

Accepted with Corrections Nov. 3, 2018
Southern Illinois Area World Service Committee
(SIAWSC) Meeting
Memorial Medical Center, Springfield, IL.
July 14, 2018

The meeting was opened at 9:12 a.m. by Chairperson Rowena A 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. District 18 was thanked for hosting today's meeting. The Al-Anon 12 Steps, 12 Traditions, and the 12 Concepts of Service were read. There were 23 members present (12 voting members) at this regular meeting. Wendy (Dist. 18) was designated timekeeper.

Rowena A updated the group with members' situations. Betsy C has passed away. A blank journal was distributed for members to share thoughts and memories which will be given to the family. Mario, a longtime member is at Barnes Hospital with lymphoma. (Mario died July 17.) Cathy, a former Area Chairperson, is in the hospital. Charlene's husband is in the hospital suffering from a heart attack. Theresa, Ways and Means Chair, is having surgery today with a broken wrist. Please keep all in your prayers.

Minutes:

The March 10, 2018 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 Jan. 1, 2018-April 30, 2018. Beginning balance was \$9,844.66; total receipts were \$3,478.57; total expenses were \$394.94; leaving total cash on hand before reserve donation \$12,928.29; Reserve Donation for 2017 was \$882.12 leaving the ending balance of total cash on hand \$12,046.17. Savings/Reserve fund for the same period; beginning balance was \$5,117.88 (goal \$6,000): receipts of \$892.30 were from the general fund, interest and birthday donation bringing the ending balance to \$6,010.18. A short discussion ensued about the possibility of donating \$500 to WSO since we have the extra funds at the time. **A motion was made to send \$500 to WSO. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.**

Carol then reported on the proposed 2019 Budget. She explained that she used the 2017 data as a template and increased or decreased categories with estimates. She increased forums from 7 to 13 subscriptions. Carol increased the World Service Conference Expense from \$2,443.00 to \$2,500.00. She questioned the amount for Ways and Means and reiterated that all of these numbers are estimates. In this proposal, total receipts are estimated at \$7,993.00, and the total budgeted expenses would be \$7,288.00 with an excess of \$705.00. **This proposal will be voted on at the next SIAWSC meeting November 3, 2018.**

GROUP RECORDS SECRETARY REPORT:

Rowena reported that Annette W. has resigned as the Group Records Secretary. Annette felt she did not have the time to do the job properly. Many thanks goes to Annette for all her hard work. Rowena explained that the position is now open and asked Mary S, a former Group Records Secretary to define the job and its duties. Mary stated that records are done electronically with WSO (World Service Office). All SIAFG changes go through the SIAFG Group Records Secretary. When changes come in the Secretary updates WSO, SIAFG, gmail account, and notifies the webmaster of any changes that may be needed on the website. This position also is the connection for officers, coordinators, District Representative, Group Representatives and CMA (Current Mailing Address) communication. You will also be responsible to send out the News-O-Gram electronically and a few by United States Postal Service. When there is a new District Representative, Group Representative, or Group, you will send several documents to them as a welcome. These documents have already been

created. One last responsibility is to update the SIWSC (Southern Illinois World Service Committee) list. These are the people who attend the Saturday morning Area meeting. This information is sent to the Delegate to notify WSO and our webmaster for changes to website. These details can be found on the SIAFG.org website under Member's Area, subtitle Officers and Coordinators, password (area16) you will find a list of job descriptions.

Rowena asked for volunteers to stand. There were no volunteers at this time.

DELEGATE'S REPORT/DISCUSSION:

Tim E. reported his attendance at the World Service Conference was positive. The Conference had no agenda items up for a vote. It was mostly an informative meeting with workshops and topics. Some topics: How do we encourage attendance in rural areas? What are your thoughts on members who are dual members - should they hold positions? What are our Area's "policy" for members to hold certain positions? What is our Area's procedure of members wanting to apply for WSO Trustee? One workshop had a topic question with the directions to discuss only in one way. (negative, logically, facts only, positive, emotionally, rational) After a short discussion, they would have to change tactics and discuss in a different way. He stated that this was an interesting method.

The Handbook has been updated and can be bought or downloaded. A new book on Intimacy in Alcoholic Relationships is available. A new pamphlet called Open Understanding for Parents and Grandparents is also available, as is the 50 year edition of One Day at a Time.

Tim reminded the group that the Delegate position is open next year and asked people to pray on it. He feels he has grown in many ways from his experience.

WSO Trustee Visit:

At the March 10, 2018 SIAFG Meeting, it was reported that the World Service Office had contacted SIAFG to ask if we would be interested in a visit from Board of Trustees member. At that time Jan T, co-chair of the Illinois State AFG Convention, was asked to investigate the idea of that visit taking place at our convention October 12-14. Jan reported contacting Debbie Grace and after much discussion they agreed that the Convention would not work. Debbie asked that Rowena and Tim E be contacted and asked about the possibility for a visit in 2019.

After much discussion between the members, Rowena summarized that Spring would be the best time for the group. It was also thought that the Trustee could come on a Friday evening and share her/his story, and then attend the SIAFG meeting the following day and head a workshop. **This idea would be taken to the members at the SIAFG meeting in the afternoon.**

Coordinator Reports:

Alateen: Becky R reported Midlakes Conference for Alateens is to be held at Illinois Wesleyan July 27, 28 and 29 of this year. She has forwarded all information to AMIAS in the Area. She is pleased that it is local since it is often held in other states and feels it's a good opportunity for Alateens. Mary S reported that all AMIAS have been re-certified with only two choosing to become inactive.

