

Accepted as is March 7, 2020

Southern Illinois Al-Anon Family Groups, Inc. (SIAFG)  
Area Assembly Meeting  
Memorial Medical Center, Springfield, IL.  
November 2, 2019

The meeting was opened at 9:49 a.m. by Interim Chairperson Cathy B. with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. Everyone was welcomed, introductions were made, and the rules and guidelines of the meeting were discussed. Cathy reminded all that this was a change in the format and she hoped it would be more meaningful to the Group Representatives (GR's) since they were the voting members. District 11 was thanked for hosting today's meeting. The Al-Anon 12 Steps, 12 Traditions, and the 12 Concepts of Service were read. There were 39 members present (15 voting members) at this regular meeting. Joan K was designated timekeeper.

Cathy B asked for Al-Anon birthdays to stand. There were 8 birthdays ranging from 6-47 years. Cathy then reminded the Assembly that Chairperson Rowena A. was not present because of health reasons, and that Cathy was standing in as interim Chair. She asked that someone would stand for Chair by the end of the afternoon.

**BOARD MINUTES:** Mary P read the minutes from the Board of Directors Meeting held July 13, 2019.

**MINUTES:** The July 13, 2019 SIAFG minutes were presented by Mary P. Corrections were made. 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 reported on the period from May 1, 2019 - August 31, 2019. Beginning Balance was \$15,074.59; receipts were \$2,157.75, which made the total receipts \$17,232.34; Total expenses were \$2,029.10; leaving total cash on hand before reserve donation \$15,203.24. 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 \$15,203.24. Savings/Reserve fund for the same period: beginning balance \$6,010.70; interest \$.17; ending reserve balance \$6,010.87.

The proposed budget for 2020 had been discussed at the July 13 meeting. The budget now shows the slight changes approved. Total income \$8,710; Total expenditures \$8,305; Estimated Operating Surplus \$405. **The motion was made to approve the Budget as presented. It was seconded voted on, and unanimously passed.**

**GROUP RECORDS SECRETARY:** Susan B reported that she has attempted to contact every group in Southern Illinois to verify accuracy of group contact information. She had difficulty reaching many, assuming they would not answer an unrecognizable phone number. She was

hesitant to leave a message because of anonymity issues and did not want to put anyone in harm's way. When she was able to reach Group Representatives, she asked why they do not attend the Assembly meetings. Some of the reasons were : childcare, distance, and not knowing about the meetings. Susan brought print outs for every District Representative verifying the accuracy of the group's information. In the next month, she will create a new form and link access to the SIAFG website for group changes. The possibility of phone conferencing was suggested.

**DELEGATE:** Tim E reported that this was his last meeting as Delegate. The World Service Conference will be held in Virginia Beach, Virginia from April 20- April 24, 2020. The theme is Dreaming Big with 2020 Vision. The North Central Regional Delegates Meeting is March 13, 2020 in Indianapolis. Tim shared what a profound experience it was to be a Delegate and encourages others to consider the position in the future. Tim was thanked for his service.

**As it was 11:35a.m., the meeting broke for lunch. The meeting resumed at 12:30p.m.**

**COORDINATOR REPORTS:**

**ALATEEN:** Becky R reported that District 10 (Bloomington) now has 6 AMIAS (Al-Anon Member involved in Alateen Service) who are certified and trained. She has also visited District 15 (Quincy) to help them get their Alateen program going. She attended their Gratitude Workshop and presented information about Alateen. Quincy now has 5 AMIAS and one interested Alanon member in training. Becky wants all Districts to be aware that she is willing to arrange training and/or information sessions. She is willing to travel to your location. You can contact her at [siafg.alateen@gmail.com](mailto:siafg.alateen@gmail.com) or [becky@roppcheese.com](mailto:becky@roppcheese.com) .

**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.

**AREA AL-ANON PROCESS PERSON:** Mary S explained that this position is mostly paperwork. She gets background checks for AMIAS and insures the certification of each AMIAS.

**CONVENTION LIAISON:** Cathy B attended the 2019 Illinois State AFG Convention in Schaumburg, Illinois on October 11,12, 13 this year. The speakers, panel and food were all very good. The only negative comments were the layout as it was spread out and not easy to find the correct rooms. There were 305 total attendees, 119 total banquets sold, and 75 baskets raffled. Other fundraising items (travel mugs, coasters) were also available.

As liaison, Cathy would like the Assembly to vote permission to sign a contract for the hotel venue for the 2020 State Convention. She has two volunteers that have stood in the last two weeks to Chair and Co-Chair the event.

**Motion: Give Cathy B, Convention Liaison, permission to sign a contract with the Crowne Plaza Hotel for the 2020 AFG State Convention . The motion was made, seconded and passed.** This is in Springfield District 19.

**Convention Chair & Co-Chair:** Debbie M and Janese from District 19 will be Chair and Co-Chair. The 2020 Illinois State Convention will be held October 16, 17, and 18, 2020. Some open coordinator spots are: recording secretary, volunteers, fundraising, entertainment, and literature.

Darlene would like to train someone to run registration, as she has worked the kinks out. She is asking for a coworker for this year who could take it over at the 2022 convention.

**NEWS-O-GRAM:** Jan T thanked all who submitted articles for the last edition of the News-O-Gram. The cut-off date for the Fall/Winter publication is January 10. The norm for cutoff dates are January 10, May 10, and September 10. Until a new editor is announced, please continue submitting information for upcoming publications to [siafgnog.org@gmail.com](mailto:siafgnog.org@gmail.com) or Jan Tucker, 105 Susan Ct, East Peoria, IL 61611.

