

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

(Accepted with corrections on 3/11/23)

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. Barbara S was the Timekeeper. 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 30 members present (16 voting members) at the regular Zoom meeting.

**BOARD MINUTES:** Rowena A read the Board of Director's Meeting Minutes from July 16, 2022. No vote required.

**AREA ASSEMBLY MEETING MINUTES:** The July 16, 2022 SIAFG 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 REPORT:** Carol W first reported on the period from May 1, 2022 through August 31, 2022. Beginning balance was \$13,650.81 with receipts of \$1,671.56 and expenses of \$2,143.00 leaving total cash on hand \$14,328.16. The savings/Reserve fund was \$6,012.24 with interest of \$0.18 leaving \$6,012.42.

The next portion Carol reported on was the period from January 1, 2022-August 31, 2022. The beginning balance was \$13,660.20 with receipts of \$3,297.71 and expenses of \$3,778.54 leaving total cash on hand of \$14,328.16. The Savings/Reserve fund was \$6,012.11 with interest of \$0.31 leaving \$6,012.42

The budget for the 2023 year had been discussed at the July 16, 2022 meeting. The only item that Carol wanted to reiterate was the need for an appeal letter. Looking at the data, it looks like SIAFG is paying out more than we are bringing in. The increase of payments for insurance, World ~~Service~~ Conference, ~~Convention~~ and Officer and Coordinator emails adds to our bills. She advised sending an appeal letter so we would be able to keep the reserve of \$6,000, and make annual contributions to increase reserve to \$10,000.

A motion was made to accept the 2023 budget for SIAFG as presented. It was seconded and voted to accept unanimously.

The appeal letter was presented and discussed. There was a suggestion to send the appeal letters via mail so that members would realize the importance of it. Jane F will work on it. Carol thanked Suz B for her help in writing the Appeal letter.

The SIAFG treasurer position is turning over beginning January 1, 2023. Carol Wielgus is stepping down and JoEllyn Patterson is the new treasurer. Carol and JoEllyn will work with

US Bank to get the account signers changed. JoEllyn can keep the same checking and saving accounts, or choose a different bank. There were no objections to Carol sending WSO the full amount of \$2,687.10 for the 2023 World Service Conference.

**GROUP RECORDS SECRETARY:** Jane F reminded all that any changes in groups are to be sent to Jane ([grouprepsec@gmail.com](mailto:grouprepsec@gmail.com)) She will contact WSO to insure they have the correct information. When it goes to Jane first, it simplifies it for the Area. Jane also mentioned that districts or members without emails receive U.S. mail packets from her with all notices. After multiple attempts at verifying these accounts, she reduced the mailing packet from eight to one.

**DELEGATE REPORT:** JoEllyn stated the World Service Conference will be held April 20, 2023 through April 23, 2023 in Virginia Beach. In regards to literature, all printed books (Conference approved Literature) will soon be offered as E books. WSO has a deficit of \$332,730. She noted a strategic plan that WSO is following. The complete report will be added following the minutes.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS:**Becky announced that three officer positions were still open: Recording Secretary, Delegate and Alternate Delegate. After asking Mary P to summarize the duties of the position, she asked if anyone was willing to stand for Recording Secretary. Christy E from District 20 raised her hand and gave her background. She was asked to leave the zoom while it was discussed and she would be called back after the vote. Mary S and Mary P gave rave reviews about Christy's time in Al-Anon. A vote was taken and seconded and Christy was approved unanimously.

Becky then asked if anyone was willing to stand for Delegate or Alternate Delegate. No volunteers stood. Becky asked everyone to pray about it and possibly a volunteer would show by the March meeting.

Becky then noted the Coordinator positions that are open: Webmaster, Alateen, Area Alateen Process Person, Archives, Convention Coordinator, and Forum/Literature Coordinator. Debbie Mc from Springfield District offered to be the Convention Liaison. No vote was needed, but a round of applause was heard. At this time no one was standing for other positions, but prayer is advised.

**ELECTRONIC MEETING:** After discussion from the report, Donna S mentioned that this would be a 2 year trial period. In 2 years, we can see how it works for our districts and adjust. The members who are on the committee welcome your questions.

Donna S ([ddspencer2@comcast.net](mailto:ddspencer2@comcast.net)) Jane G ([janegumm2@gmail.com](mailto:janegumm2@gmail.com)) JoEllyn P ([joellynp@yahoo.com](mailto:joellynp@yahoo.com)) Bob R ([tasha\\_001@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tasha_001@sbcglobal.net)) A motion was made to move forward as written concerning Electronic Group Registration Procedure. It was seconded and voted on unanimously to go forward. The Electronic Group Registration Procedure document will be sent out with the minutes.

**ALATEEN UPDATE:** Becky reminded members that an Alateen Coordinator and A Process Person was still needed even though we're still finishing up paperwork and figuring out mandating. Suz B from District 18 has contacted the Department of Family Services, local lawyers and the office of the Illinois State Attorney. Most said their personal opinion was that our non-profit organization would not be included in the mandating. The Attorney General's office said that the update of the mandate law included clergy and licensed childcare workers. Suz also mentioned that our insurance covers this type of liabilities. A suggestion was made to set up a Committee to work on the paperwork needed and look into the viability of starting back

with Alateen groups. The committee includes Robbie D, Mary S, Walt E, Becky R and Carol H. They will report at the March 11, 2023 meeting.

