

## Minutes of South Carolina Area Assembly

SC State Museum, 301 Gervais ( Corner of Gervais and Huger Streets), Columbia, SC

Saturday, – June 7, 2008 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM Chairman – Susan Lebhar

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10:00 AM to 10:45 AM

Welcome - Serenity Prayer - The Concepts and General Warranties were read by K. Dale.

Approval of Area Assembly Minutes January 19, 2008 were presented for vote by Susan L.. were approved unanimously with motion to accept as submitted by Nan M. and seconded by Maris B.

**Treasurer's Report** given by Mary Ellen R. and approved as submitted **Beginning Balance** is **\$10,201.42** . **Income** for the period was **\$4,934.61** and **expenses of \$5,574.94** leaving an **ending balance of \$9,561.09**

**Chairman:** Susan L. – Susan announced the initiation of attendees submitting names of potential speakers for the afternoon session of the October Assembly and future Assemblies. Also made announcements about the 2009 T- shirt distribution to the committee members who prepaid, the change in Assembly hours to allow time for afternoon committee meetings, and the change in the address for 2009 Convention registrations as posted in the current Reflector to 434 Greenwich Drive, Aiken, SC 29803.

**Alternate Delegate's Report** by Wes B – Discussed the importance of. completing every line on the change form for groups when needed. A copy of the printout for each district will be given to each District Representative to assist their Group Representatives in getting the proper information so he can submit the information to WSO.

**Delegate's Report:** Linda R. Linda presented a power point presentation of the highlights of her first World Service Conference which was warmly received. Linda also provided a display of love gifts received at the conference from other areas. Linda also explained how to enter the SC website by clicking on the home page triangle then entering the password of scarea 50 to get into the members only portion . Love in Service, Linda Ruthven, Delegate – Area 50

Old Business: None

New Business: No Motions

Breakouts sessions followed for one hour as follows: Group Services – Alateen, Group Records, Archives - Wes B. – Chairman; Fellowship Communications – Literature and The Forum – Dawn C. – Chairman; Public Outreach – (CPC, PI, Institutions, Web Page) – Dian R. – Chairman; Membership Outreach – (2008, 2009 Convention Chairmen, Newsletter Editor, and Spanish Liaison) – Linda R.

**Group Services** – Wes talked to those attending Group Services about the changes to the printout regarding groups for their respective districts from the May printout from WSO. We here in Area 50 – South Carolina have control over what is available on the SC website, but we do not have control over the information once submitted from us to WSO. Discussed the importance of. completing every line on the change form for groups. There are 12 Alateen meetings and if you are interested in starting a new meeting see Misty. Al-Anons are invited to participate on Saturday at the Alateen Conference.

**Fellowship Services** – Chris gave the report for Dawn. She has acquired three suitcases for the literature. She will have order blanks and some literature at each Area Assembly. If you want something else just let her know. The newest book has become a best seller even though WSO doesn't believe it is being used.

**Public Outreach** – Dian reported that when you see a Public Service Announcement regarding Al-Anon/Alateen that you call the stations and thank them. She discussed about the finalized business cards would be ready soon. She talked about the ways that Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism is being distributed by districts and where. The deadline to order the Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism for 2009 is July 8, 2008. Dian was able to speak with her full staff at her hospital regarding Al-Anon/Alateen. Encouraged us to look at the WSO website to see all that is available. The two districts winning the public outreach drawings were District 7 for \$50.00; and District 3 for \$35.00

**Membership Services** - Linda reported they worked on their mission statement which is “In order to promote recovery we create, improve and promote relationships and communication between all memberships at all levels of contact and service”. They talked about how to keep members coming back and anonymity.

Literature Drawing for this Area Assembly – a book and a year's subscription to the Forum were given to the Alateen winning both.

Dates to Remember: Area Assembly – October 4, 2008 AWSC – September 6, 2008

Motion to Adjourn Area Assembly. Motion was made by Diane F. and seconded by Wes B.

Close with Lord's Prayer and Al-Anon/Alateen Declaration - “LET IT BEGIN WITH ME” When Anyone Anywhere Reaches Out For Help Let The Hand of Al-Anon and Alateen Always Be There and Let It Begin With Me

Respectfully Submitted, Nancy Bommer – Area Secretary – Area 50 – Panel 48

District Representative and Coordinator Reports – Area Assembly – June 7, 2008

**District 1 Report:** Karen reported that they have a new meeting in Pendleton, lost one meeting, but are growing.

**District 2 Report:** Joyce H. reported they will have their All Day on August 23, 2008 at Chester State Park. They will put information on the state website calendar.

