**AREA ASSEMBLY**

**June 26, 2021**

**VIA ZOOM**

**Opening**

Dave B, Area Chair, opened the meeting at 10:08 AM. Sue J led the Serenity Prayer and Bob C read the 12 Concepts of Service. The meeting had 57 total participants.

**Chairman’s Statement – Dave B**

Dave thanked everyone for participating in the virtual Assembly. He asked those giving reports to limit time to two minutes and to send their written reports to Janet L, Secretary, and Mike M, Reflector Editor.

**Board of Trustees Nomination**

Dave announced an addition to the Agenda. Linda R submitted her application to serve a full 3-year term as Southeastern Regional Trustee. She is currently filling the remaining year of the former Regional Trustee’s unexpired term. If nominated by the Area Assembly, her application will be submitted to WSO for consideration along with the nominees from other Areas in the Southeast Region. Dave B asked Linda R to leave the meeting and then invited comments. Several people spoke in support of Linda’s nomination. Dave then called for a vote on approval. There were 24 attendees eligible to vote (GR, Alt GR, or other person designated by Group). The vote was Yes – 24; No – 0, Abstain – 0. Linda R rejoined the meeting.

**Delegate’s Report – Bob C**

In lieu of an oral report, Bob directed the assembly to our South Carolina web page Delegates Corner for bullet points of the business that was accomplished at the World Service Conference. He also recommended a download of the World Service conference summary, available for free at Al-Anon.org soon.

There were several spiritual presentations at the conference. Two of particular note were the Stepping-Stones virtual tour, and a tour of the World Service Office and an introduction to the staff. He recommended the Backpage of the quarterly appeal letter for all the services that they provide the fellowship.

**Alternate Delegate/Group Records Coordinator – Nan M**

As time passes our number of groups are consistently lowering in number. This loss appears to have two primary origins, one being closings as related to COVID 19 and I also believe we are with the help of many DRs and electronic record keeping our records are more accurate. In a three month period since March of 2021, six more groups in our state have become inactive. Hopefully when we return to face to face or Hybrid meetings and we begin a strong Public Outreach endeavor we can get back on track and grow.

Present numbers are: 113 Active Groups, 41 Inactive Groups and 1 No Mail Status Group.

**Approval of Minutes – Janet L**

The Minutes for March 27, 2021 Area Assembly are posted on Area web site and were e-mailed to Groups. No changes or corrections were offered.

**Vote to Approve:**  Voting was expedited by counting only those abstaining (1) and those opposed (0). Dave B declared the minutes approved.

**Treasurer’s Report – Linda F**

The Treasurer Reports that Janet distributed to everyone with the AWSC minutes are for the period 1/1/21 through 4/30/21 and were unanimously approved at the AWSC meeting on 5/22/21. In summary:

Al-Anon beginning balance 1/1/21: $15,601.76

Total income 1/1/21-4/30/21: $8,381.36

Total expenses 1/1/21 – 4/30/21: $5036.39

Ending balance Al-Anon 4/30/21: **$18,946.73**

Alateen beginning balance 1/1/21: $ 4,914.16

Total income 1/1/21 – 4/30/21: $ 688.66

Ending balance Alateen 4/30/21: **$5,602.82**

Ending balance Al-Anon + Alateen: **$24,549.55**

The current checkbook balance 6/26/21 is $27,345.55

Thanks to all Groups who contributed! We did great considering many groups were meeting remotely for most of this time.

Thanks to the 2021 Convention team who returned the seed money and contributed $2557.41 in profit to Al-Anon and $650.96 to Alateen.

I am happy to report that 99% of group contributions are being sent to me and not our previous Treasurer.

**Vote to Approve:** Voting was expedited by counting only those abstaining (0) and those opposed (0). Dave B declared the Treasurer’s Report approved.

**Thought Force Formation:** Dave B announced the AWSC approved formation of three Thought Forces at its meeting on May 22.

