

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS, INC.
AREA ASSEMBLY MEETING
MEMORIAL MEDICAL CENTER
SPRINGFIELD, IL
NOVEMBER 3rd, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m., followed by a moment of silence and the Serenity Prayer. There were 48 members (20 voting members) present at this regular meeting. Everyone was welcomed, introductions were made, and Districts 17 & 18 was thanked for hosting. Those with Al-Anon birthdays/anniversaries were recognized. The 12 Steps, 12 Traditions, and the 12 Concepts w/Warranties were read. The minutes from the July 14, 2013 Area Assembly meeting was accepted as presented. The minutes from the Board of Directors meeting on July 14, 2013 were read. The courtesy guidelines were read, and reminders of whom has right to vote at today's meeting were given.

Treasurer's Report: Rowena A. reported the period June through Sept 2013. Beginning balance was \$4,454.14; total receipts were \$2,259.92, making total cash available of \$2,259.92. Total disbursements were \$2,796.52; leaving cash on hand of \$3,917.54. Beginning balance of the savings/reserve fund was \$1,698.35; total receipts were \$71.13; having an ending balance of \$1,769.62. Goal for reserve fund is \$8,000. She also reminded everyone who had an Al-Anon birthday that birthday contribution envelopes are available.

Prior to the proposed budget presentation, Lyri M. asked the GR's to consider adding monies to the budget to allow past delegates to attend the USNCRDM, along with the delegate and alternate delegate.

* A motion was made and accepted to add \$200 to the budget for past delegates to attend the USNCRDM.

Rowena A. then presented the 2014 proposed budget, at \$8,630.00. Discussion ensued with questions and answers, and was changed to add the \$200.

* A motion was made and accepted to accept the 2014 proposed budget with changes.

Group Records Secretary: Mary S. thanked all the groups that have sent in their annual update sheets. A reminder to the groups: SIAFG Group Records policy is to have all group updates, changes, registrations, and making a group inactive, to be done by the SIAFG Group Records Secretary. If there are no changes for your group, please let Mary know. Mary also stated that she keeps the verification date.

Note that the status of Al-Anon groups in "no mail" status will be changed to "inactive" if the area or WSO does not receive a new address from the group after (2) two years of being in "no mail" status. It is important that you keep the CMA (Current Mailing Address) for your group updated.

Mary also reported that the WSO has helped define the difference between delisting and inactivating groups. All of this information is posted on our website, www.siafg.org. Please read it.

Coordinator's Reports:

ALATEEN: Rowena A. reported for Dottie Y. We have newly certified Al-Anon Members Involved in Alateen Service (AMIAS). Workshops for Alateen group sponsors and potential AMIAS' was held in various locations. Workshops are based on training modules from the WSO and can be scheduled with the Area Alateen Coordinator. They are available to anyone in the area with an interest in Alateen. In reviewing our Safety & Behavioral Guidelines, a question was raised regarding years of membership and the age of the candidate in Al-Anon before becoming certified to be an Alateen sponsor. Discussions are welcome on our website under KBDM, and we will vote at the next Area Assembly meeting in March 2014.

WAYS & MEANS: Kathy H. said medallions are for sale, and she needs your ideas for the fundraiser in 2014. We will vote at the March 2014 Assembly meeting what that fundraiser will be. There are Thanksgiving & Christmas items in the raffle today.

CONVENTION LIAISON: Betsy C. stated that the 2014 Illinois State AFG Convention theme is ‘Letting Go – Falling into Recovery’ and will be at the Marriott Hotel & Convention Center in Normal, IL October 17-19, 2014. “SAVE THE DATE”, flyers are available.

PUBLIC OUTREACH: Cindy P. reported that a hospital employee health fair was held and attended by professionals who work at the hospital. She said you might have better success at reaching out to professionals at this type of event rather than trying to visit them at the office. Many grandparents of incarcerated teenagers at a juvenile detention center are interested in their grandchild’s recovery. Please give them a soft copy of How Al-Anon Works. Remember, How Al-Anon Works, is a ‘pay-it-forward’ gift. It’s a great gift for a newcomer or a member that has been in for a short time. Cindy also referred to Area Highlights, pg 8; Los Angeles (book fairs)

LITERATURE/FORUM: JoEllyn P. reported that the audio version of How Al-Anon Works, in MP3 format, is available through various electronic vendors. The e-book version of How Al-Anon Works (eB-22) is expected to be available within the next month. JoEllyn showed the newest book, *Reaching for Personal Freedom* workbook which is available for \$15.00 each; flip chart on Conflict Resolution (S-72) available at \$4.00 each; and the wallet foldout about Conflict Resolution (S-71) available for \$1.00 each. JoEllyn also shared sharings from ”CAL Corner” and challenged all Al-Anon members to try to read at least 2 pages per day of Al-Anon CAL and have copies available for purchase at district and/or group meetings. Also, on the WSO website, they post one (1) chapter of a book for viewers to read. Please check it out.