**District 3 Report:** District 3 had their ALL Day, Lois's Picnic, at Camp.Kinard. We had a fun day with ice breaker, games presentation on surfing the South Carolina web page, a fantastic speaker, lots of fellowship and lots of good food including home-made ice cream. We also had an auction which was fun for all. There was 35 in attendance. Way to go. Mark your calendar for next year's all day. Date coming later. Our next district meeting will be July 24. Several in the district have been doing a lot of P.I. work and leaving Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism literature at various locations. Several in the district are planning and excited about going to the International convention. See you'll there. Respectfully Submitted; Love in Service, Verna Smith

**District 4 Report:** Margaret gave the report for Carrie. They will host their first All Day on September 14, 2008 with activities starting at 3:00 at Virginia Wingard United Methodist Church. Their Holiday Dinner will be held December 13, 2008 at Ashland United Methodist Church. Their next district meeting will be held the second Sunday in July. Members visit Morris Village once a month talking and educating patients about Al-Anon Family Groups.

**District 5:** Marianne invited everyone to come to Florence where they have Al-Anon meetings every day except Friday and Sunday. Manning is working on getting an Al-Anon meeting.

**District 6:** Jan H. - The following activities have resulted from these interests.

1) While each group is provided a copy of the new Service manual from WSO for shared membership use, the Dist voted on purchasing and providing a personal copy of the New Service Manual to all new GR's as a way of introducing and welcoming officers to their new level of service. The distribution of those copies have been accomplished

2) Two workshops on Attraction vs Promotion have been held by district officers. In January, Alt DR John C presented & in March, secretary, Julie H, presented. A short-range project was introduced in March – for all GR's to go back to their home groups and ask members to take a meeting list to their neighborhood grocery store and report back. A long-range project is now in the information gathering stage with plans to distribute Alateen literature to Middle & High School Guidance Counselors, Nurses & Psychologists. GR's with Alateen groups – or GR's interested in starting a group, have been asked to go back to their home groups to determine contacts and how many packets would be needed to distribute in their communities - & to report back at our July meeting. Literature orders will be made in time for preparing the packets for distribution at the Sept meeting. Among the possible items discussed for inclusion were the letter to professionals, Al-Anon faces Alcoholism 200X and an Alateen sponsor contact.

3) DR visits to area meetings were discussed as another way to touch base with groups, invite participation at district and help identify group needs. Among the groups visited: ABC, AFG a Service Information Group in Bluffton – a small but active membership supporting Al-Anon & Alateen groups throughout Beaufort County - which includes Beaufort, Bluffton & Hilton Head . Meeting bi-monthly at the Atlanta Bread Co (Yum!) They are provide meeting lists, purchase & distribute literature, attend health fairs and maintain the area telephone hotline. They are researching ways to lower expenses – especially telephone expense, possibly with a cell phone.

Ultimate Alateen AFG meets in Bluffton with sponsors Bob C and Brandon W. They just celebrated their 4<sup>th</sup> year anniversary – with pizza. A vital & growing group of 10-16 meet Tuesday evenings at the Bluffton United Methodist Church; They could use more Alateen support with added sponsors.

Hilton Head AFG with GR Mary Kay T, meets on Thursday night at St. Lukes Episcopal – located at the south end of the island (close to the beach), is a small group with sporadic regular attendees but a steady stream of visitors passing through while on vacation. Current GR is unable to attend district meetings and could use additional officers to share this responsibility.

4) A Drawing for literature at district meetings has been added.

Announcements: Plans for an Alateen Sponsorship Training for Dist 6 is in the works coordinated by Dist 6 Alateen Coordinator, Sally M. A meeting place has been acquired at the Al-Anon meeting room in Alano Hall in Port Royal/Beaufort, Wed, June 4, 6:30-8pm

Our State Alateen Rep Kasey H (Home group Easy Does It Alateen in Beaufort) spoke at the SC / AA convention in Greenville this past April in addition to her debut speaking at the SC Al-Anon Alateen Convention at Myrtle Beach! She is also currently making plans for the upcoming Alateen Camp Aug 1-3 “Change your Fate in 2008” under the guidance of area Alateen Coordinator. All Alateens and sponsors are encouraged to pass along ideas & contributions for workshops and special events to Kasey as soon as possible.

