

Southern Illinois Al-Anon Family Groups, Inc. (SIAFG)
Area Assembly Meeting
Zoom Meeting
July 10, 2021

The meeting opened at 9:02 a.m. by Chairperson Becky R. with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. There were 3 new attendees to this meeting, and Debbie O. volunteered to help with any questions they may have. Al-Anon birthdays/anniversaries were recognized. Rules and guidelines of the meeting were presented. Becky reminded all that the Group Representatives (GR's) are the voting members of today's meeting. The Al-Anon 12 Steps, 12 Traditions, and the 12 Concepts of Service w/Warranties were read. There were 29 members present (17 voting members) at this regular Zoom meeting. Debbie Mc. was designated timekeeper.

BOARD MINUTES: Rowena A. read the Board of Director's Meeting from March 6, 2021. No vote required.

AREA ASSEMBLY MEETING MINUTES: The March 6, 2021 SIAFG Area Assembly Meeting Minutes were presented by Becky R., which she stated it was a mistake to include the minutes in the News-O-Gram. **A motion was made to approve and accept the minutes with minor corrections. It was seconded and the motion carried.** The corrected minutes will be posted on the SIAFG website with corrections in red.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Carol W. reported on the period from January 1 - April 30, 2021. Beginning balance was \$15,157.63 with receipts of \$1,483.25 and expenses of \$86.03, leaving total cash on hand of \$16,554.85. Savings/Reserve Fund Beginning balance of \$6,011.57, add \$0.18 interest for \$6,011.75 total available. Any expenses from anyone doing service work for the area, please send to Carol for reimbursement.

2022 PROPOSED SIAFG BUDGET: Carol W. presented the proposed budget for 2022. This proposed budget is for discussion only, final draft to be voted on in November 2021; with an estimated \$8,660.00 total income, estimated \$9,526.80 total expenses, leaving an estimated shortage of \$-866.80. There is the open question on estimating the annual SIAFG Funding Committee amount.

GROUP RECORDS SECRETARY: Jane F. explained that she has a syncing issue, she is still trying to update the records for all the districts & groups; she is contacting groups/districts for updates. So if you are not getting the information you need, please let her know and she can correct that information. WSO is asking for help that all changes go through the Area's Group Record's Secretary and not through WSO. Communications are confusing and needs to be streamlined. Groups communicate to their District, then District will communicate to Area. Area will then update the information at WSO. If any conflicts, Jane will verify with the DR. If there is no DR, then Jane will try to reach out to the group. The group change forms on the siafg.org website need to be updated with Jane F.'s information. Jane also stressed the importance of making sure group information is correct for the newcomers looking for Al-Anon meetings. Becky stressed the importance to follow our Areas' protocol. If we don't stick to the protocol, then the request for changes will not be completed. Jane F. said she can try to come up with a little notice/instruction card to send to SIAFG members with our Area's protocol. Questions, or send your contact info to Jane at: grouprecsec@gmail.com.

OLD BUSINESS:

Becky R. talked about open coordinator positions. We need to fill those empty spots, if not then information from WSO to Area, and to the Groups will not happen. Positions open: Archive, Public Outreach, Forum & Literature, Ways & Means. Convention Liaison is also open, Cathy B. is interim to help with the 2022 convention only. She will gladly mentor anyone willing to step into this position.

Becky R. mentioned that election of officers for SIAFG will be coming up next year, and there will be some discussions and perhaps a workshop during the November Area Assembly meeting. Position descriptions and responsibilities will be discussed in detail for these positions.

SIAFG Funding Committee on Excess Funds - Becky R. stated no report is available for today's meeting, Laura (from Peoria) will be contacted. Carol W. brought this up during the 2022 Budget information, and we need to put an amount in the budget.

Web email addresses - Kyra N. stated the website renewal will be coming up in 2022, prices have gone up, and will present more information during the November meeting. Kyra will also send an estimate for the budget to Carol W. prior to the November meeting. Kyra also said the website's email account for the website rolled over to Office365 on 7/7, she will investigate the officer email availability connecting to the website.

SIAFG Area Inventory - Becky R. revisited the completeness of that inventory. Still waiting to have all current and updated information for Jane F. Please send your group/district's updated email address to Jane as soon as possible. Two new Area Inventory surveys will be sent: one to all group representatives, and one to all SIAWSC members. Jane F. will send the link to the Area's known email list and must be returned by August 31st. Those on snail-mail will receive a copy in the mail.

Distance meetings - Becky R. asked do we continue having the Area Assembly meetings in Zoom? In person? Can we have hybrid meetings? The hospital will let us know in late August if we can come back at the end of this year or wait until next year. Consensus is to have our November 6, 2021 Area Assembly meeting on Zoom.

