

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS, INC  
AREA ASSEMBLY MINUTES  
MEMORIAL MEDICAL CENTER  
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS  
March 23, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 9:00am, followed by the Serenity Prayer  
There were 36 members in attendance, of which 18 were eligible to vote  
Jackie designated Timekeeper, courtesy guidelines reviewed  
The 12-Steps, 12-Traditions, 12-Concepts w/warranties were read  
Thanks to District 19 for hosting the meeting  
Newcomers were welcomed, introductions were made, and Al-Anon anniversaries were recognized  
Minutes from the November 3, 2013 Area Assembly meeting were accepted as corrected  
Minutes from the November 3, 2013 Board of Directors meeting was read.

**Treasurers Report:** Helen B. reported the period October through December 2013. Beginning balance was \$3,917.54; total receipts \$2,487.84, plus a one- time adjustment of \$10.00, making total cash available \$2,497.84. Total disbursements were \$1,922.96, making total cash on hand \$4,492.42. Savings/Reserve Fund Beginning Balance \$1,769.48; Receipts \$505.19; Ending Balance \$2,274.67. There have been improved group contributions. We are still accepting donations for the Reserve Fund, but please note "Reserve Fund" on the envelope. Also reminded everyone send donations to our Area Treasurer (address on our website), and to please include home group number or other identifier. Kathy made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, Jan seconded, and motion carried unanimously.

**Group Records Report:** Mary S. Southern Area made it a policy that all changes will go through Group Records. GR-1 Registration/change form, Under Group Records Secretary – Change Form, is available at [www.al-anon.alateen.org/members](http://www.al-anon.alateen.org/members). Simply fill out the form and send it directly to Mary S. at [siafggprec@gmail.com](mailto:siafggprec@gmail.com). Having a group CMA is vitally important. A group that's been in no-mail-status after two years will be dropped. Some groups have group mailing and email addresses.

#### COORDINATOR REPORTS

**Delegate** Lyri moderated a discussion regarding feedback for the proposed new reader and the proposed policy text change:

The suggested change is as follows:

"Dual Membership in Al-Anon/Alateen and A.A." policy starting on page 82 and ending on page 83 in the "Membership and Group Meetings/Conventions" section of "Digest of Al-Anon and Alateen Policies" section of the *2014-2017 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual*, as follows:

**Service Participation by Members of Al-Anon Family Groups Who Are also Members of Alcoholics Anonymous**

Al-Anon Family Groups and Alcoholics Anonymous (A.A.) share a common spiritual legacy in A.A.'s Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions. Before Al-Anon was founded, family members met with and beside A.A. groups. In 1951 various family groups banded together and agreed to organize Al-Anon Family Groups, a program dedicated to helping the friends and families of alcoholics. Over the years, Al-Anon developed its own service structure, based on the model provided by A.A.'s experience and guided by the Twelve Traditions. Tradition Five defines Al-Anon's single purpose. Tradition Six encourages cooperation with Alcoholics Anonymous, maintaining that Al-Anon is a separate entity that ought never affiliate or create the appearance of affiliation with any outside enterprise. Putting these principles into practice, Al-Anon maintains a separation between its service structure and A.A.'s. This separation helps to avoid the appearance of a conflict of interest and safeguards.

Al-Anon's singleness of purpose. Accordingly, Al-Anon's policy is that members who are also members of A.A. do not serve as Group Representative (GR), District Representative (DR), Area Delegate, World Service Conference member, alternate to any of these service positions, or on any committee of the World Service Office.

Filling service positions is a matter of district and Area autonomy, within this policy and the spiritual principles that form its basis. Tradition Four grants autonomy to local service arms, except in matters affecting Al-Anon or A.A. as a whole. Al-Anon members who are also members of A.A. participate fully in all group activities, including group conscience decisions. However, they do not hold Al-Anon service positions that vote in matters affecting another group or Al-Anon or A.A. as a whole.

Participating in Al-Anon service is integral to recovery for every member. Step Twelve, carrying our message to the families of alcoholics, is a very important part of Al-Anon service. Members of Al-Anon who are also members of A.A. are often in a position to carry our message to those who are not aware of the benefits of attending Al-Anon Family Groups. These members may serve as Alateen Group Sponsors (see "Alateen Policy"). These members may also be invited by the Board of Trustees or the World Service Office to participate in certain projects, in keeping with the spirit of this policy.

