

Accepted with Corrections on 3-6-2021

Southern Illinois Al-Anon Family Groups, Inc. (SIAFG)

Area Assembly Meeting

Zoom Meeting

November 7, 2020

The meeting was opened at 9:00 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 33 members present (19 voting members) at this regular Zoom meeting. Lyri M was designated timekeeper.

BOARD MINUTES: Mary P read the minutes from the Board of Directors Meeting held July 11, 2020.

MINUTES: The July 11, 2020 SIAFG minutes were presented by Mary P. Corrections were made. **A motion was made by Mary S to approve and accept minutes with corrections . It was then seconded by Fern T and the motion was carried unanimously.** Corrected minutes will be posted on the SIAFG website with corrections in red.

TREASURER REPORT: Carol W reported on the period from January 1- August 31,2020. Beginning Balance was \$15,127.18; receipts were \$5,987.97; leaving cash on hand \$21,115.15, Total expenses were \$3,767.56; leaving total cash on hand before reserve donation \$17,347.59; This leaves the ending balance of cash on hand as \$17,347.59. Saving /Reserve fund for the same period \$6011.05 plus interest of \$.35 brings the ending balance to \$6011.40.

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 stated that the only change from her presentation at the July 11, 2020 meeting was the payment for liability insurance which cost \$1,100. With the projection of \$8,660 as income for the year and total expenses projected to be \$9,455.00, the operating loss of \$795.00

A motion was made by Jane F to approve the final budget for the SIAFG 2021 year. Donna S seconded and the motion was carried unanimously

Carol explained that the World Service Office had contacted her with a refund of \$1481.69 resulting from the World Service Conference not being held in person. We needed to decide what to do with that refund by October 31, 2020. She canvassed the officers and it was decided to donate it to WSO. Then Carol stated that the WSO was asking for the cost of the 2021 Conference. We had the option of paying the price of \$1,667 or the equalized amount of \$2,381.81 (equalized refers to paying a little extra to help Areas that may not have enough funds). **A motion was made by Rowena A to Pay full equalized amount for the WSC. It was seconded by Donna S and carried by 18 yes and 1 abstain.**

GROUP RECORDS SECRETARY: The position of Group Records Secretary is open and there is no volunteer at this time. Two choices were given: find a volunteer or change the by-laws that will allow districts to go straight to WSO website. After much discussion, no consensus was formed. It was decided that the point would be brought up again during Old Business.

DISTRICT REPORTS & GROUP CONCERNS:

DISTRICT 10: Becky R reported that her district does not have a DR at this time, although she is encouraging members to consider it. Jan said most meetings are on Zoom at this time. One meeting is hybrid.

DISTRICT 11: Theresa M stated that the three meetings in her district are face to face at this time. Their Sunday night meeting had to move to a new location. The District had to cancel their fall picnic/workshop due to the pandemic, yet are hoping to have something in the spring or fall of next year. The treatment center has shut down to visitors since March, with no start date offered. Her district is struggling to get volunteers for service work. JoEllyn has sent her information that may help. Barb S mentioned that numbers attending meetings are down since the pandemic, but hopes that they will get better when things get better.

DISTRICT 12: Cathy B reported that meeting information ~~needed to be~~ **has been** updated because of the pandemic. She has stayed in touch with her groups and has updated the places/ dates/ and times to the WSO, District and Area. At this time there are 5 groups meeting face to face, 7 groups meeting via Zoom, and one not meeting but staying in touch via email, text and phone calls. Issues with one members' behavior was brought up with hopes to defer any further unacceptable behavior. Public Outreach has been a struggle, but the Outreach Coordinator is active in getting a District website up and running.

(www.centralillinoisalanon.weebly.com)

Upon discussion and vote, the district is suspending district meetings through the remainder of 2020. They will regroup in January 2021 and decide when they can meet again.

Evelyn mentioned that the main priority is to get Zoom info on WSO website. Carol H said she and Evelyn will be partnering with an AA group to put on a workshop making "God" boxes. That is set for October 2021. Kyra stated that her home group is meeting consistently, wearing masks, social distancing, and keeping in touch.

DISTRICT 13: Claudia reported that donations are good considering the pandemic.

DISTRICT 14: Katie G reported their Public Outreach Coordinator is making calls to find facilities willing to distribute Al-Anon information and in what format. Her District plans to purchase Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism and distribute them, including their new web page information. She is asking each group what they want listed on the website, including a phone number contact for newcomers. Katie stated that they have two new Group Reps and their Alateen meeting is currently not meeting. Fern said they have a zoom meeting because face to face does not feel safe at this time. Her group feels that Zoom will continue past the Covid pandemic. They usually have ten members attending and have even gotten newcomers.

DISTRICT 17: Laura D reported that some healthy meetings are being held in Carbondale and Murphysboro, but feels many in the rural community are being missed. Her first objective was to find the listed meetings and correct misinformation. There are three meetings in Murphysboro. These three meet in person at a new location. There's a meeting in Carbondale that meets via zoom and is consistently attended. The meeting in Marion meets once a month via zoom. They have trouble bringing in newcomers, which is a concern.

DISTRICT 18: Susan B reported that there are 13 meetings - split between Zoom and face to face. With Covid, it's important to get contact info in case meetings are shut down again-

especially for newcomers. Susan's District does not have an Alateen coordinator which is a problem. They have discussed an outreach combining Southern Area Alateens in a Zoom meeting. District 18 is planning a Service meeting online. They have had Speaker meetings with good attendance via zoom. Susan wondered if DRs could combine Zoom meetings with other districts. Bob stated that they are losing some members because they do not like Zoom. They can still connect with members because of a mailing and phone number list. He hopes the members will return when the virus is contained. Claudia stated that donations are good at this time.

