

## Minutes of South Carolina Area Assembly

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

Saturday, – June 5, 2010 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM Chairman – Susan Lebhar

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10:00 AM to 10:45 AM

Welcome – Opened with the Serenity Prayer - The Concepts and General Warranties were read by Bee L. (District 7)

Approval of Area Assembly Minutes October 3, 2009 were presented for vote by Susan L. were approved unanimously with one change under workshop changed GR to DR portion of the workshop A motion to accept the minutes was made by John C. and seconded by Cheryl B.

Treasurer's Report -. Mary Ellen R. gave the treasurer's report. Beginning Balance is **\$9,977.95**. Income for the period was **\$5,573.03** and total expenses were **\$5,779.33** and ending balance of **\$9,771.65**. Motion to approve treasurer's report was made by Melanie M. and seconded by Bonnie C.

**Chairman:** Susan L. – Welcomed all newcomers to their first Area Assembly. She also talked about the date change that was necessary for this Area Assembly and changes to the SC Area website that are taking place. Make sure to check the Calendar of Events and suggesting the districts get their information to the webmaster.

**Alternate Delegate's Report** by Wes B – The Group Records printout from the World Service Office has not arrived. Once received I will print it and give a copy to each of the District Representatives for their review as soon as it arrives. We are gathering information from other areas regarding a form that can be completed and emailed directly to the World Service office regarding group changes. Hopefully, this new form will be approved by the World Service office for South Carolina to use prior to the installation of the new slate of officers for South Carolina.

Group elections will be held in August followed by District elections in September so please submit your change forms as quickly as possible following your elections. By sending these changes to me, it will allow time for me to prepare a database for the Panel 51 Alternate Delegate and send these changes to WSO. I personally feel that South Carolina is number one, but I need to remember that one-third of the groups in the US and Canada will be changing officers. I can handle this load here; however, the World Service Office sees this massive number of changes almost all at once. The enormous amount of group changes slows their process which affects the mailing and group forms just to name a few. I will be taking part in a WSO podcast on June 8<sup>th</sup> with the topic of Tradition 7.Wes

**Delegate's Report – Linda R. -** She gave her final Delegate's report to the assembly. Gave us information regarding the new Service Manual which will be available sometime in the Fall. It will contain a section relating just to Alateen, financial matters, how WSO reviews proposed names for new groups they submit, outside literature, limitations on PSA's. Contributions received from groups in SC average \$109.00/per group with 71.5% of the groups from SC contributing. The average expense to a group is \$240.50 yearly. The Quarterly Appeal Letter from WSO showed through a pie chart how your \$5.00 is spent. Encouraging members to reach out of their comfort zone to gain members by going to a Korean or Spanish Church, and prior to going have an understanding of their cultures and needs.

Discussed the purposes of TEAM, holding Alateen meetings using a chat room and how that would work. Two big questions discussed at this year's conference included: 1) How do we reach out in our communities; 2) Can look at a survey done to see if the skills we are looking for could be utilized from someone who completed this survey. The WSO PSA's are within the 10% of the Nielson Ratings. Following the 2011 WSC, Al-Anon's will be celebrating the 60<sup>th</sup> birthday of Al-Anon with an open house at WSO and a banquet. Revisions were made to the pamphlet P-33 and the Statement of Purpose. Soon a workbook will be available for the Legacies Blog. The Forum as increased it subscription numbers. The 3-year trial plan for electing a Regional Trustee was adopted, and the new Regional Trustee for the Southeast is Paula Burlison.

The workshops at WSC relating to the theme of Embrace The Group Conscience looked at the framing, reflections and diversity. Task Forces worked on developing a conflict resolution for areas and utilizing technology at area meetings for non-technical persons. Thought Forces had a brainstorming session to see what can be done when certain things are not implemented in areas; integrating Alateen into Al-Anon where no Alateen meetings exist; strengthen the links – AIS's, Districts and Areas; strengthen relationships of delegates and the AWSC; looking at the current World Service Conference structure.

**Old Business:** Susan is still gathering information for the logistics for the 2012 Al-Anon/Alateen Convention. Will have the results of the Area Inventory posted on the Area Website soon. The inventory was taken by 60 attendees at the January 2010 Area Assembly. Susan addressed three questions that the Area World Service Committee will address and discuss at a later date. Susan stated it would be a good idea to do an Area Inventory once a panel.