Summerville AFG celebrates 37<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Wed, June 18, 8pm Step Up Club at 171 Old Parsonage Road in Summerville, At the district’s May meeting, attendees were fortunate to receive Delegate Linda R’s sharing on her first experience at WSO Conference in April – and selecting the love gifts she brought back! Respectfully Submitted by Jan H. - District 6 DR

**District 7 Report** : Bee L. District 7 now has 16 groups registered with WSO; however, two of these groups are just barely active, and will most likely close soon officially. One of these is the Spanish speaking group which three of us have tried valiantly to offer to our community. Sadly, in an area of great need, this program is apparently not accepted. District 7 is up to its elbows in Service work under the direction of Pam C with Public Information ads, Forum subscriptions to Helping Communities, Hospitals, etc., keeping us all very busy. She is a member of the Friday Night Hope AFG in Mt. Pleasant. Pam is a dedicated and effective worker. She has developed a “Library Conference Approved Literature Program” in which members of groups are contributing books or money and we are spreading the Al-Anon program through information sharing. We now have books in almost every library in the tri-county area. Thank you Pam! In addition, we are now a newly established Area Information Service (AIS) which supports our need to have our Al-Anon phone number listed with WSO in addition to the nearly correct meeting list. We are working to get the meeting list accurate, and are finding that this is an on-going job, as it seems to change like the weather! Progress, not perfection! We will not be daunted - - the recording is in process of being perfected, also. It is currently in an infancy stage - once again - but this is truly a learning experience for many of us. It has enabled us to reach across to many other groups outside our own district, even our own area, to seek guidance, and other examples. We have also begun plans for the district All Day, scheduled for October 18th, covered dish, 2 speakers so far are lined up, location at the First Christian Church, Orange Grove Road, Charleston. Flyers forthcoming. That's the important stuff for us for the time being. Happy summer, ya'll! Bee Lindfors, District #7 DR 843-889-3697 Home 843-709-2804 Cell

**District 8 Report:** Melanie – All groups are growing and doing well. At our district meeting, we are having great participation and we’re having fun. Mainly at me getting tongue tied and/or confused. We have two (2) GR’s who have stepped forward to be Alateen sponsors and they are here today – Kathy and Pat. We have ordered 400 Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism to distribute and we have had a Public Outreach Fundraiser. I’m proud to say we earned \$556.00. I am also talking with two (2) companies about billboards, but nothing has come together

on that yet, so will get back with you on it. We have our all day planned for October 18<sup>th</sup> and invited everyone. Flyers are available today.

**District 9 Report**: Vicki – District 9 will have their All Day on Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup> at Asbury Hills. Flyers are available to take to your groups today.

**District 10 Report**: Marie for MaryAnn – They are working on getting literature to youth treatment centers

**Reflector Editor Report** - Jan R. Well, the first issue with me as editor has been printed and mailed. After some initial trials, it really wasn't that bad getting it formatted and in newsletter form. I've learned a lot putting it together and look forward to the next issue in September.

I have, however, several concerns regarding printing and mailing costs. We currently have approximately 35 subscribers to the Reflector ( $\$3 \times 35 = \$105$ /four issues a year). It cost over \$2 per copy to print and mail the Reflector. Not only are we operating at a loss, but we are basically providing 3 issues a year for nothing.

This issue I had 260 copies printed (\$370 plus tax) and mailed 255 copies at \$0.59 postage each. (\$150.45) I also emailed Publisher versions to most people that I had email address for. I have since learned how to save a copy in PDF format and can email anyone a copy that way.

I checked with the Post Office about getting a non-profit mailing permit number. It requires a \$180 application fee and another \$180 in additional fees. We also have to fill out the application and submit copies of the Reflector to show that we are a non-profit organization. Since several other areas have non-profit permits for their newsletters, I would think it would be easy to get Okayed for it. With a non-profit permit number, mailing the newsletters would cost about \$0.16 apiece for 200+ newsletters. Another possibility would be doing a bulk mail. I'm not sure of the exact postage since the last increase, but it would be less than the current \$0.59 we pay. I've had some experience in doing bulk mail, so would just need refreshing on the process and the necessary supplies.

As a result, I have several recommendations for cutting costs:

- 1) Email copies of the Reflector to everyone who has email access and not snail mail them. They can then print as many copies as they want.
- 2) Only have subscriptions for those people who don't have computer access or who are willing to pay an increased cost for The Reflector. (Some areas charge anywhere from \$6 to \$12 per year)
- 3) Have subscription renewals during January only to be able to keep up with dates, etc.
- 4) No longer supply free/complimentary copies to any group, area trusted servant, etc. The only complimentary copies would go to WSO and other area newsletter editors, literature distribution centers, etc.
- 5) Cut down on the number of issues the Reflector goes out each year.

