

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS, INC
AREA ASSEMBLY MINUTES
MEMORIAL MEDICAL CENTER
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS
JULY 14, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 9:00am, followed by the Serenity Prayer.
There were 40 members in attendance, of which 21 were voting members.
The 12-Steps, 12-Traditions, 12-Concepts w/warranties, and the Courtesy Guidelines were read.
Thanks to District 13 and 14 for hosting the meeting.
Newcomers were welcomed, introductions were made, and anniversaries were recognized.
Minutes from the March 10, 2013 SIAFG meeting was approved as presented.
Minutes from the March 10, 2013 Board of Directors meeting was read.

Treasurers Report: Rowena A. reported the period January through May 2013. Beginning balance was \$2,741.73; total receipts \$4033.25, plus a one- time adjustment of \$688.10, making total cash available \$7,443.08. Total disbursements were \$2988.94, making total cash on hand \$4,454.14. Savings/Reserve Fund Beginning Balance \$1646.00; Receipts \$52.00; Ending Balance \$1698.35. Thanks to all the groups for supporting Southern Area, and we are still accepting donations for Reserve Fund. The Treasurer's Report was approved as presented.

Group Records Report: Rowena A. presented for Mary S. Group e-news web addresses are on the siafg.org web site. They are available in three languages: English, Spanish and French. You can find them in the Member's Area under Group Records updates in the March 2013 report. Check with your CMA (Current Mailing Address person) or GR if you have not heard the information shared with your group. Current contact information for SIAFG Officers, Coordinators, and District Representatives is available at siafg.org under Area Business. It is updated after every assembly and will have contact information for the new Delegate, Officers, Coordinators and District Representatives soon. They will take their positions on January 1, 2014. Please be sure to share this information with your groups treasurer so the donations will be sent to the correct person. SIAFG District Map is available at siafg.org under Meetings and Maps. Are your district boundaries working for your group? WSO is allowing boundary changes when the Districts feel the need. Since March, District 10A has joined District 20. District 10B has become District 10 and District 10A no longer exists. The Macomb groups are requesting to join the district for Galesburg in Northern IL. When this happens the map will be redone. Is there someone who can help with this when needed? My skills don't cover this. GR-1 Registration/change form, is available at www.al-anon.alateen.org/members. Just a reminder, all changes go through the Southern Illinois Al-Anon Family Groups (SIAFG) Group Records Secretary. The e-mail address is located at siafg.org under the contact information for Group Records. A request was made to add past delegates to our contacts information sheet, and it was also suggested to change the title to: SIAFG Area World Service Committee Members.

SIAFG Officer Elections: Lyri M conducted the officer position elections. Clarification was made regarding eligibility to stand for office, eligibility of dual members, and duties, requirements, and responsibilities of each of the officer positions. The newly elected officer will begin their term on January 1, 2014 and will end on December 31, 2016. Method of election, bylaws (Article V Section 4)

Delegate – Lyri Merrill (by acclamation)
Alternate Delegate – Jackie Lawton (by acclamation)
Chairperson – Cathy Blakey (by acclamation)
Recording Secretary – MaryBeth Sandegrin (by majority vote)
Treasurer – Helen Brewington (by majority vote)
Group Records Secretary – Mary Sutton (by acclamation)

Paralee R. presented a mounted time-line of the history of Al-Anon. She also offered packets of information on pyramid sponsorship for those who them.

COORDINATOR REPORTS

Convention Liaison – Betsy C. stated that the 2013 Illinois AFG State Convention will be October 25-27, 2013, at the Eaglewood Resort & Spa, in Itasca, IL. Flyers are available. NIAFG is sponsoring a fundraiser, which is separate from the convention: Walk in Palatine. Betsy also announced the Metro East Funfest, sponsored by SIAFG Districts 14 & 18, will be on Saturday, September 21, 2013, at the First Baptist Church in Maryville, IL. Flyers are available.

Alateen Coordinator/AAPP – Dottie Y. distributed a list of updated information about Alateen meetings in our southern Illinois area, there are 5 meetings now registered with WSO. Alateen meetings held at the same time and location as Al-Anon and AA meeting facilitate teen attendance at Alateen meetings. Recertification of Area Al-Anon Members involved in Alateen Service (AMIAS), including Alateen Group Sponsors, was made available electronically through WSO Group Records. There are two newly updated Al-Anon /Alateen Guidelines revisions for Alateen: “Starting a New Alateen Group” (G-19), and “Alateen Safety Guidelines” (G-34). These can be downloaded for free from the members’ website. Samples were shared. A new members’ website is being planned for a summer launch which is expected to include a new “Alateen Service e-Manual”. A June Conference Call for Alateen Coordinators included input about public outreach for Alateen: Examples were given: The important comment that emerged: “We are trying to understand why children of Al-Anon members are not going to Alateen Meetings.” Dottie stated that we, too, need to ask ourselves and present it to our Al-Anon groups when we return from Area Assembly. Input and discussion requested. Dottie observed that potential Alateen members who are brought to an Alateen meeting by an Al-Anon or A.A. member tend to continue in recovery and attend Alateen meetings, which builds effective Alateen Groups.

