

Southern Illinois Al-Anon Family Group
News-O-Gram Fall 2020

Next SIAFG Area Assembly Meeting
Saturday, November 7, 2020, 8:30 AM via Zoom.

Zoom Meeting Information:

From a mobile device or an internet enabled computer click on this link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87084783785?pwd=VmhpbkpOOHNSZWdvRTlrRyt2RmNFQT09>

Meeting ID: 870 8478 3785. Passcode: 332221
OR... From Zoom website "Join a Meeting":
Meeting ID: 870 8478 3785 Password: 332221
If you cannot join via computer or mobile device
you can join via phone: 312/626-6799

**Southern Illinois World Service Committee Meeting
will immediately follow the Assembly**

Both meetings are open to all Al-Anon members. *Please join us!*

Note: July Meeting minutes start on page 10.

If you have any changes to group meeting times, date, contact person, etc., please contact the Group Records Secretary at siafg.group.records@gmail.com.

*The 2020 Illinois State AFG Convention scheduled for
October 16 – 18 has been cancelled.*

Please be on the lookout for our Area inventory being emailed or sent by mail. The surveys (one for WSC members and one for Group Representatives) is due by October 31. Results will be presented at our November meetings. Thank you for helping!

Area Assembly Information

November 7, 2020

ZOOM Meeting Details:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87084783785?pwd=Vmhpbgk0OHNSZWdvRTlrRyt2RmNFQT09>

Meeting ID: 870 8478 3785

Passcode: 332221

Call in Info: 312/626-6799

SIAFG Area Assembly --- November 7, 2020
8:30 am Sign On and Get "Settled"
9:00 am Meeting Starts

SIAWSC MEETING --- November 7, 2020
~ 2:30 pm, immediately follows SIAFG Area Assembly

Who attends these meetings??

SIAFG Area Assembly meeting is open for all members of Al-Anon, everyone is welcome! This meeting is specifically for the groups. Group Representatives (or alternate if GR cannot attend) are the only ones who have vote. Discussions will include minutes from previous meeting, financial reports, group records; sharing of group concerns/successes/information, districts, and area coordinators; and any new and/or old business. Your Delegate will also share information from WSO.

SIAWSC meeting is open for all members of Al-Anon, everyone is welcome! This meeting is for the districts, officers, and coordinators. However, input from everyone is welcome! Attendance from everyone is greatly encouraged. Topics from Area Assembly will be discussed, and any suggested improvements for Area Assembly meetings, suggestions for group support, district support, or suggestions from WSO are considered. Decisions will be made and the agenda will be set for the next Area Assembly meeting. Everyone has a voice, but only DR's, Officers, and Coordinators have vote.

AREA OFFICERS REPORTS

Happy Fall SIAFG members!

I am now your new SIAFG Chairperson for the Area. I have been in Al-Anon for 10 years (this past February) and while in many ways still a newcomer to the Area Business I fell in love with the program and I have a heart for making sure our work carries forward into the future for others so it might save their lives just like I feel it has saved mine.

There have been LOTS of exciting developments in the area with this past July Area Assembly!!

Please be sure to read through the minutes of the meeting.

We held our first zoom meeting from a distance. I am so pleased and proud to report that we were able to very thoroughly cover all the subjects necessary for the Area and we were able to have an open dialogue. Just as our Al-Anon 4th Concept of Service states, "Participation is the key to harmony." I just helped lead the discussion. The real important part was the **excellent** participation and open dialogue from the Group Representatives, District Representatives, Area Coordinators and Area Officers. Thank you all to those who participated and thank you to all the fellowship who entrust us to help lead the business of SIAFG. I would remind everyone that all Al-Anon members have voice in this process so please join us at our next zoom meeting on July 7 and help get involved. We need your voice and your help!

Along those lines of helping, I would also like to bring to your attention a challenging situation we have to fill working positions within the Area. I'd ask you to search your heart as well as your friends in the Al-Anon fellowship to see if we can find willing and able workers to help us fill the numerous roles we have open for the SIAFG Area. I realize all our lives are busy and for members new to the Area work it is scary to step up to something you might not totally understand. I assure you, we who are here serving are happy to guide you in the process and promise to help you along the way. We appreciate any time or talents you might be able to share with the SIAFG area.

Descriptions of all the roles can be found on the SIAFG.org website within the members tab: <http://www.siafg.org/job-descriptions---june-2013.html>.
Specifically the jobs we are in urgent need of help include:

SIFAG Officer open position:

Group Records Secretary – <http://www.siafg.org/uploads/1/2/2/2/12228429/grouprecords.pdf> - This role is **critical** to maintain the accurate account of SIFAG groups, our group data with WSO, as well as keep our website data accurately updated. Please consider this role as we are in desperate need to keep our group records updated. This is our greatest need for help at this point and this is our greatest connection to inform newcomers to where to find our meetings.

Other Coordinator positions open:

Alateen Coordinator: <http://www.siafg.org/uploads/1/2/2/2/12228429/alateencoordinator.pdf>
Archives: <http://www.siafg.org/uploads/1/2/2/2/12228429/archivescoordinator.pdf>
Convention: <http://www.siafg.org/uploads/1/2/2/2/12228429/conventionliaison.pdf>
Public Outreach: <http://www.siafg.org/uploads/1/2/2/2/12228429/publicoutreachcoordinator.pdf>
Please, Please, Please consider stepping up to service in the Area!