Please think about standing as the News-O-Gram editor. Jan has felt honored and privileged to serve, but is ready to step down.

**WAYS AND MEANS:** Theresa stated that there is no need for fundraisers at the moment, but does have coins to sell for groups.

**DISTRICT REPORTS:**

**DISTRICT 10:** (Bloomington area) Becky stated there was no report from the District because no one would volunteer as DR. Kathy and Becky had both held the position, but could get no one else to commit. She welcomed any ideas to promote engagement.

**DISTRICT 11:** Theresa (Decatur area) shared that their District had a Fall Picnic with speakers. It had a good showing of fellowship. A new meeting has started on Saturday nights at 6 pm in Illiopolis. It turns out Illiopolis is close, but is in District 19. Theresa stated that their District is still sharing experience, strength, and hope with the clients and families at Heritage Behavioral Health on the first Wednesday of every Month. She is concerned that attendance seems to be dwindling in their groups.

**DISTRICT 12:** (Champaign area) Cathy B reported that their District still struggled to get all 16 GRs to attend the meeting. Five GRs attended, with 13 members in all. The good news is they have a full slate of officers and coordinators and the District is rebuilding to become more active in the Area.

They are working on updating contact information for the groups. They are also trying to establish channels of communication between members/groups/district/area. Public Outreach is ramping up to make the district more visible to those looking for help, with a motivated coordinator charging ahead. 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 Coordinator for the Gateway Rehabilitation Center presentations. The AIS in St. Louis is directing opportunities on the Illinois side of the river. This included having an information table at a mental health workshop. A District Fellowship Picnic was held in September with 24 adults and 9 kids participating. It was strictly fellowship with food and games provided.

**DISTRICT 18** ( Litchfield area) JoEllyn reported that her district donated 2 scholarships to 2 Al-Anon members to attend the Illinois State Convention in Schaumburg. Copies of "Help and Hope" Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism were provided to group representatives to take back to their groups for outreach. They have a new AMIAS in their district. There was a District Potluck and Speaker Meeting held September 28th attended by Al-Anon, Alateen and AA members. Public outreach was provided at 4 community events.

**DISTRICT 20** ( Peoria area)Mary S feels blessed by member supporting their District and Area. Mary P is the incoming DR and all officer and coordinator positions are filled except for Archives. There are 12 members attending this Area meeting today. Our concern at this time is Alateen is struggling. The District will be addressing this problem in the near future. Their newest Alateen sponsor is a former Alateen member. The district provided one scholarship to a member for the 2019 AFG Convention through a drawing.

**TREASURY OVERAGE IDEAS COMMITTEE REPORT:** Laura C reported that the team , consisting of Carol H, Suzanne D, Sue W, and herself were in charge of finding meaningful ways to spend the extra money in the SIAFG treasury. She reported that they had input from Champaign, Decatur, Peoria and Springfield. These were ideas shared:

- \* Pay for liability insurance coverage for district groups in SIAFG and for individuals chairing the Area Convention.
- \* Pay for fellowship events.
- \* Pay for a WSO speaker to come to District groups.
- \* Pay for items that could be used at outreach events, including: 1. a re-usable, cloth Al-Anon table skirt(s) 2. a free-standing Al-Anon sign (sturdy, but collapsable for storage and re-used: 3 literature (welcome packets/flyers/meeting lists) to be placed on tables at events.
- \* Pay for Public Service Announcements (PSAs) using WSO -approved/available TV and radio spots to increase awareness of Al-Anon. PSAs at radio and TV stations may be available at a discounted price, but are generally no longer free.

The committee then made recommended guidelines for SIAFG Groups to apply for Area Treasury funds. This included a specific description of the request, the timeline needed, the cost, the primary benefit to whom, and some way to show the success or lack of it.

After discussion, it was determined that a committee needed to be formed to formalize the guidelines so they could be put on the website.

**MOTION: Move that we will form a committee to formalize guidelines that will be put on the website and in hard copy available to districts and groups for usage of Area overage funds.**

**The motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously.**

**The previous members agreed to become the committee to formalize and would report back at the March meeting. That is Laura C, Carol H, Suzanne D and Sue W.**

**LIABILITY INSURANCE:** Mary S has begun the research into liability and has gotten one bid. Susan B and Nicole offered to help Mary with this endeavor. They will report back in March.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS:** All Area Officers have been verified as of the July meeting except for the Chairperson. The Chairperson will then need to appoint Coordinators. The members were given a chance to stand for Chairperson. No one volunteered. Please pray and talk with members about your willingness to serve. We hope to have someone stand for the position by the March 7 meeting.

**GROUP CONCERNS:**

**Debbie from District 18** takes calls from her Answering Service. She has gotten a few calls with people who went to a meeting where no one showed up. Looking into it, she wonders if the person found the right address, had an old meeting list or had the wrong time. To be proactive she

encourages anyone in the same position to be sure to ask the caller where they got the information, find out what time and location they were looking for, and verify they had good info.

**Susan B from District 18** is retiring as GR in a group. Her question is Can a GR be a member who was previously in AA? Or a dual member? The service manual states that if you are a current member of AA you cannot be a voting member of Al-Anon. But the consensus seemed to be that an Al-Anon member who cut all ties with AA and did not attend their meetings anymore could be allowed to hold a position. Cathy B said she would research it more.

Because of the time, it was decided to put KBDM discussion on the agenda for the March meeting. Then the dates were decided on for 2020; March 7, July 11, November 7  
District 12 will host.

Meeting adjourned at 2:31pm with the Al-Anon Declaration.

**The SIAFG Meeting on March 7 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.