

Accepted with corrections November 7, 2020

Southern Illinois Al-Anon Family Groups, Inc. (SIAFG)
Area Assembly Meeting
Zoom Meeting
July 11, 2020

The meeting was opened at 9:01 a.m. by Chairperson Becky R. with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. Rules and guidelines of the meeting were then presented. Becky 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 32 members present (16 voting members) at this regular Zoom meeting. Debbie O was designated timekeeper. Becky asked for Al-Anon birthdays to raise hands. There were 10 birthdays ranging from 5-48 years.

BOARD MINUTES: Rowena A read the minutes from the Board of Directors Meeting held March 7, 2020.

MINUTES: The March 7, 2020 SIAFG minutes were presented by Mary P. A motion was made by Susan B to approve and accept minutes with corrections. It was then seconded by Amanda S and the motion was carried. Corrected minutes will be posted on the SIAFG website with corrections in red.

TREASURER REPORT: Carol W reported on the period from January 1- April 30, 2020. Beginning Balance was \$15,127.18; receipts were \$4,110.92; Total expenses were \$1,614.97; leaving total cash on hand before reserve donation \$17,623.13; This leaves the ending balance of cash on hand as \$17,623.13. Saving /Reserve fund for the same period \$6011.05 plus interest of \$.17 brings the ending balance to \$6011.22.

Carol then reported on the budget projection for the year 2021. She emphasized that we are in a new world with the pandemic creating problems with donations throughout the program. Carol asked if we should budget the \$1100 for the Liability insurance since that was put on hold. She also asked if we should budget \$1000 for the WSO since we had stated that desire at the March 7 meeting. (See discussion in Old Business.) After discussion, the consensus was that we would go forward with both ideas. We would buy the liability insurance and give WSO \$1000. During this discussion, Cathy B brought up the \$1200 Deposit lost because of cancellation of the Illinois State AFG Convention. She asked if the Area could reimburse the Convention Resource Committee with \$1200 to replenish the seed money for the convention. After discussion a motion was made:

MOTION: Area will send back to Illinois State AFG Convention Resource Committee \$1200 to replenish seed money for the Convention.

The motion was made by Rowena A, seconded by Mary S, and passed unanimously.

GROUP RECORDS SECRETARY: Susan B reiterated that **Group changes need to be sent to 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. Webmaster@SIAFG.org

DISTRICT REPORTS & GROUP CONCERNS:

DISTRICT 10: Becky R reported that her district does not have a DR at this time. They do have a thriving Al-Anon community though. They also have a tech-savvy member who has set up online payments for donations to the District, WSO, and meetings. They have started Zoom meetings and are discussing going back to face to face meetings. Lisa L commented that they are not getting new members since the Zoom meetings started and asked for input from other districts.

DISTRICT 11: Theresa stated that some meetings in her district started face to face meetings in June. Some are held outside, but all are social distanced and follow CDC guidelines. They hope to be able to continue with the outreach to Addiction centers when guidelines change. Theresa invited all to join in a fellowship picnic on October 4. The details will be in the News-O-Gram and on the website. Barb S also mentioned that their Church meeting location asked for a list of members who came to meetings, but last name initials were accepted.

DISTRICT 12: Cathy B stated that District meetings have been put on hold since COVID-19. Most Al-Anon meeting places shut down in March and Zoom meeting were started late March-early April. Outreach projects are on hold. The District started a website www.centralillinoisalanon.weebly.com. It's directed at newcomers and is a work in progress. Because there was not a majority of members interested in a District Zoom meeting, Cathy is reaching out to individual groups to gather information for next steps in moving ahead. Kyra mentioned that one meeting liked to meet in an outside pavilion in good weather. When people attended their first physical meeting after shutdown, there were many donations given for past months. Carol H added that zoom meetings included previous members who had moved. It was a good way to reconnect.