Best Wishes!
Becky Ropp
SIFAG Area Chairperson
rropp@growmark.com
Cell: 217/369-8164

Southern Illinois Area Treasurer’s Report - September 2020

Hello, I hope everyone is doing well as we maneuver through this pandemic. These last couple of months have been a big adjustment for all of us, and I am grateful to online Al-Anon meetings. I have been especially thankful that our recovery program was able to adjust quickly from in person to online meetings. The table below shows district and group donations from May–August 2020. When sending a donation, please use the contribution form that I return with your donation receipt. The donation form is also available on SIAFG website and is listed below, after the contribution table. In order to keep complete records, I need to know **Group Name, District Number, and WSO ID number**. In addition, it helps if you print the name and address of the person sending the donation, because I cannot always read the signatures. The below donations were given to Area’s general fund.

On behalf of our Area Assembly, I thank you for your contributions. It is because of your support we can continue to carry the message to others. I look forward to seeing all of you on zoom at the next Area Assembly in November.

Yours in Recovery,
Carol W., Area Treasurer



District or Group Name	District Number	Group Number	District or Group Name	District Number	Group Number
Alton Mon. E. 12th Street	18	3451	Monday Morning AFG	20	24161
CMA Friday Morning AFG	20	30790	Onley AFG	13	3980
Discovering Freedom	14	503171	Progress Not Perfection	19	30633415
			Saturday Morning Serenity		
District 10	10		Seeker	10	25455
District 18	18		Stepping Stones AFG	17	30673249
Edwardsville Al-Ateen	18	30640437	Sunshine AFG	18	26399
Edwardsville Fundamentals of Recovery	18	30584718	The Monday Night Serenity Group	18	26501
Fourth Step AFG	10	30595928	Thursday Morning AFG	12	30512054
H.O.W. Al-Anon Family Group	19	004104	Thursday Night AFG	18	30528380
			Tuesday Night Serenity		
Happiness Is	19	4811	Seekers	11	3701
Litchfield AFG	18	50020	Your Cause		

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS AREA CONTRIBUTION FORM

PLEASE PRINT

Group Name _____ Date; _____

Contact Person _____ Group ID# _____

Phone Number _____ District _____

Street Address _____ Amount _____

City/State/Zip _____ Check # _____

**Please Make Check or Money Order to SIAFG:
Mail to: Carol Wielgus, 1000 Bethel Mine Road, Caseyville, IL 62232
(618) 304-4672**

SIAFG Inventory Results 2020

- 53% of members who answered the survey attended in 2020; 16% last attended in 2019; 32% of members have not attended Assembly since 2018 or earlier.
- 37% of members surveyed attend 2-3 times a year; 21% attend at least 1-2 times a year, and 42% attend once a year or less.
- The most common obstacles to attendance for those who attend once a year or less include “too much time commitment” 50%, “Too far to drive to Springfield” 50%, and “meetings are boring” 13%.
- When asked about the ideal length of our meetings, most [63%] had no opinion, 25% felt 2 hours would be best, 13% felt 2-3 hours would be optimal.
- Zoom meetings are popular: 50% of members answering the survey would like Zoom/in-person hybrid meetings in the future and 25% would prefer a Zoom-only option.
- The most appealing aspects of our Assembly meetings for those surveyed are “Informative” 64% and “Networking opportunities” 64%, and 41% chose meetings are “Productive,” “Casual atmosphere,” and we do “Important work.”
- The least attractive aspects of our meetings to these members are “Unproductive” 47%, “Boring” 26%, “Information overload” 21%, and meetings are “Contentious” 16%. With the exception of “Unproductive,” the other options were chosen less frequently than the “appealing” choices, indicating members surveyed generally find meetings appealing.
- Other areas for improvement include “Dominance by a few members” 74%, Assembly meetings generally “do not help our groups thrive” 62%, And 52% of members leave meetings feeling neutral or negative.
- 58% of members surveyed do not have a service sponsor, 26% have a service sponsor they contact regularly. For those without a sponsor, the majority see no need for one.
- 32% of members are a service sponsor.
- 53% of members have never worked the Concepts of service, 26% have studied them independently, 21% have studied them with a sponsor.
- Suggestions for improvement include:
 - Attraction: skits, workshops, joint projects, speakers on the Concepts
 - Listen to the GR's and challenge GR's to participate with each other.
 - Conversations are easier to follow when groups within the same district report together.
 - Better use of time, less repetition, more group connection and communication.
 - Limit presentation and discussion time; if we can't agree, we need to do more research or send it to committee and bring it up next meeting
 - Actually work on an issue or task until complete and involve all members
 - Focus only on specific [pertinent] information needed for discussion
 - Provide clear sense of purpose for my service [participation] at meeting
 - Don't be so far away
 - Don't drag things out
 - Announce information to display at the beginning of the meeting
 - Have a timekeeper limit the amount of time someone talks
 - Provide an agenda prior to the meeting.
 - Have coordinators and officers provide reports by email before meetings so we can use meeting time for questions and discussion