NEWS-O-GRAM: Rita C. stated that the deadline for articles to publish in the Spring issue of the News-O-Gram is January 10th, 2014. The Summer issue deadline is May 10th, 2014.

ARCHIVES: Fern T. talked about the book, Lois Remembers, written by Lois W., Al-Anon Co-founder. The first constructive gatherings for the families of Alcoholics of Anonymous, was in June 1940. Fern then shared an excerpt from Lois Remembers. We have wonderful archive material that is exciting and available to learn more about our co-founders and how they shared their experience, strength, and hope to the world. Fern also brought the book, First Steps, Al-Anon 35 Years of Beginnings for viewing. Rita C. donated pages from the 50th Anniversary gratitude book that is also available for viewing.

BY-LAWS: Cathy S. stated that temporary changes have been made, adding to the Webmaster Coordinator responsibilities. The changes are on the website.

WEBMASTER: Nicole R. reported that the website is still getting around 300 hits a day. Nicole demonstrated a couple of the updates to the website, including how the discussion forum works, and where to look for the calendar of events. Printable versions of meeting lists are now available; Quick Links – Google Calendar – flyers for events are embedded as pdf’s. Please send your information & fliers to webmaster@siafg.org.

Delegates Report: Cathy B. gave all officers, coordinators, and DR’s a copy of the 2013 Conference Summary that was not in attendance on Saturday. Love tokens are still available from the last WSC, please take back to your groups. Cathy also reported that a service position for Trustee at Large is open, if interested send resumes directly to the WSO, deadline is December 6th, 2013. There is a sheet of paper being passed around, please add topics for determining chosen agenda items to discuss at the April 2014 WSC. Cathy shared information from the WSO’s chairperson of the board regarding the financial status of the WSO. The WSO has lost money the past two years and is pulling from the reserve fund, noting that literature sales is down, which comprises almost 47% of the budget.

The US North Central Regional Delegates Meeting will be held March 14-16, 2014, in Columbus OH.

Cathy also shared about KBDM, what it means, and that the main objective is for members to have full knowledge/information about a specific topic, then have open discussions, then be prepared to vote when called.

Cathy then asked the membership their thoughts on changing our meetings from 2 days to 1 day. Can we make a change? The only way we can know is try it. Lots of discussion took place, and a suggestion was made to try it just once next year to see how it goes. If successful, we can possibly set up more in 2015.

* A motion was made and carried to try both the SIAWSC & SIAFG Area Assembly in one day, in July 2014.

Cathy also shared about the topic of pyramid sponsorship, high pressure groups, etc. She said the only thing we can do as an area is to educate, communicate, and to make people aware of it, especially to newcomers. Paralea R. has packets with information available for distribution; and Betsy C. shared about what is healthy sponsorship and what the difference looks like. We need to make it clear to all members that unacceptable behavior is not acceptable, and suggest that each try different meetings. Each has its own flavor and one meeting may not be enough to tell the difference.

NEW BUSINESS: The new SIAFG policy guidelines were read and presented for vote. These have been posted on the SIAFG website for discussion in the KBDM section. Suggestion by Mary S. was made to add Group Records Secretary's report to the agenda guidelines. Also noted change was that district concerns are discussed at the SIAWSC meeting, whereas district reports are to be included in the News-O-Gram.

* A motion was made and accepted for the SIAFG policy guidelines to be effective January 1, 2014, with the changes as discussed.

Next SIAWSC meeting & SIAFG Area Assembly meeting will be Saturday & Sunday, March 1st & 2nd, 2014.

Reminder – There are flyers available at the check-in table for the various events happening in our area. And Kathy H. reminded everyone to bring raffle items in March 2014 with the theme of 'Spring cleaning'.

There were no Ask-It-Basket questions.

Cathy B. mentioned that Ramona C. from Northern Illinois, invites SIAFG to visit the NIAFG website and check out their upcoming fundraiser and other information. Visit www.niafg.org, password: loisandbill. Think of us as a State not just an Area.

The meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m. with the Al-Anon Declaration.

Respectfully submitted,

MaryBeth Sandegren
Your Trusted Servant