DISTRICT 19: Deb reported that her meeting has using Zoom to meet since the pandemic. Alateen has also been shut down. One group is working on a hybrid meeting. Chatham is holding hybrid meetings with good attendance.

DISTRICT 20: Mary P reported that three Zoom meetings were created on personal accounts. The District has formed a committee to look into purchasing a District Zoom account. The committee is also looking into a website that could help spread the word. They will report their findings at the January 24 District meeting. The Outreach Coordinator has purchased pamphlets to drop off or send via mail to offices that might benefit from Al-Anon literature. The Fellowship Coordinator held a District Sponsorship Zoom meeting. There was a panel of three who shared their stories as a sponsor and sponsee. Mary S mentioned that the majority of meetings are now face to face. Donna S stated that District meetings have been held via Zoom twice. These Zoom meetings seem to bring better attendance.

COORDINATOR REPORTS:

ALATEEN: OPEN

ALATEEN AREA PROCESS PERSON: Mary S reported that this position is busy once a year to certify AMIAS. She noted that her District does not have Alateen members at this time and thinks an Area Zoom Alateen meeting is a good idea.

ARCHIVES: OPEN Fern T has held this position for years and has done a fantastic job. In the spirit of rotation, she is stepping down. Her letter will be sent with the minutes and be published in the News-O-Gram. Thank you for your service, Fern.

CONVENTION: OPEN Sandy W at Northern is considering doing the 2021 convention virtually. Convention Resource Committee is scheduled to meet December 5.

FORUM/LITERATURE: Kathy H is recovering from health issues and will update us when she returns.

NEWS-O-GRAM: Carol H has gotten started in her new position. She asks for any reports, sharing, or notices be sent to her by January 31, 2021. Her email is carol53115@yahoo.com phone number is 262-729-0946. The News-O-Gram will be sent out early February 2021.

PUBLIC OUTREACH: OPEN

BY-LAWS & INSURANCE: Cindy P will be given a zip drive of the Area insurance. Rowena A, as the Registered Agent, and Becky R, as the Area Chairperson, will also have a zip drive.

WAYS & MEANS: OPEN

WEBMASTER: Kyra reminded us to contact her at Webmaster @SIAFG.org, not her personal email. She also discussed the confusion about what should be posted on the website and who should decide. She can find no guidelines posted that make it clear. Lyri, prior webmaster

concluded. After discussion, the consensus was to have a list of people who would help her make these decisions. Lyri M and Carol H volunteered to help.

DELEGATE: JoEllyn reported

- * There is a new AI-Anon Newcomer Kit priced at \$2.99. It is an electronic version.
- * The Electronic Meeting Workgroup (EMWG) brought forward to the Board ideas of ways to incorporate electronic meetings as groups in the service structure. They will move forward.
- * WSO Town Hall Meeting hosted by Northern California World Service Area is scheduled for 12/12 at 12PST. A flyer will be provided with more info.
- * Public Outreach: Members who follow WSO social media page are welcome to hit the share button and share the WSO post.
- * JoEllyn has reached out to districts to inquire how Covid has affected their members. One common challenge was service. It is harder to get members participating in service.

OLD BUSINESS:

SIAFG AREA INSURANCE UPDATE: Susan B received the insurance document after the bill was paid. Electronically it is over 100 pages. Rather than print it, she will send a copy to Cindy P (By-Laws and Insurance) and Becky R (chairperson). She reminded us that the insurance does not cover disease.

OPEN COORDINATOR POSITIONS:

ARCHIVES: open Fern has resigned the positions after years of diligently organizing the Area historical document. She is willing to mentor any member who has an interest. Thank you, Fern, for your service.

CONVENTION: still open

PUBLIC OUTREACH: still open

DISTANCE MEETINGS: This has been on the docket since July. Do we want to continue on Zoom? After discussion, Fern T made a **Motion: Continue to hold SIAFG meetings via Zoom indefinitely until we decide otherwise.** Lyri M seconded it. The vote was unanimous. Zoom will continue until further notice.

EXCESS FUNDS COMMITTEE: Laura C, Carol H, Sue W, and Suzanne D were on the original committee in July 2019. Reports were brought to Area, discussed, and revised. In July of 2020, Sue W reported that she and Laura C were willing to go to the next step of developing forms to distribute for any District asking for funds. The reports were discussed at this meeting. Because Sue W and Laura C could not attend this meeting, the forms will be discussed at the March 6, 2021 meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

SIAFG WEBSITE AND EMAIL ADDRESSES: Contract for website is coming up. There's a question about passing on email accounts with a generic name. It seems that Google has new rules. There was discussion but no solution. This will be taken up at the March 6, 2021 meeting.

GROUP RECORDS SECRETARY POSITION: Jane F asked for a description of the position. It was explained that the Group Records Secretary is the liaison between the Districts and the WSO. When there are any changes in personnel or meeting times etc, the WSO relies on the Group Records Secretary from each Area to be their point person. Susan B explained that

members have begun going directly to WSO to make changes and has made confusion for the WSO and the Area. The behavior has made the position hard to handle. Jane F said that she would give it a try. She wants to serve. She said she reserves the right to resign if she doesn't feel she can fulfill the duty.

SIAFG Area Inventory: Lyri M presented the results of the inventory. Discussion will be held at the March 6, 2021 meeting. Results will be printed in the News-O-Gram.

Next 3 Meeting Dates:

March 6, 2021

July 10, 2021

November 6, 2021

The meeting was adjourned with the Al-Anon Declaration at 1:41 pm. The next SIAFG meeting will be March 6, 2021 via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary P
Recording Secretary

MINUTES WILL NOT BE READ AT THE MEETING