SIWSC Inventory Results 2020

- 83% of members who answered the survey attended in 2020; 16% last attended in 2019.
- 75% attend 2-3 times a year, 25% attend 1-2 times a year.
- The most appealing aspects of our WSC meetings for those surveyed are “Helpful to Al-Anon” 63%, “Networking opportunities” 51%, and 47% chose meetings are “Productive,” “Informative,” and we do “Important work for Area.”
- The least attractive aspects of our meetings to these members are “Unproductive” 36% and “Boring” 36%, meetings are “Contentious” 18%, and “Information overload” 9%.
- Other areas for improvement include “Not helpful to our Districts” 81%, Dominance by a few members” 63%, and 55% said our meetings get bogged down in the problem rather than focusing on solutions, have poor communication with the Assembly, and do a poor job orienting both Assembly members and Area officers.
- 55% of members are a service sponsor; 42% of members surveyed do not have a service sponsor, 33% have a service sponsor they contact regularly, . For those without a sponsor, the majority see no need for one.
- 25% of members have never worked the Concepts of service, 67% have studied them independently, 8% have studied them with a sponsor.
- Suggestions for improvement include:
 - More open-mindedness to new ideas and being respectful of others’ time
 - Talk about issues/topics to present to Area members for full discussion and vote (e.g. budget, potential outreach projects, thought/task force projects, district/group concerns, etc).
 - Have these meetings on a full day a month prior to Assembly meetings with committees (thought force/task force) to dig into our Area, District and group needs. We’re a lot of talk and no action right now.
 - Don’t just have a meeting to say we’ve had one; review the suggestions in the Service Manual to include in our agendas to make our SIWSC meetings the best it can be.
 - Have coordinators and officers provide reports by email before meetings so we can use meeting time for questions and discussion
 - We may get more information if SIWSC and Assembly meetings are held on different days. Current format lasts 6 hours and some members can’t give up that much time.

Area Archivist

Dear Friends,

As I was thinking about how awesome it was to be attending the Southern Illinois Area Assembly on July 11 on Zoom, my thoughts were on how grateful I am for all the tools that the Al-Anon Program has given me. When I became an Al-Anon member 40 years ago, I would never have dreamed of serving our Area as the Southern Illinois Area Archivist Co-ordination. After serving in this position for some time, I’m grateful to share my experience with someone who will gain all the benefit that I have, to grow more in the Program.

I want to thank everyone, who became a part, in allowing me to have the opportunity to be your Southern Illinois Area Archivist Co-ordinator vent though I wasn’t sore of what I was supposed to do, I knew in my heart, I’d learn from everyone, just like I did when I came to my very first Al-Anon meeting

Being an Archivist has been not only a very good experience but also fun and rewarding! Especially, full of gratitude when I had the opportunity of meeting , by phone, the WSO Archivist, who filled me with the information I needed, nuts by asking. Whoever will be stepping into this position will, without a doubt, gain all these wonderful experiences, as I have.

I'm just a phone call away, when there are questions about the Archives Co-ordinator position. Just know that by taking One Day at a Time, you can do it!

Thank you really isn't enough to say to each one of you for your patience and understanding S I become part of the Area Assembly Family.
I love you in a very special way!

Fern Turpin

Your past Southern Illinois Area Archives Coordinator

News-O-Gram Coordinator

Well, let me introduce the new News-O-Gram Coordinator. I am Carol H. from District 12 (Champaign area). I grew up in Northern Wisconsin with an alcoholic father and a pill popping mother. I found Al-Anon when my oldest was crawling, attended for a short time before accepting my own misery back. I came back for real when pregnant with my youngest. I am now grateful to be able to face the demons in myself, with Al-Anon's help.

Please bear with me as things get figured out, with my grateful thanks to Jan T. for her kind mentoring.

As noted at the July 8, 2017 SIAFG meeting, this media forum is meant to include personal and business sharing, including personal-sharing by Al-Anon/Alateen members of their experience, strength and hope, (limit shares to 75 words or less) as well as Business sharing by an Al-Anon/Alateen members who are principally concerned pertaining to Al-Anon/Alateen business, organization or procedures (sharing must include references to Al-Anon Conference Approved Literature).

One of the topics up for discussion is the need for a supplement to the Guidelines for Newsletter editors. (G-21). This is a work in process.

Please share your thoughts and concerns by contacting me at Carol Holterman, 3321 West William Street, Champaign, Illinois 61821; text/call 262-729-0946 or email to Carol53115@Yahoo.com.

I have learned service is truly the key to personal growth. Thank you for allowing me to continue my journey.

Peace,
Carol H.

DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

District 10 News

These are the meeting codes for virtual District 10 meetings using Zoom:
no password is required.

Friday – Friday Night Happy Hour – 5:30 pm
Meeting code: 6777766273

Saturday – Serenity Seekers – 10:00 am
Meeting code: 980744530

Sunday – Adult Child of Alcoholics – 4:00 pm
Meeting code: 775124172

District 11 News

During the pandemic, we continued our meetings via Zoom. The attendance was down but I feel like some people didn't like not being face to face or had difficulty with the technology. For the most part though our regular attendees were present. We started back the beginning of June with the Tuesday night meeting and tried to do a dual meeting both in person and via Zoom but weren't successful. We have been meeting outside as some are still not comfortable being inside yet. Our Sunday and Thursday meetings have started back to meeting in person with social distancing in mind.

We have scheduled a Fall picnic for October 4th at Rock Springs Nature Center. We plan on having an Alanon and AA speaker as we did last year. It will be a potluck with District 11 providing the meat, drinks, and table service. We would love to see folks from Southern IL come join us especially since we aren't having convention this year.