While these are only suggestions, we need to take a hard look at the costs and the benefits. Any or all of my recommendations would help in the overall cost of putting out each issue.

When you add the costs of my preparing the newsletter (paper, ink, labels, tabs, cd's) it makes the cost per copy go up. As the cost of everything else continues to rise, I am concerned that these costs will only go up as well.

I hope everyone enjoyed my first issue. Please let me know what you liked and didn't like, what I might have left out or missed, or anyone that should have gotten an issue and didn't. I will endeavor to improve as I go along.  
Yours in service, Jan Rogerson, Editor - The Reflector

**Website Coordinator** – Diane F. The web site was in great shape when my service started this past January. The thanks for that past great service goes to Jan H. For the “Primary Purpose” side of our web site I have had little to do beside making corrections as group changes occur, adding events as they become known and placing The Reflector on the web site. The “Primary Purpose” or public side of our web site takes up less space than we pay for. So since January I've had the pleasure of developing our “Members Only” site. You can access the “Members Only” part of the web site by 1) going to the public side of the web site [www.al-anon-sc.org](http://www.al-anon-sc.org) and clicking on the upper, left Al-Anon logo (circle/triangle). When prompted the password is scarea50 or SCAREA50. Page selections include information for Public Outreach, Group Services, Archives, Lists of Trusted Servants, Convention news, etc..... The development of the “Members Only” side of the web site occurs when other members (not me) have documents/information/presentations/ideas for sharing. I take their info and upload to the web. Here come opportunities for you to contribute.

You are 1) welcome to get involved in the technical side of the web maintenance and you are 2) encouraged to contribute documents/information/presentations/ideas for enhancing the web communication tool. In a very special way, [Diane Anonymous@sc.rr.com](mailto:Diane.Anonymous@sc.rr.com)

### **2008 Convention Final Report to Convention 2009 Dale C.**

Our closing meeting brought about many interesting opinions. Below are listed some general things we thought important to mention.

1. There needs to be a note on the registration form letting Alateen know their meetings don't begin until Friday evening.
2. Encourage folks to keep seated during speaker meeting.
3. It would be good to have one room available for open meetings anytime.
4. It would be good to have a room in Live Oaks to meet and talk. The lobby area was often really crowded.
5. The Hospitality Room was a sore point for a lot of people. Perhaps an announcement could be made at beginning of convention as to why it is in another building. It does give a place for people in other building to meet. It is nice to get outside and stretch legs to walk over to it. It is a problem for those who don't walk well.
6. If Springmaid makes a golf cart available for non-walkers, announce procedure for getting it.
7. More raffles would be better for those with limited funds. Gift cards should be raffle items.
8. 113 people did not pre-register. Perhaps offer incentive for pre-register. Should plan to make at least 275 -300 registration packets in all.
9. Pre-ordering T-shirts was great. We sold 83 in all.
10. Alateens had too much freedom. More should be planned for them and they should be accompanied by an adult at all times. Alateen rep should be informed of arrival and departure.
11. Book covers were requested frequently. This would be a good idea for the country store.
12. Sunday morning workshop planned for 30. 50 were in attendance.
13. Rooms for workshops are large. Chairs should be arranged for closeness in order to hear better and build rapport among group.
14. Goody bags for speakers should include bottled water. John Holmes would like to receive a schedule of activities as soon as it is confirmed. His info: John Holmes 118 Holmes Dr. Batesburg, SC 29006
15. Put Registration tables somewhere besides right across from the doors to the speaker room.

16. Be sure hostess know and keep up with ending times.
17. Confirm – do AA members pay for registration if they are only there to help with the AA meeting?
18. Water station is free – please make available in speaker room lobby. Coffee was greatly appreciated. Since this is not a money-making function, please consider providing it at least in the mornings.
19. Alateens need adult accompaniment anytime anywhere they go.
20. Having the first floor room for workshops was great.
21. Perhaps there should be more planned for alateen.
22. Close registration table during speakers and workshops.

Individual chair persons were asked what they wished they had known before starting their work. The following comments were made:

1. Had I known from the outset that everyone would be so supportive, taking me under their wing and helping me, I wouldn't have been so nervous about joining the planning committee.
2. I wish I had known the hospitality building would be in a separate building from the meetings. I don't know the answer to this, but I hope the next committee can get more people over there, especially for breakfast. We had a lot of stuff left over and I think it's because of the location.
3. It was harder to find people to do workshops being the furthest distance from the convention. Not sure who could get off work, pay for room, etc.
4. Getting volunteers to help in the fundraising room and hospitality room would be so difficult.
5. The State AA chairman should be asked to chair the AA meeting at the convention. No reimbursement is given to him. If he doesn't come then can ask anyone.