Cathy B. commented that she stands corrected, when stated previously that, “Alateens are our future,” when in reality, 70% of Alateens eventually go to AA and not to Al-Anon.

News-O-Gram – Rita C. stated that her term will expire this year, and this being her second term, will therefore step down. Deadline for articles in the next *News-O-Gram* is September 10th.

Ways and Means – Kathy H. announced that the Touch LED Key Chains in red and blue have all been sold. Emails, phone calls, and personal requests made this happen. The final monies will be given to Area Treasurer Rowena A. **Thanks to all of you** for helping this become a successful fundraiser for 2013!! Raffle will be ‘holiday theme’ (Thanksgiving / Christmas) at the next Assembly meeting in November.

Public Outreach – Cindy P. stated that areas across the USA and Canada are “carrying the message”. Following are some of the suggestions states/provinces are doing: Giving literature to daycare centers, Police stations and courts, motor vehicle stations, military stations, schools, trauma centers, radio and cable stations, domestic violence shelters, women’s shelters, and treatment centers. Giving out literature in Spanish, French and Polish in a more diversely populated area (i.e.: Chicago). Place contact information on transit buses, and airing PSAs at theaters (if possible). Give “How Al-Anon Works” paperback to correctional facilities and to the newcomer.

Remember to use the wonderful material provided on the Members’ website for ideas on Public Outreach. “The Best of Public Outreach” gives you many ideas and ways to do Public Outreach. The web site is www.al-anon.org/members. (Your password to the members’ site is your group name followed by afg.)

Archives – Fern T. reported that a very special overnight case was presented to her from the Al-Anon meeting in DuQuoin, IL. The case had a very clear marking on top – AL-ANON, and inside was very valuable Archives material dating back to 1972. Paralee R. donated the original computer copy of the Southern Illinois Al-Anon Articles of Incorporation, from May 1991; the hardcover book *Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism*, Second Edition; and the 1st large-print hardcover book, *One Day at a Time*, copyright 1988. Also, Fern reminded all district representatives to keep working on the Al-Anon Group History Checklist. Just fill out the answers to the questions or write out any way you chose. If you have any questions or need another copy, please call Fern at 618-357-8084. Fern thanked everyone for their help in keeping our Al-Anon history preserved.

By-Laws Coordinator – Cathy S. stated there are no temporary changes to the By-Laws pending at this time.

Literature/Forum Coordinator Report – JoEllyn P. announced the new, *Reaching for Personal Freedom – Living the Legacies*, workbook is now available. It's a new workbook of personal examples and questions to help members apply each of AI-Anon's twelve steps, traditions and concepts to their personal lives. *Alateen Talk*, is AI-Anon Family Groups younger members' quarterly publication. I think we can all learn from our Alateens and a subscription is only \$2.50 a year. What do you think about getting a subscription for your AI-Anon group? In the 2013 Spring publication, there is a game called "Steps and Slips" that makes for a great meeting or workshop. The playing board is like "Chutes and Ladders" with steps and traditions on the spaces. Another idea for a workshop, would be focusing on, *Intimacy in Alcoholic Relationships*, by asked members to share with the person next to them how they use AI-Anon tools to improve intimate relationships. They can then discuss the questions found on the sharing sheet. When given the opportunity to write sharings for the new piece, they were ready.

Please remember to share your experience strength and hope through writing for *The Forum*, or other pieces of literature. *The Forum* has an article this month on "Together, we can go far", and ties into this year's conference theme, Our Legacies: The Spiritual Journey of Changing "Me" to "We". When I'm of service to you, life is better for both of us. Happy Reading and Writing.

Webmaster – Nicole R. reported that siafg.org website is still getting approximately 200-300 hits/day. Job descriptions (for election) are accessible from two parts of the Website (both within Members' Area): Officer/Coordinator Updates and the Area Assembly Information tab. There have been no other major changes to the site, other than meeting updates, since the March Assembly. The District Update Page still need meeting lists from several districts, and do we want to include district meetings in the calendar of events? Discussion regarding the Discussion Forums and the Calendar of Events ensued with further clarification, and the website will be updated accordingly.