Theresa M.
DR District 11

District 12 News

The district has been in a holding pattern since COVID-19. Our last official district meeting was on February 16, 2020. 30 days later, the state was virtually shut down, thereby bringing our district to a halt. With Churches closing due to COVID in mid-March, and a majority of our Al-Anon meetings having no meeting place, we started using Zoom by late March/early April. With the uncertainty of the timeframe for the state-wide shutdown, being too new to Zoom, outreach projects on hold, no real pending issues, the district meeting of April 21 was cancelled. Our number one priority was to keep Al-Anon meetings available to those who needed them. Since April, our district has started a website: www.centralillinoisalanon.weebly.com. It's a work in progress; its target audience is to newcomers with some very basic information posted so far. No meeting list posted yet because of not knowing when meetings can meet F2F again. But there are links to both siafg.org website and WSO's website. There is also a 'Contact Us' section for questions via email.

After polling the groups as to having a district meeting in person or in Zoom, response was 50/50. We tried to have a district meeting in Zoom on June 21, but attendance was too low, therefore no official meeting. There are about 30% of our district members that still don't want anything to do with Zoom. The next district meeting might be in August if we can meet F2F. Over the next several weeks, I will be reaching out to the individual groups to gather information for next steps to move forward.

From District 14:

- We've had our first electronic district meeting and it went well. We have a shared Zoom account for most of the meetings in the district. Apart from that, each group is figuring out how to move forward with the challenges and benefits (like seeing the faces of friends that have moved out of the area) of the new format.
- Groups have been encouraged to announce 7th tradition reminders to their members regarding Group, District, Area and WSO donations. Our District Treasurer is helping to coordinate the funds.
- At our next district meeting we will be hearing from a member with experience setting up a web page who is willing to set one up for the district.
- We have a newish Public Outreach Coordinator who is keeping in touch with the AIS in St. Louis.
Peace, Katie

District 17- No response

Note: Separate letters were sent to the listed groups in District 17. One phoned response was that the Marion Saturday Morning AFG that met at the First United Methodist Church, 208 W. Main, Marion, IL 62959 no longer meets at the listed church. If anyone has any information regarding contact with this district, please let the News-O-Gram coordinator know.

District 18 News

District 18 - Monday Night Serenity AFG
Normal mtg is 6:30-8:00 pm Monday's at 310 S Main, Edwardsville
Meeting ID: 935 960 8370
PW: 727098

Topic: Fundamentals of Recovery Zoom Al-Anon Meeting
Time: Wednesdays at 07:30 PM Central Time (US and Canada) until the end of 2020
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2647126500?pwd=cHZ3WStUM1dGMnBPZ0ZiUitGdWZyQT09>

Meeting ID: 264 712 6500

Password: 9hd4AN

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,2647126500#,,,,0#,,076039# US (Chicago)

+13017158592,,2647126500#,,,,0#,,076039# US (Germantown)

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 264 712 6500

Password: 076039

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2647126500>

District 18 - Topic: Thursday Night AI-Anon

Time: Mar 26, 2020 07:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Every week on Thu, until May 7, 2020, 7 occurrence(s)

Mar 26, 2020 07:00 PM

Apr 2, 2020 07:00 PM

Apr 9, 2020 07:00 PM

Apr 16, 2020 07:00 PM

Apr 23, 2020 07:00 PM

Apr 30, 2020 07:00 PM

May 7, 2020 07:00 PM

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Weekly:

https://us04web.zoom.us/meeting/tZUocOiuqTMuXgLyX2CpAGtyFFBuayth0A/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGpqzwrHNOdtF3tZ6kqOYX4b8_MI0lJhrplzjz1lGdHeyXQFPdDK6Z3QPmB

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/815716784> Meeting ID: 815 716 784

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,815716784# US (Chicago)

+16468769923,,815716784# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US

Meeting ID: 815 716 784

Find your local number: <https://us04web.zoom.us/u/fk0SHrieN>

District 19 News

These meetings are using District 19 link for Zoom:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/2298463231>

no password is required.

- Sunday – Sunday Serenity – 6:30 pm
- Monday – Honest, Open & Willing – 7:00 pm
- Tuesday - Cyber-Share 4 All - 7:00 pm
- Wednesday – Happiness Is – 12:00 pm noon
- Thursday – It’s an Inside Job – 5:15 pm
- Thursday - Progress Not Perfection – 6:30 pm
- Friday – Keep It Simple – 12:00 pm noon
- Friday – Experience, Strength & Hope – 5:15 pm
- Saturday - Stay Connected AFG – 6:30 pm

The following meeting has an independent link:

Wednesday – Butterfly AFG - 700 pm

Go to: www.zoom.us

For Online Access -- Enter this

Meeting ID: 740 335 542

then

Enter this Password: 921264

For all meeting times and more information, go to the District website: spi-alanon.weebly.com.

District 20:

District 20 has been trying to keep up with the Pandemic guidelines, as I'm sure all of you are. Within the first week of shutdown, all of our meetings were temporarily canceled. Every day brought more anxiety to our normal routines. Luckily, we have a member who helped produce 3 online zoom meetings so that we would have two during the day, and one in the evening. She mentored us, showed us the way, and we have found a new routine. We are all so thankful to be able to see each others faces and hear our voices.