DISTRICT 14: Katie G reported that her District now has a shared Zoom account for most of the meetings. They used this account for their District meeting also. Groups have been encouraged to announce 7th tradition reminders to their members regarding Group, District, Area and WSO donations. The District Treasurer is helping to coordinate the funds. They are looking forward to setting up a Website for the District. They have a newish Public Outreach Coordinator who is keeping in touch with the AIS in St. Louis. Fern stated that her ~~meeting place is not being used because the members allowing them back until September. feel safer using a Zoom meeting until further notice. They have been using Zoom for these meetings.~~

DISTRICT 17: Laura D came as a visitor to find out more about the Southern Illinois Area Al-Anon Family Groups and how to strengthen ties between her District and the Area. Murphysboro and Carbondale have started meetings in outside pavilions since the lockdown has lessened. We welcome Laura and her District.

DISTRICT 18: Susan B reported that there are many strong groups who meet bimonthly and have started using Zoom since the state shutdown. Since the guidelines are changing, some meetings are going back to physical settings. JoEllyn P mentioned that her group has been meeting outside the church they usually frequent but may be allowed in with social distancing soon. Barbara S has put a speaker meeting via zoom on the website that will be held the last Thursday of the month. Bob, from Edwardsville, says their group has been using Zoom since March. They have fewer members joining in, but have also picked up previous members who have moved elsewhere. Debbie O said her group found an outside venue to use until their church

allows them back. Claudia P mentioned that their groups have been supporting WSO with donations throughout the shutdown.

DISTRICT 19: Charlene V stated that a tech savvy member has helped her district set up Zoom meetings in the Covid time. They expect to keep some of these going along with meetings that are opening up at physical locations. Sue W gave credit to a member, Travis, who has made a webpage that helps with publicity. Jane F said one meeting place had closed down permanently, but two options are available.

DISTRICT 20: Mary P reported that all meetings had closed in March when the Illinois shutdown was invoked. Three Zoom meetings. were started, thanks to a knowledgeable member. Since June 15, physical meetings have been opening up slowly and within guidelines. At the time, the Zoom meetings will continue with constant evaluation as to need. Newcomers were finding out about Al-Anon through word of mouth, counselors and an Intergroup website. Mary S mentioned that the answering service was becoming an integral part for newcomers to access us. Early on there were announcements at the Zoom meetings to donate to home groups, District, and WSO with addresses following.

COORDINATOR REPORTS:

ALATEEN: OPEN

ALATEEN AREA PROCESS PERSON: Mary S reported that all of the sponsors for Alateen have been recertified with WSO and she is still communicating with someone about filling the Alateen position.

ARCHIVES: OPEN Fern T has held this position for years and has done a fantastic job. She has decided in the spirit of Alanon rotation she will step down. She let the group know that she has thoroughly enjoyed the position. She also wanted the group to know that she was reimbursed \$38 for the totes that the archives are stored in. She thanks SIAFG and all the members for their support.

CONVENTION: OPEN Cathy B reminded us that the 2020 Illinois State AFG Convention has been canceled. She relayed that Northern (Sandy W - chair) has offered to try to combine Southern's ideas and work together. They have not confirmed a venue yet. Cathy also reminded us that her term in this position is over. She would like someone to step up and will help until the position is filled.

FORUM/LITERATURE: Kathy H could not attend and there is no report at this time.

NEWS-O-GRAM: Carol H has gotten started in her new position. She is very grateful to Jan T for mentoring. She asks for any reports, sharing, or notices be sent to her by Sept. 10 Her email is carol53115@yahoo.com phone number is 262-729-0946 .

PUBLIC OUTREACH: OPEN

BY-LAWS & INSURANCE: Cindy P has held off on changing the times for the SIAFG and SIAWSC meetings until the decision is made to keep the new schedule permanent.

WAYS & MEANS: OPEN At this moment, our bank accounts are flush, but with the volatility of the nation's guidelines this position should not be deleted. Ways & Means also includes selling of the birthday coins.

WEBMASTER: Kyra reminded us to make any meeting changes with Susan (Group Records Secretary) who would relay those changes to Kyra_Webmaster@SIAFG.org to put on the Website and WSO.