NEW BUSINESS:

By-laws - Rowena A. said she needs the Assembly to approve the July 2019 version of the SIAFG By-laws as current. She has received notice from the State of Illinois, this is required to keep our Articles of Incorporation intact and needs to be submitted (as approved) to the State by July 31, 2021. **A motion was made to approve and accept the SIAFG Inc. By-laws as written in July 2019. It was seconded and the motion carried.**

SIAFG Alateen Recertification - Mary S. stated the Southern Illinois Area cannot hold any Alateen meetings effective July 1, 2021, due to some changes required by WSO. To reestablish these meetings, The Safety & Behavioral Guidelines, along with the Group Sponsorship Requirements, need to be updated and resubmitted to WSO for approval. These two documents also need to be reviewed by legal counsel to ensure compliance with the State of Illinois and local laws. Once approved by legal counsel, then they can be submitted to WSO for approval. Once WSO accepts the documents, then the recertification applications and any new applications for AMIAS' can be sent to WSO for approval. Also, all AMIAS will need to be retrained as well. These are the documents:

Southern Illinois SIAFG, Alateen Group Sponsorship Requirements, dated July 2021. (Must be submitted to WSO & approved) **A motion was made to approve this document as revised. It was seconded and the motion carried.**

SIAFG, AMIAS Re-certification Form, dated July 2021. (for internal use only by SIAFG Inc). **A motion was made to approve this document as revised. It was seconded and the motion carried.**

Southern Illinois SIAFG, AMIAS Initial Candidate Profile form, dated July 2021 (for internal use only by SIAFG Inc). **A motion was made to approve this document as revised. It was seconded and the motion carried.**

Southern Illinois SIAFG Safety & Behavioral Requirements for Al-Anon Members in Alateen Service (AMIAS), dated July 2021. (Must be submitted to WSO & approved). **A motion was made to approve this document as revised. It was seconded and the motion carried.**

Becky said just as a heads up. ... At the upcoming SIAWSC meeting on September 18, 2021, we will be discussing potential changes to the by-laws; job descriptions/responsibilities need to be defined and/or clarified for the webmaster & News-O-Gram coordinator. If any changes are proposed, they will be presented during the November 6, 2021 Area Assembly meeting for vote.

DISTRICT REPORTS & GROUP CONCERNS:

District 10 - Jan C. reported that some groups are going back to in-person meetings. Just the Saturday meeting is hybrid, but don't know if that will be permanent.

District 11 - No report.

District 12 - Cathy B. reported the district had to cancel their meeting on May 16 due to lack of attendance. Group meeting lists are fully updated and posted to the siafg.org website. Some meetings

are resuming face-to-face, others are staying on Zoom while they continue to investigate their options. We have one meeting that is our first official hybrid meeting and it's working well. Financial health is still good. Our public outreach coordinator continues to maintain our district website (www.centralillinoisalanon.weebly.com) with updates. Next meeting is scheduled for July 18th. Carol H. said she attended the Tuesday Savoy meeting and linked into a speaker meeting from district 19. The Thursday morning meeting is resuming F2F. Kyra N. talked about the Rantoul Saturday night meeting to potentially become a hybrid meeting.

District 15 - No report. Charlene V. shared about district 15's Thursday group in Jacksonville at Gateway Center will be closing. Jeri F. contact info has been sent to Jane F. and Mary P. There is another group meeting in Jacksonville on Wednesday; also other meetings are in Rushville and Quincy. They do not have a DR.

District 19 - Charlene V. said one meeting is wanting to go back to F2F at the hospital, thus the request and forth-coming answer from the hospital. Some meetings may be keeping the Zoom format especially the Tuesday night speaker meeting at 7:00 pm, and the Saturday night 6:30 pm meeting. District 19 website for meeting information can be found at www.spi-alanon.weebly.com. Jane F. shared that the Wednesday night meeting is meeting F2F now, they tried hybrid, but it didn't work. Had two location changes due to Covid, so attendance is lower.

District 20 - Christy E. reported having 12 meetings that have opened back up since the pandemic. Starting June 4, we have one hybrid meeting and two zoom meetings along with F2F meetings. Regular meetings are not back to 2019 attendance but are growing. Their public relations coordinator has advertised in the Illinois Counseling Association Newsletter, that touches over 3000 professionals. First district hybrid meeting was held June 6. We are keeping our Alateen meetings open thru August, hoping we get teens to return. Finances are holding, and the monthly newsletter helps to keep members informed. Our technology committee is looking into starting a local website for public outreach and meeting information.

District 13 - No report.

District 14 - No report. Fern T. & Alberta W. reported the Pinckneyville meeting resumed F2F about 3 weeks ago. Had 9 in attendance. They will be talking about the possibility of hybrid meeting as well. Sparta is having a F2F meeting as well.

District 16 - No report. Fern T. said the Centralia meeting is meeting F2F now, changed location from the hospital.

District 17 - No report. Fern T. said Laura told her the Murphysboro meeting has been continuing to meet F2F, and some are coming from Marion to attend that meeting. Someone is interested in becoming the DR, and has some questions as to how this can happen.