**Thought Force on Technology Coordination – Bob C, Chair**

Bob outlined issues to be explored:

* Inclusion of permanent electronic groups in the Area structure
* Conduct of Area Assemblies with both in-person and virtual participation
* Maintenance of Area web site for expanded use
* Other technology issues proposed by members

Bob asked for volunteers and several people signed up, in addition to those who signed up at AWSC recently. Members are: Bob C (Chair), Buzzy, Dave B, Kim C, Kathy G, Joelyn M, Kathy M, Susan M, Barb O, Linda R, Ginger S, Melonie S, and Shawn S. Bob said they will begin work shortly.

**Thought Force on Ample Reserve – Lisa U, Chair**

Thought Force was proposed to consider if the Area needs an ample reserve guideline for its budget process. Issues to be addressed:

* Maintaining funds to meet Area’s continuing obligations
* Providing support for special projects and initiatives
* Accumulation of excess funds in Area treasury

Lisa U invited participation in the Thought Force. Members are: Lisa U (Chair), Bob C, Dave B, Linda F, Nan M, Susan O, and Alice R.

**Rest Break:** Dave B called for a meeting break at 11:16 AM and resumed the meeting at 11:30 AM.

**Thought Force on Revising Convention Guidelines on Financial Issues – Joelyn M, Chair**

Joelyn M provided background for formation of Thought Force. The 2021 Convention received donations that far exceeded costs to hold a virtual convention. Following current Area Convention Guidelines, the Convention Treasurer returned the overage to the Area. The AFG Guideline for Al-Anon/Alateen Area Conventions states that funds in excess of convention seed money may be donated to other service arms. The Thought Force will consider whether to propose changing the Area Convention Guidelines on use of excess funds. Members are Joelyn M (Chair), Lis B, Mike M, Lindi S, Shawn S, and Tricia R.

**2021 Convention Report – Joelyn M, Chair**

The full 2021 Convention Report is posted on the Area Web Site under the Member’s Area. Joelyn summarized the financial results:

Total income (includes $2,500 seed money) $8,309.50

Total expenses (includes return of seed money) $5,752.09

Net income $2,557.41

Donations to WSO $809.34

Donations to SC Alateen $650.96

The final registration number by Zoom was 582—275 from South Carolina, 281 from other parts of US, and 26 from other countries. Number of participants in the general sessions ranged from 184 to 250.

Communications sent follow-up survey to registrants using Google Forms. There were 190 responses, with 90% rating the convention excellent or very good.

Joelyn recognized the Committee members (listed in the report on web site) and thanked them for their contribution and desire to try to be open minded in the face of change and new territory.

**2022 Convention Progress Report – Sue J, Co-Chair**

The 2022 SCAFG Convention will be held in Myrtle Beach on Thursday, February 3rd through Sunday, February 6th. The theme will be *Serenity for You in 2022*. The convention will be held at the Beach Cove Resort in North Myrtle Beach. All the units have a full kitchen. There are 1, 2, and 3-bedroom accommodations. The rooms range in price from $93-$198.00 (3 bedroom) per night.

We will have a 2-bedroom unit to use for the hospitality suite. We will be able to bring in whatever food we want and will have use of crockpots and coffee pots.

The convention will be a hybrid presentation. We will have the usual general sessions and workshop face to face but will also offer the general sessions on Zoom. We’re hoping that by not zooming the entire program, more people will be encouraged to attend in person.

The 2022 Convention Committee still have vacancies to fill. We still need chairs for the Hospitality, Communication, and Fund-Raising Committees. The convention guidelines are on our website and will outline the duties for these committee chairs.

There are a few more plans to make. A *Save the Date* form is attached to this report. The registration form will be out in early August. There will be online registration available.

In response to concern raised about online registration, Shawn S said contact information for assistance (email and phone number) will be posted on the web site.

**Coordinator Reports**

**Public Outreach – Lis B**

Lis is working on arrangements for public outreach at LRADAC event in Columbia.