Within the month we expect a few of our former sites to open up to meetings. Each group will decide on masks, social distancing, number of members, etc.

Our Fellowship Coordinator is looking into hosting a zoom meeting about sponsoring. It's a wild time in our lives but our program is helping guide us.

Thank goodness for Al-Anon.

Mary P District 20

Southern Illinois Al-Anon Family Groups, Inc. (SIAFG)
Area Assembly Meeting
Memorial Medical Center
Springfield, IL
March 7, 2020

The meeting was opened at 9:06 a.m. by Interim Chairperson Cathy B. with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. District 12 was thanked for hosting. Introductions were made, and the rules and guidelines of the meeting were then presented. Cathy reminded all that the Group Representatives (GR's) were the voting members.

The Al-Anon 12 Steps, 12 Traditions, and the 12 Concepts of Service were read. There were 42 members present (15 voting members) at this regular meeting. Becky R was designated timekeeper. Cathy B asked for Al-Anon birthdays to stand. There were 8 birthdays ranging from 2-48 years.

Cathy then reminded the Assembly that she was only the interim Chairperson and that she would not be chairing the July meeting. She expected to have someone come forward by the end of the day.

Board Minutes: Rowena A read the minutes from the Board of Directors Meeting held July 13, 2019. There were no minutes from the Nov. 2, 2019 meeting because there were not enough designated people in attendance.

MINUTES: The November 2, 2019 SIAFG minutes were presented by Mary P. A motion was made to approve and accept minutes with corrections. It was then seconded and the motion was carried.

Treasurer's Report: Carol W reminded everyone to ask for reimbursements for mileage or printing. Our Traditions insist on being self-supporting. Area pays for Area officers, delegates, past delegates and coordinators. Districts will reimburse district representatives and groups will repay the Group Representatives. It helps to correctly manage our budget. In looking at the Treasurer's report, Carol commented that she took the suggestion of a member at the November 2, 2019 meeting. She added a column showing "Prior Year", "Actual" and "Budget" to show the comparison .

Carol then reported on the period from Sept. 1, 2019 - December 31, 2019. Beginning Balance was \$15,203.24 ;receipts were \$2,549.71, which made the balance \$17,752.95; Total expenses were \$2,625.77; leaving total cash on hand before reserve donation \$15,127.18. Reserve donation for this period was \$0 since we have reached our goal of \$6,000.

This leaves the ending balance of cash on hand \$15,127.18. Savings/Reserve fund for the same period; beginning balance \$6,010.87 interest \$.18; ending reserve balance \$6,011.05.

Carol then reported on the period from Jan. 1, 2019- Dec. 31, 2019. Beginning balance was \$13,964.01; receipts were \$7,461.43 leaving balance of \$21,425.44. Total expenses \$6,298.26; leaving total cash on hand before reserve donation \$15,127.18.

Reserve donation for this period was \$0 since we have reached our goal of \$6,000. This leaves the ending balance of cash on hand \$15,127.18. Savings/Reserve fund for the same period: beginning balance \$ 6,010.53; interest \$.52; ending reserve balance \$6011.05.

Treasurer Report and Preliminary 2021 Budget will be presented at next area assembly.

Group Records Secretary: Susan B was unable to attend the meeting, but sent an update from sunny Florida. She has updated the “change forms” for groups who have any changes. Group changes need to be sent to siafg.group.records@gmail.com and to your District Group Records Secretary. It is important to notify both. Susan will alert the WSO. The new forms will be put on the website. Changes for the website will go to Kyra through Susan. DELEGATE: JoEllyn is thrilled to be the new delegate. She reported she is learning a lot and has a mentor, which is very helpful. She apologized for being unable to attend the North Central Regional Delegate’s meeting in March, but is looking forward to the following conventions and meetings.

COORDINATOR REPORTS:

Alateen: Becky R reported that she will be doing an Alateen workshop for AMIAS (AlAnon Members involved in Alateen Service) interested in becoming AMIAS at the SIAFG State Convention in October 2020. She wants all currently certified AMIAS to recertify through Mary S by late June 2020. You can download the form off the website:

<http://www.siafg.org/uploads/1/2/2/2/12228429/recertification.pdf> Hint: if you fill out the paperwork and have it signed you can email a scan or photo of that completed paperwork to Mary. (m.sutton608@yahoo.com).

The Midlake Alateen Conference will be held at Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington, IL June 12-14, 2020. If you are an AMIAS or an Alateen you are welcome to register for the conference. For more info go to alateen@niafg.org

The SIAFG State Convention that will be held October 16-18 in Springfield are working on an exciting program for Alateen on Oct. 17,2020. If you have questions or need info, email or call me at: siafg.alateen@gmail.com or 217-36908164.

Archives: Fern reported that she is happy to be in charge of Archives for the convention. She loves to share the history of Al-Anon, and specifically the history of Southern Illinois Al-Anon Family Groups, which began in 1969. She is working on a display for the Illinois State AFGSIAFG State Convention in October. She had a box of cassettes and old videos that she is hoping to get turned into digital form. Rowena in District 20 has a member who is working on the digital portion.

Area Al-Anon Process Person: Mary S reminded everyone that she overlooks the paperwork for the AMIAS. (Al-Anon Members involved in Alateen Service) She also reminded AMIAS to recertify by June 2020. Contact Mary at m.sutton608@yahoo.com.

