

Southern Illinois Al-Anon Family Groups, Inc. (SIAFG)
Area Assembly Meeting
Memorial Medical Center, Springfield, Illinois
July 11, 2015

Accepted
with
Corrections
3-5-2016

The meeting opened at 12:30 p.m. by Cathy B., with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. Everyone was welcomed & thanked District 12 for hosting today's meetings. Introductions were made, and the rules & guidelines of the meeting were discussed. Al-Anon birthdays / anniversaries since the last Assembly meeting were celebrated. There were 31 members present (14 voting members) at this regular meeting. The 12 Steps, 12 Traditions, and the 12 Concepts of Service w/Warranties were read.

RECORDING SECRETARY'S REPORT: Minutes from the March 7, 2015 meeting was presented. A motion was made to accept the minutes as corrected, seconded and the motion carried.

Cathy B. stated that MaryBeth G. will not be here today to take the minutes and has asked Sue W. to record the minutes for today's Area Assembly meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Helen B. reported the period from January 1, 2015 through April 30, 2015. Reporting a beginning balance \$5,803.16; total receipts \$2,342.65; total disbursements \$1,997.58; leaving cash on hand of \$6,148.23. Savings/Reserve Fund on hand balance is \$3,027.43. Helen reminded everyone the purpose of the funds and that our goal for the Reserve Fund is \$8,000.

Helen B. then presented the proposed 2016 budget of \$7,875.00 for discussion. Voting on the proposed budget will take place at the Area Assembly meeting in November.

GROUP RECORDS SECRETARY REPORT: Mary S. stated that for anyone not knowing how to make changes to their group information, to simply go to the web site at www.siafg.org, click on Quick Links, then click on Group Records Secretary. Password for all members is: area16 (all lower case). Changes should not be sent to WSO. Make sure you send the changes directly to Mary S. and copy your district representative. Mary will then update both WSO records and the SIAFG records. If there are no changes, send an e-mail with the District # and Group # stating No Change. Those who don't have a computer can send a paper copy to Mary. Any questions, e-mail Group Records Secretary. Alateen meeting changes are done in the same manner on the web site, but also copy the Area's Alateen Coordinator.

DELEGATE'S REPORT: Lyri reported she brought some items to share from the World Service Conference, they are on the table and all were welcome to take whatever they wanted. Lyri shared discussions from the WSC she attended in March. The full report is on the www.siafg.com website in the Delegates section.

Some discussion took place concerning phone meetings. They are not part of any area, and therefore there is no real structure. If interested in phone meetings, participate and model appropriate behavior. Newcomer Outreach Ideas – Lyri's group gives each newcomer a copy of "How Al-Anon Works". A suggestion for healthy meetings is that the conversation around the table needs to be about Al-Anon. Another discussion included Alateen. Is the weekly model of Alateen still working? Is it current? Does it need adjusting? Discussion followed.

Lyri said the WSO is asking every group to consider increasing your annual donations to WSO by \$25. Lyri explained that the WSO doesn't count the Quarterly Appeal Letter as a group donation. It is considered a "personal donation" by members. Lyri said a way to increase donations from groups is through a "stuff the shoe" campaign – shoe envelopes were distributed to GR's. For every 2% increase in group contributions, literature costs will go down 1%.

Lyri also said we as members do have the ability to change WSO policy. Simply call the World Service Office and ask to speak to someone in "Policy", and tell them what you want changed and why. Minority voices are heard.

WORKSHOP – CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Tim E. shared that the discussion will be on 'how do we deal with differences, someone dominating the meeting', etc. Six groups were allowed 20 minutes to discuss their chosen topics & answer the questions, which were then shared with the Assembly. There will be an Area Inventory at the next Assembly meeting.

Illinois State AFG Convention (ISAFG)

2016 IL STATE CONVENTION UPDATE: Cathy B. announced that a contract has been signed, and the site chosen for the convention is the Embassy Suites East Hotel & Riverfront Conference Center, in East Peoria, IL, on October 28-30, 2016. Since a District has not volunteered to chair the convention, Lyri M. and Cathy B. will step up to co-chair the convention until a district is ready to take on the responsibilities. The hotel didn't require a deposit as long as banking information and references were provided. For now, the bank information given was that of SIAFG's until the convention can get a treasurer in place and can open an account for the convention. Cathy said she was able to avoid having to purchase liability insurance, but only if we include a liability waiver on the registration forms. Lyri said a couple of keynote speakers have been chosen & booked, and will be working on ideas for a speaker panel and workshop next. We will have a quilt and baskets to raffle as these are money makers and will help keep the registration & banquet fees to a minimum.