**Literature Coordinator - Barb O**

1. New in 2021: Electronic “Welcome, Newcomer!” (eK-10). This is the electronic version of the Al-Anon Newcomer Packet (K-10). The electronic “Welcome, Newcomer!” version is available through a variety of vendors, just as our current eBooks are. (The revised paper version of “Welcome, Newcomer” K-10, will be available when inventory of current version is depleted). Please see https://ecomm.al-anon.org

Electronic meetings can provide the http://www.al-anon.org/welcome URL to newcomers so they can sign up to receive an email with newcomer information. The newcomer is prompted to enter a personal email address, and digital information will be immediately delivered.

2. New Literature Motions from the 2021 World Service Conference (WSC): The 2021 WSC carried three motions regarding Conference Approved Literature, which were based on recommendations from the Literature Committee.

I. The first was for development of a new Alateen bookmark based on the Just for Tonight Al-Anon Bookmark (M-81). Like the Just for Today Alateen Bookmark (M-13), its contents will come from the teens themselves.

II. The second motion was to add a new preface to the book, The Dilemma of the Alcoholic Marriage (B-4), that would place it in historical perspective and to develop a booklet made up of "gems" from the original, possibly including some new material.

III. The third motion discussion was to create a new introduction to our first daily reader, One Day at a Time in Al-Anon (B-6) from 1968. This will provide an historical perspective on the book, and at the same time emphasize the timeless nature of Al-Anon spiritual principles that the book so wonderfully exemplifies.

3. Many Voices, One Journey (B-31): Celebrate Al-Anon 70th Anniversary and learn about our rich history by purchasing this book at the reduced price of $8.00 plus shipping, through June 30, 2021. Find it on our website at al-anon.org/onlinestore.

4. NEW DAILY READER (working title): The volunteer Literature Committee has just completed review of the near final draft. Much more work lies ahead so that the book can be ready for what we hope will be its debut in English, French, and Spanish at the 2023 Al-Anon International Convention in New Mexico.

5. Members Blog: Have you read or written a sharing for the Member Blog? Have you encouraged other members to do so? Please check it out at al-anon.org/member-blog. Each month there are new topics added, including the Steps, Traditions, and Concepts of Service.

6. The Store on www.al-anon.org Al-Anon Online Store has been redesigned. Easy ways to search for Products: books, pamphlets, Workbooks, Bookmarks, Digital, Magazines, Group Supplies, or Search by Topics: Al-Anon/Alateen Essentials, Beginners/Newcomers, Adult Children, Parents/Grandparents, Relationships, History, Public Outreach, can order The Forum or Al-Anon Face Alcoholism & make Contributions to WSO online. Shipping rates reduced to $5.00 for individual (not Group) orders for $50.00 and under through 2021.

**Area Alateen Coordinator – Lindi S**

I would like to thank the Area for letting us have April as Alateen awareness month. Several groups throughout the area had either an Alateen or AMIAS speaker during one of their meetings in April.

We trained 7 potential AMIAS during the month of May with 6 turning in their paperwork, one deciding not to certify. We also have 2 more Al-Anons from Greenwood that we trained in June. I was contacted about an interest in starting Alateen groups in the Irmo area and North Charleston area and we are working to see if we can make this happen. In the last week I was contacted by someone interested in starting an Al-Anon group and Alateen group in the Abbeville area. I will forward that information on to their district.

Our meeting in the Anderson area has closed and the sponsors have decided not to recertify. We have 7 sponsors (AMIAS) who have decided not to recertify.

Jaylen M has stepped up to be our area’s Alateen State representative. She is working on a conference committee of Alateens to start planning our conference. As of this report we are planning to have an in-person conference. I have talked to the staff at Camp Kinard and they have resumed having events there. They are changing policies as changes are implemented throughout our state. I will receive updates as they become available. So far we have 2 more forms that Camp Kinard will require for Covid 19. We will add them to our registration pack. Conference is the weekend of August 20 through the 22nd. The theme for conference is Alateens having fun in 2021. We are keeping the fee at $110 for the weekend. Saturday will again be open to Al-Anons who want to attend; the fee will be $15.