Individual chair persons were also asked what they learned that might help the next committee. These are the comments that were made:

1. Always keep 2 people at the ticket table. Start off with beginning bids for baskets to up the amount. On Saturday night, have in advance 2 people in place to count quilt tickets shortly after raffle is over. Caution participants to write legibly.
2. Let go and let God.
3. This was an extremely rewarding and growing experience!
4. 30 minutes between workshop and speaker meeting is better than 15 minutes.
5. Have signs up as to where to go in advance of anyone arriving.
6. Let those who will be coming for the first time know where to register at Springmaid vs. where to register for the convention.
7. Have coffee and water out on the table outside the speaker room. It is expensive but this is not a money making venture so we can splurge a little.
8. Get an early start lining up volunteers for the hospitality room.

Supplies bought and used in the hospitality room:

Item	Bought	Used
Decaf Coffee 2lb 7oz can	3	1
Regular Coffee 3lb 4oz can	4	1
Sweet and Low 1500 packet box	1	1/3
Sugar 22oz container	8	2
Creamer 1000 packet box	1	¼
Stirrers 500 box	2	1
12 Oz Styrofoam Cups	1000	250
7" Styrofoam Plates	1000	not sure
Drinks 12 packs	25	13
Paper Towels rolls	3	1 ½
Plastic Serving Dishes	5	5

A lot of things were not used, probably due to location of room and inclement weather.

As chairman, I have to say that having the topnotch committee I had make things a lot easier than I ever expected. I have only two areas of concern myself:

1. Not being able to speak directly with the hotel myself made some thing a bit confusing. I sometimes felt the communication got mixed up in the passing – not due to anyone's fault, just would have like to heard some things for myself,
2. The coffee and water station were so very much appreciated once we had them set up. I'm not really sure why we didn't have a water station to start out with since it was free. Also, even paying \$45 for a 50 cup urn of coffee didn't seem so bad when it was so appreciated. I truly hope you will consider having it at least each morning. Considering the amount we cleared (about \$1500 above seed money) I think it was money well spent.

Hope this helps and we wish you luck!

### **2009 Convention Coordinator** – Jeri W.

The Committee has not met since February, but is holding another planning meeting today at Assembly. We will be going over subcommittee reports as well as the suggestions given to us by the 2008 Convention Committee.

At the end of today, someone will be the lucky winner of the "name the carpenter ant" contest. In case you do not know what I am talking about, check out those cool t-shirts on display today. So - let's get busy and check the South Carolina website for a registration form if you have not picked up one from your group and send it in to Chris H. I hope that our registration form will be on the WSO website in the near future.

Our beautiful quilt is done and we have many busy carpenter ants building our framework 12 x 12 x 12 by making items for the country store. If you would like to read the story behind the quilt, check out our South Carolina website. Raffle tickets are available at today's Assembly for purchase.

Our committee is doing an excellent job and all 4 districts are participating. We hope that you are looking forward to February 19th to share in the fun, fellowship, and an opportunity for growth in Al-Anon & Alateen.

Submitted by Jeri Wesner

**Alateen Coordinator:** Misty S. - Our secretary has set time aside for convention planning committee meetings in the afternoon. I hope you guys will attend this Assembly so we can plan an awesome conference! Please pass this information along to the members of your Alateen group. I hope you guys will be there and encourage your group to come with you so we can plan a GREAT conference! It is my hope the teenagers of SC Alateen be involved in every aspect of conference. Participation is the key to harmony! The theme is "Change Your Fate in '08" and will be set around a Luau! It'll be great!

We are putting together a public information piece for Alateen for the group services committee. Two things:

If anyone in your group has something they would like to share - any type media - please email me their story, statement, picture or WHATEVER or HOWEVER they want to express their Recovery (as long as it's Alateen and recovery based) - It can be reading the opening, Serenity Prayer, a daily reading, picture (no recognizable faces), etc.



Now, if you have anything you want to share about sponsorship, AMIAS, what Alateen has done for you/your recovery the same applies. Email me your stuff!

Thanks Ya'll, and as always, if you have any questions please email me or give me a call.  
Love in Service! Misty 803.432.6754 home, 803.427.2394 cell