Forum & Literature: Kathy sold Forum tickets for \$1 apiece or 6 for \$5 at the meeting. These were awarded at the end of the day. By the conclusion, she had raffled 4 Forum subscriptions with an extra \$5.00 contribution.

News-O-Gram: The SIAFG News-O-Gram contains information for announcing the upcoming SIAFG/SIAWSC meeting and publishes news from all Districts submissions received. There were few submissions for Winter/Spring 2020 News-O-Gram. Jan T organized and published the edition but has asked that someone volunteer to take over the publication. If someone steps up to fill the position, Jan will be available to assist. But if no one stands, there is no need to send information for future publications to her. Contact the Chairperson if you have interest in taking the position. Thank you, Jan, for your service.

Ways & Means: Theresa reported that no extra funds were needed at this time. So no fundraisers were scheduled. But she has the Al-Anon birthday coins for \$2.50 if anyone needs them. **BY-LAWS:** Cindy wanted clarification on how to write the by-laws concerning the change in times and form of the SIAFG and SIAWSC meetings. The consensus was to keep things general. Also, this is a transition and we have to see how it works out. Cindy declared she would check the service manual and get back to the group.

Convention Co-Chair: Janese H of District 19 reported that the 2020 Illinois State AFG Convention will be held October 16, 17, 18 this year at Crowne Plaza Springfield Convention Center in Springfield. The theme is Willingness: the Key to 2020 Vision. The programs are ready. Registration will be online sometime in April. June 30 is the deadline for quilt squares to be sent in. The District Reps will have the squares sent to them in the next week. Darlene will help District 14 with the registration. A coordinator is needed for Volunteers and Hospitality. Please contact Janese at jahenson92@att.net if interested. Theresa of District 11 is in charge of the basket raffle. She asks that each group make a basket.

DISTRICT REPORTS:

District 10: (Bloomington area) Becky R stated there was no report from the District because there is no District Rep. On the other hand, she said they have meetings that are thriving - sometimes as many as 40 attendees. It's just that they aren't ready to step up to service. April 24 and 25 is the BNAA Roundup with Al-Anon participation. She will send a flyer to be distributed.

District 11: Theresa (Decatur area) shared that their District is struggling with participation but are coordinating the basket raffle for the convention in October.

District 12: (Champaign area) Cathy B reported that their District has 15 active groups. At the last District meeting they had 5 GRs and 2 CMAs attending. They have updated contact information for the groups and updated their meeting list. Public Outreach programs include: having a website up and running soon; contacting other districts in regard to answering service; possibility of a co-op activity with AA for institutions project. Cathy's District has agreed to start meeting every 2 months in order to be more productive with projects.

District 14: (Belleville area) Katie G shared that her district has a new Public Outreach Coordinator and a new Alternate District Rep. They have budgeted for Public Outreach and Fellowship events. Many changes in group meeting locations and times has been a challenge to keep track. They participated in the Alkathon on Dec. 30, 2019. They will have a Spring Workshop April 4th. Flyers will be sent to website. District 14 is helping with the Convention registration.

District 15: (Pittsfield area) Connie stated that her District is focusing on public outreach. They have invited Jacksonville and Rushville to join them. Jacksonville has a small group that connected. Quincy's group has shut down. They have trained for Alateen and set up a Thursday group with no teens so far.

District 16: (Mt. Vernon area) No one from District 16 has attended AREA for some time, but Rowena got a call from that district wanting information. They did share that there is a Centralia and Mt. Vernon group doing well. And Centralia sent a donation to SIAFG.

District 18 (Litchfield area) Cindy is helping with the literature position for the convention. District 18 has a health fair coming up. A country radio station plays a lot of Al-Anon public outreach spots on their channel out of Carlinville.

District 19: (Springfield and Lincoln area) Charlene declared they now have an active Alateen group on Sunday night. They also have a meeting that is in Illiopolis.

District 20 (Peoria area). Mary P reported that as a new DR she is learning a lot. She is happy that all officer positions in the District are filled and only one coordinator position is open - archives. A newsletter is sent monthly to all members to update them on groups and events. The public outreach coordinator is in the process of reaching out to parts of the district with no groups at all. The District has 10 members attending the Area meeting today.

At 12:15 we took a 45 minute lunch break.

GROUP CONCERNS:

District 20: Lisa C is the outreach coordinator and declared a Peoria Recovery project having an event on April 4 in the Warehouse District on State Street. Joan K, the Meetings List Coordinator explained her trifold meetings list that explained the new terms for open and closed meetings. She also organized it by day instead of location. She shared that a short description of how to access the location was helpful for first timers. For example, access door on west side of building. Colleen talked about her group being the only group that offered babysitting and how helpful that was to new moms. The babysitters have a background check paid for by the group. Her meeting consistently has 5-10 children.

District 19: Sue shared that her group meeting was the oldest one in Springfield and is well attended. They usually have between 7 and 17 people. They are helping out with the convention. Brenda asked if anyone had information about Al-Anon literature in Braille. Cathy offered to check into it.