DELEGATE: JoEllyn reported on the World Service Conference that was held via Zoom. The theme was “Dreaming Big 20/20 Vision”. Some of the big ideas were:

1. Thought Force : A committee could use the KBDM (Knowledge Based Decision Making) method with the idea of Fear of Change.
2. Task Force: After the thought force comes up with ideas, ~~they give it to the task force which is the action component. They could work on reaching and unifying Rural and large geographic areas—possible by using a District Inventory to spot weaknesses and strengths.~~ **it can move to a task force which is the action component. There was a task force on reaching and unifying rural and large geographic areas. There was a survey they developed . They also suggested using an Area inventory to spot weaknesses and strengths.**
3. Encourage members to go to DR’s and GR’s before calling WSO to find answers to questions
4. Literature is the highest form of revenue for the WSO. The sales are down 75% and donations are down 34%. WSO is now transferring \$250,000 out of reserve fund to working fund.
5. WSO site has newcomer information on it. Also do groups let newcomers know about electronic meetings through WSO?

JoEllyn thanked Area for allowing her to be Delegate. She is growing and learning in ways she did not expect.

OLD BUSINESS: SIAFG AREA INSURANCE UPDATE: Susan B summarized. At the March 7 meeting, it was voted to secure the Liability Insurance. Within a week Illinois was shut down because of the COVID virus. The insurance company suggested not buying it at that time because they could not insure Zoom meetings. They could insure physical locations - for instance if someone fell down and broke a leg, they would be insured. They cannot insure against a disease, be it Covid or the measles. After discussion that many physical locations are opening up and that the insurance would cover officers when doing business, it was decided to move forward to buy the insurance. Since it was voted in at the March 7, 2020 meeting, it was not necessary to make a motion. There was a consensus to move forward and buy the liability insurance.

At this time, Carol wanted a decision on whether to give the WSO \$1000 as was suggested at the March 7, 2020 meeting. Once again the consensus was to give the WSO \$1000.

TREASURY OVERAGE IDEAS COMMITTEE: Sue W explained that the Committee was asked to report on ways to spend extra funds held in the SIAFG treasury. According to the first General Warranties of the Conference, “that only sufficient operating funds, including an ample reserve, be its prudent financial principle. After asking for input from all Southern Area Districts, they came up with:

1. pay for liability insurance
2. pay for fellowship events
3. pay for a WSO speaker to come to District or Area groups

4. Pay for items to be used in Outreach
5. Pay for Public Service Announcements.

They outlined what would be needed in a form for Districts asking for funds.

The next step is to take the action - Sue W offered to work with Laura C to develop and send the form to the News-O-Gram and the SIAFG website. by September 10. They will report at the November 7, 2020 meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: HOSPITAL MEETING PLACE:Becky reported that the Springfield Memorial Hospital is not allowing meetings to use their facility until at least January 2021. Therefore, the question was where shall the November 7 meeting be held. The consensus was to have a zoom meeting and discuss future locations during New Business. Other factors that can be discussed are alternate location sites, pay for members' hotels who are 2-4 hours away. The question is "How do we accommodate people who live far away or have responsibilities that deter them from even a 2 hour drive?"

EMAIL ADDRESSES: Becky stated that Gmail accounts cannot be passed on from person to person. Therefore a position such as secretary or chairperson cannot have a generic gmail that can be passed on when the term is over. Northern Area seems to have found a solution. Becky will look into their decision. Kyra and Lyri will look into options. They will report at the November 7 Zoom meeting.

WORKSHOP: It has been noted that an Area Inventory should be completed every 3 years. We are overdue. Some options for how to accomplish this were brainstormed. Look into WSO's inventory guidelines. Email inventory to Districts to deliver to groups. Survey Monkey might be a platform we could use. Becky and JoEllyn will look into the options and report back in November.

The meeting was adjourned with the AI-Anon Declaration at 2:04pm. The next SIAFG meeting will be November 7, 2020 via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary P
Recording Secretary

MINUTES WILL NOT BE READ AT THE MEETING