District 18 - Susan B. said a shout out to all the GR's from this district that are involved at area and their service work at the district level. A lot of changes in locations/Zoom/hybrid due to the pandemic. Had a picnic in the park event. The Monday & Thursday night groups on the 5th week of the month has been having speaker meetings. Trying to intrigue people to become involved with Alateen; some AMIAS are not re-certifying. Barbara S. having a Zoom speaker meeting on Thursday, July 29th. Bob R. said he started with a hybrid meeting having one computer at the end of the table, and at the other end of the table is a phone. That eliminates any feedback. This is better than just Zoom. Members are coming back to this meeting. The group will purchase a used computer to keep for the group use for their hybrid meeting. Debbie O. said the answering service has had a steady flow of calls and is providing meeting information. Claudia P. said Monday night is still meeting on Zoom, it will be moving to a new location on the 19th as a hybrid. Have about 12-15 attendees.

COORDINATOR REPORTS:

Alateen - Debbie Mc. stated nothing to report until Alateen meetings are able to meet again, which we've already talked about. Kyra N. asked about the email address for the Alateen Coordinator listed on the website; this needs to be updated. AAPP & Alateen will coordinate to clarify.

Archive - still open. Becky said she has all the boxes in storage and is ready to pass them on.

Convention Liaison - Cathy B. gave a summary report describing the details of the selection process in choosing a venue for the 2022 IL State AFG Convention. After careful consideration and after visiting three of the choices, we have narrowed the selection to two choices: The Wyndham Hotel for October 14-16, 2022. Cost of \$1000 for the meeting rooms, based on a sliding scale of guest room pick up of 96 or more; Room rate of \$104 per night (+tax) w/2 complimentary parking passes per occupied room; all

meeting spaces located on the same level and separate from any other events that weekend. The President Abraham Lincoln Hotel for October 28-30, 2022. Cost of \$1000 for the meeting rooms, flat fee and not dependent on the total number of guest rooms booked. Room rate of \$109 per night (+tax) w/1 complimentary parking pass per occupied room. Location of meeting rooms would be split between the main floor (general session room & banquet room) & second level for all other spaces. The general session room is separate from other events on Saturday night only. We're asking the Assembly to vote for your preference, then we'll request a contract. After a Q&A session, a motion was made to choose the Wyndham Hotel as the venue to host the 2022 IL State AFG Convention. It was seconded and the motion carried.

Debbie Mc, as co-chair for the convention then asked for other volunteers to help with the convention, please contact Debbie via email debbiemccoy67@comcast.net. Also, please register for the virtual 2021 IL State AFG Convention. Visit the website: <https://ilstateafgconv.org/>, click on Convention Registration in the top row, then click REGISTER NOW! to register online.

Forum & Literature - still open.

News-O-Gram - Carol H. said she looked at the G-21 guidelines, it suggests that a draft be sent to the area chairperson and a couple of other members for review prior to publication. She also asked for sharings, both area business news and personal stories (like the *Forum*); deadline for articles to submit to Carol is September 13th.

Public Outreach - still open.

By-laws - Cindy P. stated this topic has already been discussed; we'll be discussing more at the SIAWSC meeting.

Ways & Means - still open.

Webmaster - Kyra N. said as a general note about the website, if you see specific changes that need to be done, send an email to webmaster@siafg.org. Send a screenshot or a path/link to help identify the issue.

DELEGATE'S REPORT:

JoEllyn P. could not attend today, so Becky R. shared her PowerPoint presentation for discussion. At the WSC JoEllyn attended from April 12-16, 2021, topics discussed included:

- *Literature Update*: New daily reader (working title) sharing on diversity, should be available at the 2023 International Convention; the WSC gave conceptual approval to develop a new Just for Tonight Alateen bookmark; The Dilemma of the Alcoholic Marriage, the WSC gave conceptual approval to develop a new preface (putting the book in historical perspective) and print a booklet that includes "gems" from this book; One Day at a Time in Al-Anon, the WSC gave conceptual approval to develop a new preface (putting the book in historical perspective).
- *Finance Committee Information*: Year 2020 had the highest contributions in WSO history; but due to not being sure if those donations are sustainable, WSC passed a deficit budget. 60% of 2020 WSO income came from contributions; literature sales continue to be down; expenses for program services were down, literature distribution service costs were up, and general administrative services down (due to lay-offs).
- *Electronic Meeting Work Group* - WSC approved two motions: 1) modify text throughout the World Service Handbook (version two), pages 134-171 to eliminate restriction for area to be defined by geographic boundaries to incorporate both physical and electronic meeting locations; and 2) in keeping with Tradition 3, allowing electronic meetings to be recognized as AFG rather than just Al-Anon meetings, to amend pages 88-89 in the World Service Manual by removing the portion titled electronic meetings. What these motions address: There are 700 electronic meetings that are not represented in the WSC by an Area or Delegate due to not having a physical location. Solution is to remove the geographic requirement in the service manual and create an electronic meeting Area (non-panel area) for these 700 electronic meetings. Effect - each current Area will need to decide 1st if they want to accept electronic meetings into their Areas (Should an electronic meeting request to join the Area). Page 158 in service manual-miscellaneous: Renaming an Area, changing a Group/District to a new Area.

The next SIAWSC meeting is on Saturday, September 18, 2021. The officers, coordinators, district representatives, and past delegates have vote.

November 6th is next Assembly meeting via Zoom. Announcement & agenda will be forthcoming.

The meeting closed at 2:00 pm with the Al-Anon Declaration.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Blakey, for *Mary Pirtle*