

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](mailto: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 (Al-Anon 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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. 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](mailto: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.