Registration fee will be \$25 before Oct. 7th, \$30 after Oct. 7th, Banquet is \$30, and Alateen registration is free. We are offering an Early Bird Special - \$50 total for registration & banquet, if postmarked by March 5, 2016. A discounted room rate of \$109 + tax is available November 1, 2015 – October 7, 2016, for up to a 4-person occupancy and includes free parking, a microwave, fridge, and cooked-to-order breakfast.

There is a dedicated IL State Convention website where you can register on line, and we are currently working on the possibility of being able to pay on line, but it will probably require a fee to do so. Please visit: www.ilstateafgconv.org, for more information.

A theme is needed for the convention, and after consensus from the membership, "Unmasking Our True Selves" was chosen.

Lyri and Cathy will be looking for volunteers, and are requesting districts and/or individuals to get involved by taking on a committee or co-chair a committee. There are several to choose from, and the position descriptions are available on the website in the IL State AFG Convention Planning Guidelines.

COORDINATOR REPORTS:

Forum/Literature Coordinator: - JoEllen P. reported WSO had received 1,130 sharings on Intimacy, 150 for parents and grandparents, and 216 for the new daily reader so far. The top selling books are: Courage to Change, Paths to Recovery, How Al-Anon Works, One Day at a Time (ODAT), and Hope for Today. Forum subscriptions – there are only 1.4 average per group. Many Voices, One Journey will be on the back page of the next Forum. It would be beneficial to have a workshop with a panel for member's questions.

By-Laws and Guidelines Coordinator: Cathy S. said the Guidelines and the By-Law updates are on the siafg website. Temporary changes were voted on at the March 2015 Assembly. They will be made permanent and filed with the State when we are satisfied that the By-Laws are permanent.

Alateen Coordinator: Becky R. stated she was over budget last year as there were so many AMIAS (Al-Anon Member Involved in Alateen Service) needing background investigations. This year 42 needed to recertify but only 30 have responded. There are currently 5 registered Alateen Groups. Peoria, Edwardsville and Pinckneyville have very strong Alateen meetings. Three groups closed in the last year, Springfield, Champaign and Brighton.

Becky said she can continue as the Alateen coordinator, but needs help with doing the workshops which is part of the certification process, and also needs help with the AAPP (Area Alateen Process Person) responsibilities. Anyone interested, please give her a call or send an email.

Ways and Means Coordinator: Kathy H. announced she has 11 coasters left for \$2 each, medallions and coins are also available for sale. Tickets for the 50/50 raffle today are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Fundraiser at the November Area Assembly will be holiday theme gifts. Bring something you would like to receive as a gift, not a "white elephant". Kathy would also like some suggestions for next year's fundraiser.

Archives Coordinator: Fern T. shared the book "First Steps" which tells about the beginning of Al-Anon and how it started. The first Forum magazine was printed in 1996, before that it was just a leaflet. Copies of other archive items are available to view, including a one-page summary from an Al-Anon Group which told the name, where and when they met, when they began, the changes through the years, Fern asked for volunteers to help decide what should be saved to archives, where we want to store it (personal residence or rent storage). Contact Fern if you have any ideas or want to volunteer.

Website Coordinator: Nicole R. announced she saved \$75 by renewing our domain name through 2024. Nicole also reminded groups that if you want a printable meeting list from the website, a pdf file needs to be sent to her to be uploaded to the site.

News-O-Gram Coordinator: Marge E. stated the next deadline is September 10, 2015.

NEW BUSINESS:

Area Coordinator positions are still available: Convention Liaison, and Public Outreach. If anyone is interested or would like more information, please contact the Chairperson, Cathy B.

Group concerns / successes were discussed.

Next meeting(s) will be on Saturday, November 7, 2015, District 14 will host. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. for SIAWSC, meeting starts at 9 a.m. Registration begins at 12noon for Area Assembly, meeting begins at 12:30 p.m. Both meetings will be in Springfield, IL at Memorial Medical Center, Room D229.

The meeting adjourned at 4:23 p.m. with the AI-Anon declaration.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Warner

Sue W. (AI-Anon member)
Interim Recording Secretary