Prior to motion information was discussed a possible TEAM (Together Empowering Al-Anon Members) with background information. If a TEAM event were to be held, it would be replacing RSS (Regional Service Seminars) which were previously done entirely by WSO with no input from areas. WSO would be sending three members with collaboration beginning once a vote stating that SC Area 50 is interested in holding a TEAM event. Discussion continued regarding when it could be held as well as costs entailed. Those attending were given information about Regional Service Seminars (RSS) and about having a TEAM event so that more could attend and participate in a service event without having to travel a long distance.

**Motion 1:** To proceed with the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee for holding a TEAM event in Area 50 South Carolina to inform and involve people involved with or who want to become involved with service.

**Rationale:** A TEAM event to replace Regional Service Seminars hosted by WSO. The TEAM event could acquaint and involve members interested in service. Following discussion with questions and answers, the motion was passed with a simple majority of 30 yes and 9 no.

**Group Services – Wes B.** – Changes are on the way for the summer relating to Alateen. The Alateen Coordinator, due to changes in her life, is unable to fulfill the term. Linda R., our Area Delegate, was contacted with concerns about Alateen following the SC Al-Anon/Alateen Convention. The Area World Service Committee made the decision that Alateen being part of Group Services, that I should be the one to head up a committee to assure that Alateen functions through the remainder of this panel. Following elections in October, the Area Chairman and Area Delegate will be appointing a new Alateen Coordinator at that time. Phone calls and emails were exchanged to select this committee that would oversee the Alateen Conference. The following individuals were selected and have agreed to serve as follows: Dave H. updated all of the forms needed for registration to comply with the Alateen Requirements; Jan H. along with

the Alateen Representative, Gene, are designing the program and workshops; Susan O. will undertake registration for those attending; Judy R. will remain as Alateen Process Person and Treasurer. With heartfelt thanks to those who stepped up without question to oversee one of the oldest Alateen Conferences in the country.

New section in the Al-Anon/Alateen Service manual will be devoted to Alateen replacing the way Alateen appeared throughout the service manual. A new section of the SC website related to Alateen has been updated for your use. Working with AA on their guidelines regarding Alateens at their conventions.

During breakout today, they will be finalizing the Alateen Camp

**Fellowship Services** – Dawn C. – Will be working on pamphlets and literature.

**Membership Services** - Linda R. - Will be discussing the Convention Guideline four appendices which have not been discussed either at Area Assemblies or through a consensus vote between meetings at Area Assemblies. These additional items which have not been discussed include Site Selection; a Timeline for doing a convention, Anonymity Statement, Permission form from speakers, a proposed appendix regarding Tapers

**Public Outreach** – Dian R. – Will be discussing what projects they have planned for the summer.

Breakouts sessions were not held today, only reports due to time constraints.

Dates to Remember: AWSC – August 28, 2010                      Area Assembly – October 2, 2010

Motion to Adjourn Area Assembly. Motion was made by and seconded by. to close meeting.

Literature Drawing was for the book of her choice – District 4 Member

1<sup>st</sup> time Attendee Winner of Forum Subscription -

Public Outreach Drawing Winners: \$50.00 – District 5; and \$35.00 – District 3

Forum Writing Contest Winners: District 3 and District 5 - Runnerup

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 1:** No Report

**DISTRICT 2:** No Report

**DISTRICT 3 - Verna S.** – We had our All Day on May 15<sup>th</sup> hosted by the No Where But Up AFG at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 961 Trail Ridge Road, Aiken, SC. We had 30 members in attendance with people from Columbia and North Augusta. A fun time was had by all. C.A.N.A.D.A. Alateen made a game for us to play. No Where But Up also made a game for us.

Our theme was Footwork and one of our members gave a lesson on line dancing and had almost everyone's feet moving. Tom C. was our speaker. We had a raffle and lots and lots of good food. Our Monday 12:30 AFG New Journey has closed and the Serenity Works AFG in Edgefield has moved to the United Methodist Church and changed its meeting time to Tuesdays from 6 to 7. This move seemed to have improved its attendance. Awesome Aiken AFG is inviting everyone to attend their 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration on July 10, 2010 at the First Christian Church Fellowship Hall at 900 Kerr Drive in Aiken. They are having a covered dish meal, speaker, and promised surprises. The time is from 4:00 to 8:00 PM. Searching Out Serenity AFG has posted a message for those affected by someone's drinking on a digital sign in Wagener. We are now encouraging members to consider standing for service positions in their groups and the district. We are also looking forward to another fun day at our Attitude of Gratitude all day with location, date and time coming in next report or on the website as soon as we have information. Respectfully submitted – Verna S.