District 18: Tim shared that he attends an open group with many students involved. There is now a Group Rep. Because there were often new people, there was a lot of cross-talk. He felt it was helpful to have a Group Conscience to discuss the guidelines. Since that time, it has gone more smoothly. This group often has 20-25 people attending. Debbie says her District has an active Answering Service. She takes lots of calls. She has gotten some calls that were disgruntled because the website gave wrong information about meetings (wrong location or time) Debbie has learned to ask a few more questions to find out how she can fix that. It's important to keep lists current.

District 15: Susan shared that her group (New Hope AFG) had grown from 2-3 people and now has 10-14.

District 10: Kathy said Bloomington/Normal has 6 meetings that are thriving. They just don't volunteer for DR position or attend AREA. Becky mentioned that Alateen had been thriving last year but now was slumping. They have decided to host an Alateen meeting at a recovery place called Bridges. The staff is considering it.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chairperson Election: Cathy B reiterated that this was her last time as interim Chair and someone needed to stand. She went over the duties of the Chairperson. The Chair is third in line for attending the WSO. First is the Delegate, second the alternate delegate, and then the Chairperson. Two people stood. Tim E and Becky R. Tim asked to speak. He stated that he would not have the time for many of the duties of Chair but would lead the meeting three times a year. Becky R stated that she would need to give up the Alateen Coordinator position she held, but felt that she was ready for the office of Chair. She also knew that Mary S, as Area Alateen Process Person could help out with the Alateen position. The two members went in the hallway as the group discussed and voted. After a vote, it was determined that Becky R will hold the

position of Chairperson of AREA for 2020-2023, The group thanked both Tim and Becky for being available and willing. Becky will look at the Coordinator positions and will ask and appoint people to the position. She will report at the July 11 meeting.

Liability Insurance: Susan B looked into liability insurance for the AREA. The cost for the first year would be \$1,060 which includes a \$50 broker fee. This would be a \$1,000,000 coverage for Alateen groups, and all Al-Anon groups in the Southern Area. There can be an individual policy added to increase the policy to \$2,000,000 for events that have larger attendance such as the convention. For the price of \$200 this policy can be added for the October event. After discussion, there was a motion made: I move that we purchase the liability insurance for Southern Illinois Al-Anon Family Groups Inc. It was seconded and voted. 13 -yes 0-no 0-abstain
Committee to Discuss Excess Funds: Laura C was unable to attend the meeting, but will bring her report to the July 11 meeting.
KBDM: Knowledge Based Decision Making: Cathy handed out a document that showed the background of KBDM. A year ago she introduced the method at an Area meeting. It is helpful for an informed Group Conscience. The idea is to get a group - a Thought Force- to come up with a document describing the history of the problem we want to solve. They compile a list of questions they would like answered and present them to the SIAFG Area Assembly Group. They discuss possible solutions. The A Task Force may be appointed to take over from here. The Task Force are the doers. If the thought force described the problem, gave history, explained possible solutions, the group decides on which way to go. The task force only goes ahead with the groups instructions. In this way, the Knowledge Based Decision Making Process includes everyone.

This is a method we need to think about for our future meetings. Do we want to structure our decision making to include these steps? Discussion will continue at the July 11 meeting.

Satellite/Conference Call To Area Assembly Meeting: Discussion included multiple members with negative encounters with conference calling. Many could not hear clearly what was going on in a meeting. Too many voices were not close enough to the microphone. On some calls people would interrupt with no knowledge of who was speaking. Call was dropped in the middle of a call. This may be a good place to try KBDM. Discussion was tabled for more discussion in July.

Workshops: Theresa is the alternate delegate who is in charge of workshops. She was asked to develop a workshop about policy guidelines in our meetings and then show an inventory. This would be slated for the November meeting. It was also added that Susan B wants to take 5-10 minutes at the next meeting to review access to the website.

The next meeting will be hosted by District 14. The next two meetings are scheduled for July 11 and November 7, 2020. Meeting was adjourned at 2:25pm with the Al-Anon Declaration. The SIAFG Meeting on July 11 will begin at 9a.m. The SIAWSC meeting will be held after the completion of the Area Assembly.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Pirtle, Recording Secretary

MINUTES WILL NOT BE READ AT THE MEETING

Southern Illinois Al-Anon Family Groups, Inc.
Area Assembly Mtg & SIAWSC Mtg Agenda

Zoom Meeting: From a mobile device or an internet enabled computer click on this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87084783785?pwd=Vmhpbgk0OHNSZWdvRTlrRyt2RmNFQT09>

Meeting ID: 870 8478 3785

Passcode: 332221

OR... From Zoom website "Join a Meeting": Meeting ID: 870 8478 3785 Password: 332221

If you cannot join via computer or mobile device you can join via phone: 312/626-6799

Saturday, July 11, 2020
8:30 am Sign On and Get "Settled"
9:00 am Meeting Starts

Opening - Moment of Silence & Serenity Prayer (please remain muted and say it privately)

Welcome/Intro

- Establish if there are newcomers and establish a personal resource. Use private chat function to provide support and answer questions to newcomer
- Al-Anon Birthdays (who wish to be recognized) since last meeting on July 11, 2020
- Explain ask-it-chat, Brief description of meeting & voting procedures, establish protocols for break time & lunch time
- Please be sure to put your name in the available identifier
- Need a volunteer to be our timekeeper for today's meeting (10 min for discussions)

Courtesy Rules:

- READ ALL materials PRIOR to November 7 so you are prepared to participate appropriately.
- Stay muted when not speaking.
- Request to be called upon in the chat function of zoom if possible or raise your hand. Then you will be recognized by the chairperson to speak – stay on topic, speak for only 2-3 minutes if possible.
- Anyone presenting, while you are speaking if you can please have your video on and your face as clearly as you can in the camera.
- All Al-Anon members have voice; only Group Reps (GRs) or Alternate GRs (when GR is not present) have vote
- The recording secretary may ask for a written/email copy from your discussion presented today to be used to help summarize, for clearer and concise statements to be included in the minutes.
- When making a motion or a second please say your name, district and then the motion or second. This will help our recording secretary minutes.