This policy on service participation by members of Al-Anon who are also A.A. members protects Al-Anon's viability as a program dedicated to helping the families and friends of alcoholics. It ensures that Al-Anon's service structure represents the unique perspective of families and friends of alcoholics, recognizing that the alcoholic's perspective is represented in A.A.'s service structure. All members honor this policy out of respect for Al-Anon unity and the group conscience process, in accordance with Tradition One and Tradition Two.

Becky made a motion to change SIAFG bylaws, Marge seconded, and motion carried 17 of 18.

Readiness for Step 12 survey is open from May 13 – July 21. It's on the WSO website under Survey for Members. WSO is asking all members to participate, WSO approved Al-Anon participation but that does not mean endorsement or affiliation.

The first Meet-the-Board event will be held in Newfoundland July 2014. More such events to come.

**Alternate Delegate** Alternate Delegate position is open and will be elected during the July 2014 Area Assembly meeting. Jackie L. presented a workshop on Good Meetings/ Bad Meetings, breaking out into six groups, and the groups brainstormed on the differences between good and bad meetings.

Missouri Al-Anon is holding a TEAM (Together Empowering Al-Anon Members) Event on June 7, 2014 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Program and Registration Flyer can be found at: <http://www.missouri-al-anon.org/events.html>

**WSO asked how to better serve members.** Some responses were:  
More E-literature reasonably priced, pamphlet on cross-talk, clarify dual membership.

**Convention Liaison** Helen reported for Betsy - Volunteer forms are on the web site, basket raffle, if unable to attend bring to July meeting.

**Alateen Coordinator/AAPP** Becky offered a motion to consider number of active years for active membership for AMIAS be reduced from three years to two. Rowena seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Workshops are available for prospective AMIAS. Contact Becky. They are also available as a webinar.

**Archives** Fern T. stated that one of the best ways to protect the future of Al-Anon Fellowship in an area is to look to the past. Our primary purpose remains to carry the message of hope to the friends and families of alcoholics. A reminder for all groups to continue working on the Al-Anon Group History Checklist form. For new District Representatives and all others, information was given that the Checklist form can be found on our website: [www.siafg.org](http://www.siafg.org). Any questions about how to complete this form please call Fern. When completed it can be sent to Fern or given to her at the next Assembly meeting.

**News-O-Gram** Marge E. send reports to [marge.evans@me.com](mailto:marge.evans@me.com). Deadline for articles in the next *News-O-Gram* is May 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Ways and Means** Kathy H. proposed a highlighter be the next fundraising sales item. Alberta made a motion, Becky seconded Motion carried unanimously. There will be a bake sale for the July meeting.

**By-Laws Coordinator** Cathy S. presents By-Laws Temporary Changes:

Page 3, Article III, Section B... changed "Southern Illinois World Service Committee" to "South Illinois Area World Service Committee"

Page 8, Article V, Section 1... changed "Southern Illinois World Service Committee" to South Illinois Area World Service Committee"

Beginning with Article V, Section 1 through entire document... changed "SIWSC" to SIAWSC"

Page. 8, Article V, Section 3... ADDED at end of sentence, "with the exception of Coordinators as stated below."

Page 9, Article V, Section 3, B... "Any Al-Anon or Alateen member, not necessarily a member of SIAFG, may serve as a coordinator, and the By-Laws and Insurance Coordinator must be well-versed in Al-Anon policy, preferably the Delegate or a Past Delegate."

CHANGED TO : "B...Coordinators: Any Al-Anon or Alateen member, including members of Alcoholics Anonymous, but not necessarily a member of SIAFG, may serve as a Coordinator. The By-Laws and Insurance Coordinator must be well-versed in Al-Anon policy, preferably the Delegate or a Past Delegate."  
All "Index/Table Of Contents" listings were changed accordingly.

#### Group Concerns

Many groups are dealing with the need for checking accounts.

The web site IRS.gov was offered to apply for an FEIN which could then be used to open a non-interest bearing checking account. This will require some to offer personal contact information. Typically name of account is group and is in two individual names, often requiring only the second name to be changed.

District 20 has created the position of Fellowship Coordinator to organize activities such as movie nights and the creation of love tokens.

District 12 Service Fosters Growth, May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

District 14 How to welcome dual members while giving the message we keep the focus on Al-Anon, not other programs.

Suggestion was offered to support Al-Anon participation in AA events to increase involvement.

Raffle was held for Ways & Means, and for the *Forum*

Next SIAWSC/Area Assembly will be held jointly in the new one day trial format on **July 12, 2014**, District 20 will host.

The meeting closed at 2:11pm with the Al-Anon Declaration.

Respectfully submitted,

Ramona B.

Acting Secretary (for MaryBeth S.)