**WEB&EMAIL CONTACT UPDATE:** Kyra asked everyone (officers and coordinators) to start using their emails. They have been paid for. If you are ending your term in December, please help your replacement set it up.

**DISTANCE MEETING CHECK IN:** Before the pandemic, Southern Area met at the Springfield Memorial Hospital 3 times yearly to hold Area meetings. Soon after the pandemic, Zoom was used. After discussion about using hybrid, zoom only, or in person only, a motion was made. The motion was to Zoom in the March 11, 2023 meeting and November 4, 2023 meeting and to use Hybrid for the July 15, 2023 meeting. The motion was seconded and voted on unanimously to approve.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**COORDINATOR POSITIONS:**

**DISTRICT REPORTS & GROUP CONCERNS/SUCSESSES**

**District 10:** Janis T, DR, was not able to attend. Becky mentioned that she is very pleased that District 10 now has a DR. Janis is doing a good job.

**District 12:** Kelly T stated that some of her 13 meetings are going hybrid. She will be coordinating with Jane F to acknowledge the changes. Kelly mentioned that her district has shown growth, and newcomers are finding their meetings. Carol H says her group is using Zoom but finds time to have fellowship in person. She says her meeting has delivered meeting lists to agencies.

**District 19:** Charlene V said the Springfield Memorial Hospital has the set up for Zoom and or hybrid. Debbie Mc has seen lots of newcomers at her evening meeting. The attendance seems to be back to pre-pandemic times.

**District 20:** Mary P said that many members attended the Al-Anon convention with glowing reviews. District 20 elections were held October 9. As Mary P stepped down, Jane G stepped in as DR. All officer positions were taken and the only coordinator position not filled was archives. Mary also mentioned their website, [al-anonpeoria.org](http://al-anonpeoria.org) which is adding more information monthly. Robbie D mentioned her Wednesday meeting is large and growing. Many newcomers that started out in zoom are showing up in person. The local hospital's addiction programs has contacted Al-Anon to send a member every Tuesday to speak to the families of alcoholics for half an hour. Mary S mentioned the local hybrid meeting has decided to take a break and have one meeting in person and one Zoom.

**District 14:** Andrea S has 11 meetings: 6 in person, 2 Zoom, 2 hybrid, one Zoom changing to hybrid. Andrea has attended each group in her first year as DR. All meetings are very healthy. Her district joined in a Health fair in Bellville in August. Some of her meetings have potlucks occasionally as fellowship. Fern attends a small group and has met newcomers. In December AA and Al-Anon have a common meeting with speakers and a potluck.

**District 17:** Laura D has 2 meetings in person, one in Carbondale and one in Murphysboro. They are a small district at this time, but healthy. The hope is to reconstitute the Marion meeting that closed during covid.

**District 18:** Suz B has a very active group. A couple of groups have closed, but a couple has also started up. Some meetings have 1-3 new people a week. Alateen is a concern. Her district had a summer picnic for fellowship. "Rock in Recovery" was an event that hosted an Al-Anon table by Dist. 18 to bring awareness to the area. Although the district has no Outreach coordinator, Suz has asked each meeting to form their own outreach. This has brought people

together. Bob R has found willing members who start service in small ways like, chairing a meeting and greeting people. He hopes this will turn into more service. Claudia P's group is in person. Although they used zoom through the pandemic, they are back to face to face.

#### **COORDINATOR REPORTS:**

**Convention 2022:** Debbie Mc reminded all that 2020 was the year her district was going to host the convention, but had to cancel it because of the pandemic. She and co-chair Janese H tagged the Northern Area when they hosted in 2021 and learned a lot from them. Debbie and Janese planned for in person 2022 convention and were thrilled when it was confirmed. 170 people attended the convention. 105 banquet tickets were sold. They had three Al-Anon speakers and two AA speakers. There was one meeting with a panel of speakers talking about service. There was also a Conflict/Resolution meeting that was new. 41 baskets were raffled. The quilt that was raffled was beautiful and brought in money. The literature room made around \$1,000 selling donated Al-Anon books, pamphlets, and trinkets. Out of the 170 attendees, 70 offered to volunteer in some capacity. The profit is close to \$4,000. December 3 is the Convention Resource Committee meeting.

**News-O-Gram:** The News-O-gram 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](mailto:Carol53115@Yahoo.com) or mail to Carol H. At 3321 West William Street, CHAMPAIGN, IL. 61821.

The next News-O-Gram deadline is February 1, 2023.

**By-Laws:** Cyndi P wanted clarification on how to update the by-laws. Becky said she could make changes she saw fit, and bring them to the SIAWSC meeting. That group will discuss the changes and send them to the Area to vote. The new SIAFG emails will be positioned next to each job in the by-laws.

**Webmaster:** Kyra is stepping down after working through the pandemic, a challenge, with all the changes. She is willing to mentor a volunteer.

#### **Wrap Up:**

##### **Set Assembly Meetings:**

**March 11, 2023- Zoom**

**July 15, 2023- Springfield Memorial Hospital and Zoom**

**November 4, 2023- Zoom**

##### **SIAWSC Meetings:**

**January 14, 2023- Zoom**

**May 20, 2023 - Zoom**

**September 16, 2023 - Zoom**

The motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and voted unanimously to adjourn at 2:04pm with the Al-Anon Declaration.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary P

Recording Secretary

**THE MINUTES WILL NOT BE READ AT THE MEETING.**