

Accepted with no corrections 5-21-2022
Southern Illinois Area World Service Committee
(SIAWSC) Meeting
Zoom Meeting
January 8, 2022

The meeting was opened at 9am by Chairperson, Becky R, with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. Rules and Guidelines for the meeting were presented to the 21 attendees with 16 voting members. The 12 Steps, 12 Traditions, and the 12 Concepts of Service and Warranties were read. It was explained that all AI-Anon members have voice; only Area Officers, District Reps, (DRs), Area Coordinators, Registered Agent and Past Delegates have the vote. Becky stated the purpose of the meeting was to review what went well/not so well at the Area Assembly meeting of November 6, 2021 and to set the agenda for the next Area Assembly meeting on March 12, 2022.

Old Business: Minutes

Mary P presented the minutes from the September 18, 2021 SIAWSC Meeting. A motion was made to approve the minutes with no corrections by Suz B and seconded by Cathy B. The vote was unanimous in accepting the minutes as is.

What went well and what did not at Area Meeting November 6, 2021:

Becky stated that the format for the Area meeting had been changed by beginning with the New Business, followed by Old. This was decided in order to help with energy and interest at the beginning of the meeting. Consensus agreed. Carol W mentioned the long discussion about the SIAFG budget and the prudent reserve really should be held in July rather than November. She will discuss that during the treasurer's report at the Area meeting. Kathryn stated she was confused about the November discussion and felt there was no chance for amendment; it was either accept or deny. Becky noted that the March meeting should add budget education and explanation.

ALATEEN UPDATE: Becky explained the background. This last year of 2021 had a situation with WSO where some deadlines for paperwork were missed. In that process it was found that the laws had changed. "All volunteers working with minor individuals are required to become mandated reporters." This changes the position of AMIAS (AI-Anon Members Involved in Alateen Service.). AMIAS have to get trained in reporting abuse, and they are required to report to DCFS if a child under 18 mentions something that sounds like abuse. Now someone is needed to step up to the position of Alateen Coordinator so that the legal and liability side of this is researched. Becky has contacted all AMIAS about the situation and has asked for help to research. No one has replied yet. Mary S and Becky feel we cannot continue offering Alateen in SIAFG without dealing with the legal portion. Northern has not dealt with it yet, so has no advice. The law changed in January 2020 which means we have some liability in this position. Mary S said she now refers parents and teens to go to WSO which has electronic Alateen meetings and also offers to sell Alateen books to them. Mary S also asked WSO if they had any guidance or direction for incorporating teens into regular Alanon meetings. They did not. Suz B reported that she didn't interpret the statute to include the AI-Anon/Alateen meetings and

volunteered to reach out to some legal contacts .She will report back. Kyra asked for a blurb to put on the website for Alateen. Mary S said she and Kyra would work together to write a short explanation sending them to WSO online meetings.

By-Laws Discussion:

The committee including Cathy B, Jan T, Cindy P, and JoEllyn P worked together to look at questions about updating the by-laws. Cathy also reached out to Rowena A who had the original document of the Articles of Incorporation. The Articles clarified that temporary changes can be made and permanent changes are declared to the state every 5 years. So the changes we have made are fine. Cathy reported that the wording in the articles were awkward and hard to follow. She would like to change parts of pages 20 and 21 in Section 2. She showed the changes on the screen which were to change the order of the paragraphs to make it more clear. She also changed the word telegram to electronic messages.

Motion was made: We want to present to the Area assembly these recommended temporary changes (pages 20-21 ,under article 6 ,board of directors sections 2-12) to the July 2019 by-laws for a vote at the March 12, 2022 Southern Illinois Area Assembly meeting. A motion was made by Jane F and seconded by Joellyn P. The vote was taken and accepted unanimously.

Cindy P, By-Laws Coordinator, said she would report at the May 21, 2022 SIAWSC meeting about how best to post temporary dates of the changes on the document. There was a discussion as to putting the Articles of Incorporation on the website and if we needed to vote. Since the by-laws are part of the Articles, it was decided no vote was needed and it could be posted on the SIAFG Website. It was then decided that a copy of the Articles of Corporation should be in the hands of more than one person. So, Rowena sent a copy to Becky R, Cindy P, Cathy B, JoEllyn P, and Jan T.

In July 2026 the new by-laws should be sent to the state. That is the same year that the tax exemption will be updated. Cindy was confident that all the temporary by-laws dates had been posted on her flash drive, but would look into the dates actually put on the document to share.

Updates to Job Descriptions:

There was some confusion on job description because the website has 2 places where the job descriptions are mentioned. One is under Job Descriptions and one is in the By-Laws. These are both posted on the SIAFG website but are not identical. Both places need to be updated, but the by-laws will be done after the other description. Cindy P will pull the by-laws description and the simpler description and send them out so that officers can prepare for the May 21, 2022 SIAWSC meeting.

There was also confusion as to how meeting minutes and meeting information is sent out. Group Reps and District Reps are important in this chain, but some Districts do not have both and some have neither. After discussion it was decided that the Area agenda, Area minutes and all documents need to be sent out by Jane F, Area Group Records Secretary, 30 days before the Area meeting. **This means that all officers and coordinators need to send their reports to Jane F at grouprecsec@gmail.com by February 4, 2022. She will then be able to send all in one email that will arrive by February 12 for the March 12 Area meeting.**

Format of SIAWSC Meeting: Discussion on using Zoom for these meetings was positive, mentioning more voices and more discussion. An addition was the possibility of future Area meetings being face to face and World Service Committee meetings being Zoom.

Area Assembly Draft Agenda

***Recording Minutes /vote**

***Board Minutes/ read**

***Treasurer Report.** The reports will include discussion of timelines of treasury data. Also the Reserve and execs funds will be discussed.

***Group Records:**

OLD BUSINESS:

* **Alateen Update**

* **Electronic Meeting Committee Update:** The committee is sending their document to the Southern Area Group Records Secretary and it will be added to the documents to be sent on February 12.

* **Open Coordinator Positions**

* **Excess Funds**

* **Web/Email Contact Update**

* **SIAFG Area Inventory:** This will be taken off agenda since we have no updates and we have a full agenda.

* **Distance Meeting Check in**

NEW BUSINESS:

* **Love Tokens:** JoEllyn, Delegate wanted guidance in how to distribute Love tokens that are dated 2021. It was decided that she could distribute as she felt and the Area will reimburse for postage.

* **Elections:** July is the time to vote in new members. It needs to be prompted at the March meeting. Mary P, Carol W, and JoEllyn are at the end of their terms. We'll need replacements. Coordinators don't need to be elected.

DISTRICT REPORTS & GROUP CONCERNS:

COORDINATOR REPORTS:

DELEGATE REPORT:

WRAP UP:

Next Area Meetings (SIAFG): March 12, July 16 and November 12 ,2022

Next World Service Committee meetings (SIAWSC): May 21, September 17, 2022

The meeting was adjourned with the AI-Anon Declaration at 11:33 pm.

Respectfully yours,
Mary Pirtle
Recording Secretary