Nicole then proposed a temporary change to the By-laws: "If necessary Webmaster will appoint a co-coordinator to assist with above responsibilities" (Article V. Section 12). * Motion was made and carried.

Delegate's Report – Cathy B. Cathy B. conducted a workshop as part of the delegates report, by breaking out into 5 groups with the Q&A topics as previously submitted to the membership for discussion. Summary answers to those questions will be posted on the website.

Cathy then distributed copies of her report to be shared, which included the following:

- Help service arms identify service jobs for dual members, this included Criteria to Determine Dual Members' Service flow chart and a copy of G-3 Cooperation between AI-Anon and A.A.
- Soft cover of How AI-Anon Works at \$5/ea, will continue for the next 3 years, but at cost of \$6/ea beginning May 1, 2013. The message should be "pay gratitude" forward by giving this to new members. A survey will be done to see how these are being used. Also, an audio version of How AI-Anon Works is available in digital format only (no CD), for \$24.99/ea and can be purchased through Amazon, I-tunes, or audible.com.
- Finances are always an issue, but when asked where your dollars are being spent at the WSO, you can share details regarding monies used in Fellowship Communications, Public Outreach, Group Services, Membership Outreach, and Administration & Business Services (see hand out). Question: What do we need to communicate to members so they realize that their giving to WSO is as much an expression of their gratitude and spiritual connection to the program as any other service opportunity?
- Literature update: The literature committee is developing a new pamphlet to address parents and grandparents whose children (teenagers & young adults) are problem drinkers. They need your sharings! The new legacy workbook, *Reaching for Personal Freedom* (P-92), is now available for purchase \$15/ea. The new piece, *Intimacy in Alcoholic Relationships*, still need 125 sharings before production can begin. Conflict Resolution (S-71) will have a friend, Conflict Resolution using the 12-Traditions (S-72). There are no other books for e-reader or soft cover in the works. Will be watching and evaluating what's happening with the ones that are available now, and then decide what's next.
- 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, even those who are not active in service. It takes about 10-15 minutes to complete the survey on line.

- Universal Understanding of Recovery (UUR) Theme Work Group will be conducting a final survey with the members who participated in the last survey. These members will be notified via e-mail of the opportunity to participate, to rate their level of acceptance with the resulting two definition options.
- Quotations (20 new ones) are available to be used in Area Fundraiser Calendars.
- When calling the WSO for meeting information, there will be an option selection "text to speak" referring callers to meetings within a 25 mile radius of the callers location.
- "e-communities" may change name to "communities" in the near future. It's being revamped to make it more user-friendly. We will be notified when this happens.
- Policy discussions during the Conference: Contributions from A.A. conferences/conventions – is this acceptable?; Abundance and Reserve Funds; Memorial Contributions; New wording of Text on pages 88-91, "Anonymity" section of the *Service Manual*; Amend the Text on pages 107-109, "Public Relations" section of the *Service Manual*.
- Other various Thought Forces and Task Forces : Task Force – Tool Kit on Service and Personal Growth, How to Strengthen Personal Connections; Thought Force – How to strengthen Personal Connections (between all members of the program); Task Force – Creating a Workshop on the Importance of CAL in meetings; Thought Force – Use of Computers at WSC. If you would like more detailed information on any of these Thought Forces or Task Forces, please contact Cathy Blakey via phone or email.
- PSA (working copy) was shown to the membership. It's to be shared with your districts, but not the public.

Additional Business

Needed: two-three volunteers to form committee for follow-up on policy guidelines.

It was recommended that G-41 Reserve Fund/ Budget Guidelines be used at Districts, Groups, etc.

* A motion was made and passed to adopt using the Discussion Forum on the website, and to include an article in the News-O-Gram, as methods of communicating proposed motions prior to vote at the next Assembly meeting.

* A motion was made and passed to appoint Ramona B. to the Board of Directors, with her term to expire on December 31, 2015.

Ask-It Basket Questions:

1. Newcomers ask what the money is used for that we send to District, Area and WSO. Is there a pamphlet that explains this besides just a percentage? Yes, see copy of the Delegate's handout.
2. Is there more information about duties of a Chairman besides what it says on page 44 in the Service Manual? Yes. There is a link on the siafg.org website under the Area Officer and Coordinator Updates tab, Job Descriptions (June 2013). There is also a link from the Area Assembly Info, "click here to access job descriptions (for elections)", then choose the position. Those descriptions were taken from both the Service Manual and Bylaws.

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

Next SIAWSC and Area Assembly will be November 2-3, 2013, District 17 & 18 will host.

The meeting closed at 3:30pm with the Al-Anon Declaration.

Respectfully submitted,

Ramona B
Acting Secretary (for Marty H.)