO records to sync with SIAFG Area's is still ongoing. Encouragement was made for the use of the "Al-Anon Group Record Change Form" for communicating any changes to her.

The Northern Illinois Area convention flier is posted to the SIAFG area website.

An updated Appeal Letter will be forthcoming.

Jane F. has the updated insurance documents.

DELEGATE REPORT

Feb. 18th, Carol W. attended the Chairperson of the Board Letter presentation: "The Board of Trustees would like to extend a big thank you for your continued financial support! WSO contributions for 2022 exceeded budgeted expectations and became the highest contribution year in Al-Anon's history at \$3.3M! There are two main revenue sources: Contributions and literature sales. Literature sales were short of budget by \$4,000 and \$900,000 less than pre pandemic 2019. Expenses were under budget by \$200,000 resulting in the net decrease being better than budget."

"The 2023 Al-Anon International Convention will be held June 29-July 2, in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The theme is "New Hopes, New Friends, Renewed Recovery."

"The World Service Conference will be held April 20-23 in Virginia Beach. Delegates submit area successes and concerns to discuss during the "Sharing Area Highlights" meeting on the first day."

"North Central Regional Delegate meeting is March 17-19. Minnesota South is hosting. JoEllyn and I are flying to St. Paul Minnesota."

Carol also added that it is the SIAFG Area's turn to host the Regional Delegates Meeting in 2024 and she will be reaching out regarding this and provide an update in July.

OLD BUSINESS

ELECTION OF SIAFG OFFICERS NEEDED: ALTERNATE DELEGATE (“Attachment 4” of SIAFG Area Assembly Meeting Agenda of March 11, 2023)

Chairperson Becky R. informed there is still a need for an Alternate Delegate and provided an “Attachment 4” with information on the procedures of elections at the SIAFG Area Assembly meetings. .

ALATEEN UPDATE – ALATEEN PAPERWORK COMMITTEE REPORT

Becky R. reported that a committee exists and is continuing to work on the certification of SIAFG Area Alateen with World Service Organization (WSO). A process and detailed documentation is required. Anyone willing to join the committee is welcomed. She also that in the meantime teens can attend Al-Anon meetings. The committee is planning on meeting again on March 16, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

UPDATED SIAWSC CONTACT PAGE (“Attachment 5” of SIAFG Area Assembly Meeting Agenda of March 11, 2023)

Updated on 1/14/23 and included with the agenda (Attachment 5) were:

- SIAWSC Committee Contact List
- Southern Illinois Area World Service Committee (SIAWSC) Past Delegates List
- District Representatives List

A change to District 20-District Rep e-mail for Jane G. was changed to districtrep.20@gmail.com

NEW BUSINESS

COORDINATOR POSITIONS OPEN

Chairperson Becky R. encouraged the filling of six open Coordinator positions and a reminder to Al-Anon members of their eligibility.

NEW BUSINESS (continued)

NEW SERVICE MANUAL IS AVAILABLE

Chairperson Becky R. informed everyone that the new Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual is available as a hard copy and also as an on-line copy.

The on-line copy is found at <https://al-anon.org/pdf/P2427.pdf>

Tim E. (District 19) and Cindy P. (District 18) have extra copies available.

EDUCATIONAL DOCUMENTS FOR NEW GROUP REPRESENTATIVE AND DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES (“Attachment 6” of SIAFG Area Assembly Meeting Agenda of March 11, 2023)

Chairperson Becky R. referred to “Attachment 6” of the Agenda, which lists materials helpful for new Group Representatives.

A motion was made to post the new materials listing in a password protected portion of the SIAFG Area website. The motion was passed with a majority of 13 Group Representatives voting yes and 1 Group Representative abstaining.

SIAFG INSURANCE UPDATE (“Attachment 7” of SIAFG Area Assembly Meeting Agenda of March 11, 2023)

Chairperson Becky R. reported that the SIAFG insurance document is attached to the SIAFG Area Assembly Agenda of March 13, 2023 and can be used without contacting an Officer of the SIAFG Area. It will be put on the SIAFG Area website. She noted that the policy will be up for renewal on July 29, 2023 and will be put on the next SIAFG Area Assembly meeting.

There was then a point made that it may not be secure to put the document on our SIAFG Area website. Becky R. will write a statement and bring it up for review before posting the document on the website.

It was also noted the document is to be used only when an event or building owner requests proof of this insurance.

NEW BUSINESS (continued)

OTHER

“The Electronic Group Registration Procedure” document was posted as an attachment with the e-mail containing the SIAFG Area Meeting Agenda of March 13, 2023 along with this meeting’s other documents.

A reminder to use the “Al-Anon Group Record Change Form” for communicating any changes to Jane F., Group Records Secretary.

DISTRICT REPORTS & GROUP CONCERNS/SUCSESSES

District 12: (e-mailed to Recording Secretary)

Kelly T., District Representative:

I’m so grateful for the support and acceptance that I received from the district members during my first year as district representative. It has been challenging at times, learning . But through it all, our district persevered and managed to stay together. I’m so grateful for these miracles.