**DISTRICT 4** – No Report

**DISTRICT 5** – No Report

**DISTRICT 6:** Jan Horan, DR - District 6 meetings provide an opportunity for GR's to share their news as well as to learn from each other. Recent discussions have provided opportunities to learn about successes and struggles. While some GR's share concern about low attendance or lack of help with service work, others offer suggestions & report what has worked to help address concerns in their home group. Also, at each district meeting, GR's provide a written update on their group that is kept in a District binder, a log of sorts that serves as a quick reference for any member to review.

Several groups been doing the work to build unity and support by doing a group inventory, a group conscience and/or creating group projects to reach out in their communities. Many groups are participating the District 6 outreach project of identifying an organization in their community to provide one- year subscriptions of *The Forum*. The project goal is to encourage Al-Anon and Alateen groups to build relationship with members in community organizations to share information— depending on the organization – but among the options discussed were providing additional literature, website business cards, a meeting list and /or copy of Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism.

On Lois's *Leave Hope* in early March, several District group teams – took to the street to participate in distributing literature around their communities. Our Public Outreach Coordinator, Dave H reported on all our teams to Area & we are hoping to be a strong contender in the Area outreach competition.

Other news includes group efforts to offer additional meetings. Beaufort's Monday Brown Bag AFG, typically a large group 20+ regular attendees, opened a 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting in a different location to focus more on the steps, traditions and concepts. Summerville's Sunday Serenity has added a second meeting using *The Forum* in their closer study of the steps, traditions and concepts. Harmony AFG has added a Beginners meeting ½ hour prior to their regular meeting

Hilton Head Friday Luncheon AFG has outgrown their meeting space. They no longer set their chairs around the table – but have widened their circle to pushing the chairs around the perimeter of the room. On my last visit, they were setting chairs wherever there was enough space. They have a group conscience scheduled soon to discuss options for a larger room.

Three groups recently invited speakers to their meetings – Summerville AFG and Together We Can Make It Alateen & Principles Above Personalities AFG.

District 6 welcomes all to their upcoming ALL DAY on July 10. Chaired by Becky B & John C from Summerville, the event will be held at the [AA Clubhouse, 300 Sanders St., Walterboro, SC 29488](#) with promises of Speakers, workshops, an outstanding potluck. More will be forthcoming on the website.

ALATEEN ...District 6 has (11) Al-Anon members that have re-certified to serve another year as Alateen Sponsors: Melissa G from Walterboro, Dave H, Becky B, Mary V, Susan L, Linda R from Summerville; Bob C, Brandon W, Jan H, MaryLynn B & Sally M, from Beaufort, Bluffton & Hilton Head. AND we have four NEW Alateen Sponsors in the process of being certified: Mike S from Summerville, Carol D from Hilton Head, Angela N and Dell P from Walterboro.

2010 Alateen Convention: Many teens and sponsors are currently working together with Gene W, State Representative to plan the upcoming 2010 Alateen convention July 16-18 at Camp Kinard. Gene and I have started an e-mail correspondence to Area Alateens, Sponsors and Area Officers throughout the state to plan the agenda with workshops, speakers and special activities. A questionnaire was included with the e-mail asking for responses by June 1. This deadline was set in order to provide an agenda draft for discussion at June 5 Area Assembly. Responses have been coming in around the state with suggestions and exciting offers to participate. Building the mailing list is an ongoing assignment. We welcome input from all members planning to attend, so if you have NOT received our e-mail & would like to be included, please e-mail Jan or Gene via - [janoran@yahoo.com](mailto:janoran@yahoo.com).

Our district meeting attendees on May 13 were the first in the state to hear Delegate Linda R's report from her recent attendance at the annual WSO convention.

PRAYERS are requested for Summerville's senior member Bobbie G who entered the hospital prior to May's district meeting, also for Beaufort's Thursday Night Serenity GR, Kathy J, who is currently on leave of absence caring for her sister. THANK YOUs are extended from Linda L, GR of Walterboro AFG, for all the support and good thoughts she received regarding her husband's rush to the emergency room. On day 36, he was successfully released out of emergency care onward to physical therapy for rehabilitation at Charleston's MUSC Roper.