Read – 12 Steps, 12 Traditions, 12 Concepts of service with Warranties

Read Board of Director's Meeting minutes (no vote required)

Minutes – Area Assembly (July 1, 2020) Will not be read as they will be emailed out ahead of time and available in the meeting room. Vote Required.

Treasurer’s Report – Carol W.

- July-November Treasurer’s report
- VOTE 2021 SIAFG budget

Group Records Secretary Report –

- We are in need of a volunteer to help fill the role of the Group Records Secretary

District Reports & Group Concerns/Successes –

- Present District by District for reports and show the map of that district on the screen
- Chair will call on the DR to present first followed immediately by any of the GRs from that district for their group concerns/successes
- At the end, if any DRs or GRs have additional information to share they can do so at that time. This is still a new format. We will ask for your feedback to see how we like it.

Coordinator Reports -

• Alateen Coordinator (NEEDED)	• News-O-Gram
• Alateen Area Process Person	• Public Outreach (NEEDED)
• Archives (NEEDED)	• By-Laws
• Convention	• Ways & Means
• Forum/Literature	• Webmaster

Delegate Report – JoEllyn P.

Old Business –

- SIAFG Area Insurance Purchase Update
- Open Coordinator Positions
- Distance Meetings – Area Assembly via Satellite, Conference Call, etc.
- Excess Funds Committee

New Business –

- SIAFG Website and Email Addresses
- SIAFG Area Inventory

Wrap up

Establish Next 3 Meeting Dates – March, July, & November 2021

Adjournment / Close with Al-Anon Declaration

(Please remain muted and say it in your private space)

“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.”

Should not take more than 30-45 minutes at most.

SIAWSC Meeting Agenda

- Who attends? – All SIAFG Officers, Coordinators, DRs - This is an OPEN meeting and everyone is welcome to stay attend. All AI-Anon members have voice; only SIAFG Officer, Coordinators, DRs and Past Delegates have vote.
- The purpose of this meeting is to review what went well/not so well at the Area Assembly and set the agenda for the next Area Assembly meeting.
- The steps, traditions and concepts will not be read.

Opening (Serenity Prayer - Please remain muted and say it in your private space)

Discussion:

- Summary of Area Assembly Meeting, any open agenda items?
- Any unfinished business?

New Business:

Establish Next 3 Meeting Dates – March, July, & November 2021
Immediately following the Area Assembly.

Adjournment/ Close with AI-Anon Declaration
(Please remain muted and say it in your private space)

NOTE: ADD THE OFFICER/ COORDINATOR / DR
names and addresses pages from the NOG to this document

2020-2021 SIAWSC Committee Members

Update 8/28/2020

Delegate

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Alternate delegate

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Chairperson

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Group Records Secretary **Jane F.**

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Recording Secretary

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Alateen Coordinator

open

Area Alateen Process Person

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Archives Coordinator

open

Convention Coordinator

open

Forum/Literature Coordinator

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News-O-Gram Coordinator

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Public Outreach Coordinator - open

By-Laws & Insurance

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Ways & Means Coordinator - open

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District 13 – No Contact

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618-791-5996 (m)
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Past Delegates (*deceased)

Marty Swisher, Panel 9 (1969-1971)

***MaryBeth Huebner, Panel 12
(1972-1974)**

***Martin Dotson**

**Marian Evansco (Becker), Panel 15
(1975-1977)**

**80 Echo Drive
Collinsville, IL 62234**

Edna Crain, Panel 18 (1978-1980)

Marian Barker (Panel 21, 1981-1983)

***Betty French (Panel 24, 1984-1986)**

Paralea Russell (Panel 27, 1987-1989)

**248 Hickory
Edwardsville, IL 62024
618-656-1636**

paralea@sbcglobal.net

Jan Tucker

**105 Susan Ct.
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309-208-5897**

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Cathy Blakey (Panel 51, 2011-2013)

**P.O. Box 1038
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217-377-0140
cathy.blakey@yahoo.com**

Lyri Merrill (Panel 54, 2014-2016)

**205 S. Virginia Ave.
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lyri.merrill@gmail.com**

Tim Elliott (panel 55,2016-2019)

**202 Birch St.
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217-532-5433
mrtimbo@consolidated.com**

***Norma Clayton, Panel 33
(1993-1995)**

**Juanita Chaney (Panel 36, 1996-1998)
5347 Walmsley Rd.
Decatur, IL 62521
217-865-2174**

**Debbie Helm (Panel 39, 1999-2001)
1344 N. Gulick Ave.
Decatur, IL 62526
217-864-3713**

***Pat Rettig (Panel 42, 2002-2004)**

***Betsy Crang (Panel 45, 2005-2007)**

***Marcy Myers (Panel 48, 2008-2010)**