Ways and Means: Kathy H spoke for Theresa B who was in the hospital for surgery. Kathy said she has two boxes of the blue "Let It Begin With Me" bags selling for \$3.00. After discussion, Jan T offered to ask the Convention Committee if they would be interested in selling these at the Convention. Jan also said she could contact Northern to see if they would be interested in selling them as they have helped in the past in this way. Kathy also mentioned she had medallions for Alanon birthdays to sell if anyone wanted to see her at the break.

Forum and Literature: Kathy H said she had inherited two totes full of Al-anon hardback books, pamphlets, CDs, tapes, and miscellaneous and wanted to offer it to the group for donations if possible. A discussion followed that explained the history. Literature Chairs have always received one copy of new books and pamphlets from the WSO. **Rather than keeping these in totes forever, the chair would bring new items to the SIWASC and SIAFG meetings twice and then sell them. This would be more efficient. As for the current books, the solution from the group was to let people browse over the books, take what they wanted, and make donations. Whatever was left over could be raffled in the afternoon drawing.**

Archives: As the Archives Chair, Fern T felt it is important to share various Archives Material with the Area Assembly Members. She shared a 1990's article written by Joseph Kellerman who was a close member of the Al-Anon Family. Besides other articles and pamphlets, he wrote "Alcoholism: A Merry-Go-Round Named Denial". At the March 10 SIAWSC and SIAFG meetings Fern had asked for aid in updating old tapes into newer technology. Jane P from Peoria was her "miracle". Jane P called Fern and is currently working on the updates for the cost of a flash drive. Fern also shared that in organizing all 7 tubs of archival information she had spent \$137.25 at **Kinkos Cavco Printing** and wondered if she could be reimbursed. **It was decided that the Area would vote on reimbursing Fern T \$137.25 for updating archives. The consensus was that Fern has done a great job.**

Webmaster: Lyri M explained that the footer on every page of the website includes the following tabs: Contribution forms, Calendar, and Group Changes. The SIAFG site gets 300-400 visits per week. Most are looking for information on meetings.

News-O-Gram: The deadline for the Fall/Winter 2018 News-O-Gram is September 10, 2018. Please send information to siafnog.org@gmail.com or Jan Tucker, 105 Susan Ct, East Peoria, IL 61611. Personal submissions are limited to 75 words or less.

Convention: Jan T gave an update on the 2018 Illinois State AFG Convention. The website www.ilstateafgconv.org is up and working. It has many details and links. The quilt is currently being constructed. Gift baskets created by each group can be brought to the convention on October 12 and dropped off. The website describes the basket parameters. Please go to the website and offer your ideas on Meeting Topic Suggestions. There will be breakout sessions of Zentangle and River Rock Painting. The Photo Booth will be manned by the Alateens from 11am-1pm on Saturday, October 13. You can register online. If you click on volunteers, you can be of service at the Convention. Jan brought jars labeled "Silver for Service" that could be taken home or to your Group to fill with spare change. These jars can then be brought to the Convention. A Music Circle will be held 15 minutes after the Banquet. This is comprised of any willing member who wants to share his/her expertise in singing or playing an acoustical instrument. Along with that, there will be tables that can be used to play cards or games that members bring to play. There are printable flyers and forms on the website. The next Planning Committee meeting will be a walk through at the hotel on August 22 at 4:30 pm.

District Reports: District 18: JoEllyn reported that her District felt that the March SIAFG meeting did not get the Coordinator or District Reports and felt there should be more discussion so the members understand how we make decisions. She also explained how her District is doing a lot of public outreach at Health Fairs. They have distributed pamphlets and had conversations with people at nine different fairs. She estimated information was distributed to about 300 participants. The Alateen group has about 6 members who attend regularly. The District had a luncheon for Al-Anon's birthdays in May. Paralea, past delegate, provided a "Let's Break the Buck Barrier" encouraging people to donate more than a dollar at basket offerings. The District has already sponsored one member to attend the Illinois State Convention and is planning 2 more. Their Monday Night Serenity Group is planning a service workshop in September.

District 10: Kathy H described their phone service as costing \$500. Their service has a member's recorded information about meetings and a space to leave their phone number if they would like to have a callback. For the most part, they have hangups, but have realized that they have reached many people who have become new members. After talking with other districts about cost, they have decided they are getting a good deal. Even without the callbacks, the information is reaching people and they are gaining new members.

District 20: District 20 has bought new manuals for all the groups in their District. They have also started a Reserve Fund.

District 14: Katie G reported that Sparta now has a meeting on Saturday besides their Tuesday night meeting. They rotate their District meetings to different Group meeting locations to get more participation. They had a Spring Workshop "Taking Care of Ourselves with the Tools of the Program" on April 7.

District 19: Charlene stated that they have combined Monday and Thursday meetings to one bigger room and have a good turnout. It is held on Mondays. She reports lots of growth.

A Discussion was then begun on the idea that SIAFG needs more information from Coordinators and Districts so they understand the history of decisions. There were many opinions expressed and no conclusion, except that Coordinators could include some of the history in their explanations at the SIAFG meetings.

The Next meeting will be held Nov. 3, 2018 at Memorial Medical Center.
District 19 will host.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 with the Al-Anon Declaration.
Respectfully submitted,
Mary Pirtle, Al-Anon Member

MINUTES WILL NOT BE READ AT THE MEETING