After attending a national coordinators meeting I shared that I found a lot of Al-Anons don’t have a clear understanding of what Alateen is. Most of the people attending shared the same sentiment about this. One area has added an Alateen Script to opening of Al-Anon Meetings – We can do Alateen outreach in our Al-Anon meetings by adding a script to the opening. Bring this to your group’s business meeting. Here is a sample script to bring back to your Areas/Districts/Groups:

*Alateen, part of Al-Anon Family Groups, is a fellowship of young people whose lives have been affected by alcoholism in a family member or close friend. If you know a young person affected by the family disease of alcoholism, please give* *them the same chance to recover in Alateen as you do in Al-Anon – there are options for zoom, chat, and face to face meetings. (Draft – feel free to edit)*

World Service changed the wording of the pre-amble to the Alateen 12 steps. I will be sending out a copy to all our AMIAS with a report. All new printings will have the revised version in it.

I also have the opportunity to attend a public outreach workshop in July to help with public outreach for Alateen. It has been opened to the area coordinators. The topics that will be covered are:

1. Hybrid meetings - may not be an issue at all for Alateen meetings

2. "touchless" Public Outreach (in the pandemic)

New ideas to cover:

Hold a sample Public Outreach Al-Anon/Alateen meeting for professionals to learn about us and meetings, so we can duplicate or take parts to include in our own Zoom or in-person "Community Outreach" or Public Outreach meetings

**Area Alateen Process Person – Shawn S**

We are down from 37 AMIAS to 35 and from 9 Active groups to 7 registered for the state with WSO

Of the 35 AMIAS, 8 of them have been trained and certified this year. Of the 7 AMIAS who did not recertify only one missed the deadline, the others chose not to recertify.

Of the 7 active groups, 2 are suspended due to Covid 19, with 5 open now with our newest in Greenwood SC “The Oasis”.

We met our deadline of the 31st of May 2021 and did not lose our Alateen Certification from WSO.

WSO has reviewed our SC Area 50 Alateen Safety and Behavioral Requirements “SC Area 50 SABR” and returned them with suggested corrections. I made the corrections and re-submitted them back to WSO for another review. Once back from WSO accepted they will be submitted to the SC Area 50 AWSC and then to the Area Assembly for vote of approval or rejection.

**Webmaster: Shawn S**

In the month of June we have had the following traffic on our website:

5,297 Page views down 2% from last 30 days,

2,749 Unique visits up -12% from last 30 days,

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| /onlinecall-in-meetings--meeting-closure-list.html | 1,071 |
| /find-a-meeting.html | 757 |
| /the-family-disease-of-alcoholism.html | 459 |
| /just-for-today.html | 283 |
| /district-7.html | 177 |
| /district-9.html | 136 |
| /conferenceconventions-2020-2021.html | 111 |
| /district-8.html | 102 |
| /district-2.html | 99 |
| /district-6.html | 85 |
| /district-4.html | 82 |
| /what-is-alateen.html | 70 |
| /tools-for-recovery.html | 70 |
| /what-is-al-anon.html | 66 |
| /literature.html | 64 |
| /is-al-anon-for-you.html | 60 |
| /frequently-asked-questions.html | 53 |
| /detachment.html | 51 |
| /about-al-anon.html | 49 |
| /conferenceconventions-2021-2022.html | 45 |
| /contact.html | 42 |
| /district-3.html | 41 |
| /alateen-meeting-list.html | 38 |

**The Reflector – No Report**

**The Forum – No Report**

**Archives: Susan L**

1. Continue to request submissions of Group Histories AR-6 and Longtime Member form AR-1 from Districts and individual members.