The district met on November 20, 2022. We had 4 members in attendance. We have chosen to continue our district meetings on ZOOM. So district will continue to support the ZOOM Room.

In other news, district 12 currently has 13 registered groups, 4 groups are staying on ZOOM. 3 groups have changed to HYBRID. 6 groups continue to meet F2F. Our latest meeting list is in the process of being updated to the SIAFG website. Our financial health was strong enough to enable us to send \$250.00 to Area and \$250.00 to WSO. Our treasurer Roxanne B plans to produce a quarterly budget beginning in 2023. We appreciate Roxanne's continued service to the district.

Our website has links to both the Area (www.siafg.org) website and the WSO (www.al-anon.org) website. We are encouraging newcomers to visit those websites to make their own decisions for choices of meetings and literature options.

Our next district meeting will be March 19, 2023 on ZOOM.

DISTRICT REPORTS AND GROUP CONCERNS/SUCCESES (continued)

District 14:

Walt E., Group Representative, reported there two hybrid meetings, with one being at the hospital and it has great attendance. They have found an answering service that is working well and he thinks is affordable.

Fern E., Group Representative and News-O-Gram Coordinator, is preparing a flier to announce meetings.

District 17:

Laura D., District Representative, reported that District 17 has two meetings, one in Carbondale and the other in Murphysboro. These two groups cover 10 counties and these meetings are great but not enough for the geographically large, mostly rural, area. They are in the process of establishing another meeting in Marion.

District 19:

Charlene V., District Representative, reported that most meetings are now in person.

District 18:

Kathryn F., Group Representative, reported they are reading and discussing the book, “Many Voices, One Journey” in conjunction with the Al-Anon/Alateen World Service Manual.

JoEllyn P. shared that a member of District 18, who is also a member of Alcoholics Anonymous has volunteered to take Al-Anon packets to locations.

Claudia P., Group Representative, shared that her group is still small.

District 20:

Jane G., District Representative, reported that all of the pre-Covid in-person meetings are back and up. There are three zoom meetings, with one being a recent addition that is reading and sharing the book, “Opening our Hearts, Transforming Our Losses”. The District 20 meetings are hybrid. The district is exploring whether they will accept Electronic Groups. Also, a local addiction center has asked them to speak on a weekly basis. It is being decided on how best to continue to serve that request.

Joan K., Group Representative, reported that at their meeting there have been seven newcomers in the last three weeks. She also shared that they are giving copies of the recent “Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism” to members to distribute and they have a once-a-month drawing for a free year’s subscription to the “Forum”.

Jan C., Group Representative, shared that their meeting was hybrid and are now doing the hybrid meeting every fourth Friday of the month and meeting separately on the other weeks.

COORDINATOR REPORTS

Convention 2023

Debbie Mc., Convention Coordinator, reported updates on the Al-Anon Northern Illinois Area convention planned for October 6-8, 2023 at the Hyatt Regency in Schaumburg, IL. The theme is “Unity, Hope & Serenity”. A flier has been posted on the SIAFG Area website. Quilt squares are available and if wanting one, please contact Debbie.

Tim E. shared that there is a fund raising dinner on April 15 at church in Schaumburg and the cost is \$20.

News-O-Gram

Carol H., News-O-Gram Coordinator, is looking for personal stories to be shared in this publication. Stories should be related to how they used an Al-Anon tool or resource, and be 300-500 words long. Submit them to Carol at Carol53115@Yahoo.com or mail to Carol H. At 3321 West William Street, CHAMPAIGN, IL. 61821.

The next News-O-Gram deadline is May 28, 2023.

By-Laws

Cindy P. reported there is no new information, however, she will have things to vote on at the July meeting. We are still in need of a By-Laws Coordinator.

WRAP UP

It was decided that all information for the next SIAFG Area Assembly Meeting on July 14, 2023 be sent to Jane F., Recording Secretary, by Sunday, June 4, 2023. Also, that information for the News-O-Gram be sent to Carol H. by Sunday, May 28, 2023.

Cards and letters can be sent to Carol W., SIAFG Area Delegate, when she is attending the World Service Conference (WSC) on April 20-23, 2023 in Virginia Beach. They are to be mailed to arrive after April 15. Address and directions will be forthcoming.

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP (SIAFG)
AREA ASSEMBLY MEETINGS OF 2023

July 15, 2023

**Hybrid meeting format, Springfield Memorial Hospital
SIU College of Medicine Building, Springfield, IL
Conference Room D229**

9:00 start

(Charlene V. asked that if attending in-person to come through the main entrance and a mask is required in the hospital area. You can remove your mask once you get to conference room D229. District 19 has volunteered to prepare and bring snacks.)

November 4, 2023

Zoom

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS AREA WORLD SERVICE COMMITTEE
(SIAWSC) MEETINGS OF 2023

May 20, 2023 - Zoom

September 16, 2023 - Zoom

The motion to adjourn was made, seconded and voted unanimously to adjourn at 12:26 p.m. with the Al-Anon Declaration.

Respectfully submitted,

Christy E.
Recording Secretary

THE MINUTES WILL NOT BE READ AT THE MEETING.