**DISTRICT 7:** No Report

**DISTRICT 8:** No Report

**DISTRICT 9:** No Report

**DISTRICT 10:** No Report

**Newsletter Editor (The Reflector) – Jan R.** I want to first thank everyone who has given me support and encouragement as I have prepared The Reflector during this panel. Most of you know I started my term as Editor during some pretty rough times and all of you have been wonderful as I worked through all that and stuttered my way through as Editor. I am extremely grateful that we were able to change things to make the Reflector an email issue primarily. Not only has it made my job easier and saved the Area some money, but it has also been extremely successful. I strongly encourage anyone with a minimum of computer experience to consider volunteering for the job as Editor for the next panel. Next deadline for Reflector Reports are due September 1, 2010.

**2010 Convention Report – Linda Q.** – We are pleased to report the convention February 18th-21st was attended by 290 Al-Anon, Alateen and AA participants. The Convention Planning Committee

wants to thank all of you who attended and all that contributed their talents, wisdom, money and time in so many ways. We believe everyone went away having gained something of value. The purpose of this report is to share information that will provide feedback for future convention planning. There were 57 convention surveys returned which represents 21% of attendees. Planning Committee Chairmen also completed a self-evaluation of their committee. This information will be shared with the 2011 Convention Planning Committee in detail. A summary of the convention survey is as follows:

What was liked most

1. Speakers/many positive comments;
2. Hospitality room/good food/comfortable/well managed;
3. Workshops/good topics/scheduled with time between;
4. Location/beach;
5. Fellowship/relaxed and pleasant attitude/unity of; host committee;
6. Relaxed atmosphere and schedule;
7. Return of baskets for raffle;
8. Entertainment was great fun with a message;

What was felt needed to be changed

1. Provide more workshops/ larger workshop meeting space/ limit attendees appropriate to space/arrange seating in circle to face each other;
2. Location/have all events in one building;
3. Provide coffee in speaker room and workshops;
4. Need more signage;
5. Encourage spouses to attend for the weekend;
6. More entertainment/fellowship activities/more interactive Workshops;
7. More Alateen supervision/Alateens to have their own meeting room/ Content of Alateen speaker's sharing to be reviewed with Alateen sponsor prior presentation/ have an Alateen representative at the registration table/ have host district Alateen coordinators liaison with the Area Alateen Coordinator to coordinate Alateen activities.

How to make these changes

1. Encourage Alateen contribution on all levels;
2. More volunteers or groups involved;
3. Check out other locations both at the beach and around SC;
4. Brighter colors and more locations for signage;
5. More coordination with Alateen sponsors
6. Convention Committee needs to develop and try new ideas

Problems with facility

1. Not all elevators working; 2. Construction on sidewalks big inconvenience; 3. Everything all spread out; 4. Workshop rooms felt claustrophobic

What would like to see at future conventions

1. More specific workshop titles/consider “newcomer” workshops; 2. Keep hospitality room open at all times; 3. Have someone at registration desk to assist people; coming in with baskets and finding way to other event areas; 4. More time for fellowship; 5. Go back to rotating location to difference areas of state; 6. Consider putting home group on name tags/better proof reading of name tags and badges; 7. More interactive workshops; 8. A serenity meeting/place and time for sharing meetings; 9. Recycling bins for bottles and cans

Our Al-Anon traditions and concepts provided much guidance in the planning process. We had a wonderful, creative and energetic planning committee that together with our Higher Power made the convention happen. The generosity of all convention participants allowed us to meet all expenses with a little to spare. We look forward to the 2011 convention and wish Joyce H. and the 2011 Convention Planning Committee the best. Remember to have fun!

**2011 Convention – FOCUS ON ‘U’ - Love in Service, Joyce Hord, 2011 Convention Chairman**

We have now established our bank account and are off and running. Our theme is “Focus on U”. Our Logo has been decided upon and will be included. We held a Convention Planning Meeting at Springmaid during 2010 Convention. Each District will be holding Planning Meetings during District Meeting and we will conduct a ‘Rap-Up ‘ at Area Assembly in June and also October. We held pre-registration at 2010 Convention and registered several members. Our Speakers have been chosen with the exception of Alateens . Our Tee Shirts are being decided upon and also fundraising. Karen has our quilt in the works and Barbara Anne is working on her Workshops.

Registration forms were given to each DR for the Al-Anon/Alateen Convention to be held February 17-20, 2011. We are looking forward to February 2011 and hope that all will attend and enjoy this time of Fellowship, Laughter, Sharing and coming together in this program of Al-Anon.