2. Looking for the issue of The Reflector for November/December 1982.

3. The committee is working on an Archives Guideline, specific to Area 50, including:

which handwritten information (papers, reports, memorabilia) to store once digitized

what to do in case of fire, flood, or other natural disaster

research the role of anonymity relating to last names on reports in storage

Interesting fact published in the May 2011 issue of The Reflector from the SCAFG Area Treasurer Fran B: “Our beginning balance as of January 1, 2011 is $7,722.26. Our income from January 1 to April 30, 2011 which includes $390 TEAM registrations is $3,828.46, and our expenses for the same period total $3,899.21. Our ending balance as of April 30,2011 is $7,651.21.” What a difference a decade makes!

Information may be forwarded to either myself Susan Lebhar at sueleb7@gmail.com or Nancy Bommer at scflutter@aol.com. Looking forward to your submissions and always available to help answer your questions.

**District Representatives Reports**

**District 2: No Report**

**District 3: No Report**

**District 4: Susan O**

* We will hold our Holiday Dinner in December.
* We have a task force looking at the lack of GR’s
* Our groups are discussing returning to face to face meetings. Some groups are already hybrid and other are discussing.

**District 5: Kathryn K**

Kathryn had to leave early. She left a message on the chat feature noting that nothing had changed. We are still meeting in various ways. Some outdoors, some at different places as we’re still unable to go back to our regular meeting place in Florence. Some are having hybrid meetings and some are attending Zoom and telephone meetings. Hopefully this will settle soon and we can return to some semblance of normal.

**District 6: Carol D**

District 6 held a Zoom meeting on 6/12/21 with good attendance. Many meetings in the Summerville area have gone hybrid and are doing well. In the southern part of the District most meetings are FTF once again and there are also separate Zoom meetings, both registered and non-registered. We are exploring ways to enhance the virtual experience for our members and plan to have a workshop at our next District meeting to address this. The meeting is scheduled for 9/11/21 and will, hopefully, be a hybrid meeting.

Summerville AFG had its 50th Anniversary celebration on 6/12 also and the Beaufort Country Intergroup sponsored a Spring Fling on 5/29/21. It is also planning an October Fest at its October 2nd meeting.

**District 7: No written report**

**District 8: No written report**

**District 9: Lisa U**

Things in the Upstate are good. There are 23 meetings with 10 face to face and 1 hybrid meeting. We have continued to have District meetings held on Zoom and had 4 meetings begin to use the district account for their meetings.

We are excited to be adding a new Alateen meeting in Greenwood which started the beginning of June. We did have one Alateen meeting close and the AMIAS chose not to re-qualify. However, we have 3 new AMIAS in the upstate. Thank you Lindi for speaking in Greenwood and all the wonderful change that has created!

The District All Day, Seeking Serenity, will be held on Saturday, September 18th. The details will be sent out soon.

Ginger S. our Public Outreach Coordinator has been busy not only keeping our meeting schedule updated. She has provided material to Pickens County Mental Health and to the Phoenix Center in Greenville. Materials were given to the pastor at Greenville First Baptist at his request for some of their members. There was a request from the Sherriff’s department in Pickens and Ginger will provide literature to them.

**Announcements:**

The AFG 70th Anniversary celebration will be held virtually July 10. Bob C has been researching how to share his WEBEX ticket with Area groups.

AWSC will meet via Zoom on August 28. Dave B will send an email regarding attendance at AWSC meetings.

Area Assembly will be October 9 at Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center. Dave B is working on arrangements to provide virtual access to the meeting.

**Adjournment**

Meeting closed at 1:30 with the Al-Anon Declaration.

Minutes submitted by Janet L, Area Secretary

**Meeting Documents**

Agenda (posted on Area web site)

Minutes, Area Assembly, March 27, 2021 (posted on Area web site)

Treasurer Report Spreadsheets: (posted on Area web site)

2021 Income Statement 4.30.21

2021 Budget Report 4.30.21

2021 Group Contributions 4.30.21

2021 SCAFG Convention Report Summary (posted on Area web site)