

## Area Assembly Minutes

South Carolina State Museum – 301 Gervais Street (Palmetto Room – 4<sup>th</sup> Floor) Columbia, SC

Saturday, June 14, 2014

The Area Assembly was preceded by a brief AWSC meeting at 9:30 to discuss the future of fundraising for SCAFG.

**Opening** – Jan R. – The meeting opened at 10 am with the Serenity Prayer followed by the reading of "The Twelve Traditions" by Clara T..

**Welcome** – Jan R. – I want to take this time to welcome everyone to Assembly. It is great to have your interest and participation in the doing the business of South Carolina Al-Anon and being part of the fellowship of this program. Are there any members who are here for the very first time? Would you please stand, give us your first name and home group? We are glad to have you here today. I hope you will enjoy your participation and learn something new today.

**Approval of Assembly Minutes** – Linda R. – Following the consent agenda the minutes for the January 25th, 2014 meeting were read and approved unanimously on a motion by Susan E. and a second by Sara K..

**Treasurer's Report** – Dawn C. – The Treasurer's report was approved on a motion by David with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Nancy.

**Alternate Delegate's Report & Group Records Report** – Diane F. – In South Carolina we have 131 Groups having 158 weekly meetings. We have 21 Groups with no Group Rep (GR) and 9 Groups with no Current Mailing Address (CMA). Two of those Groups have no GR and no CMA. Seventy people signed the attendance sheet for Area Assembly.

In a very special way,  
Diane Faulkner

**Delegate's Report** – Joyce H. – It seems almost impossible to believe that soon one year will be upon me since i was voted Delegate . this year has truly flown by. Already there has been Southeastern Delegate's get together in Jacksonville Florida , Then to our 94th WSO Conference in Virginia Beach . my first experience, and what an experience it was . From the first day until the last it was such an honor to be there . To be sitting in a room with 95 other delegates , plus WSO staff , at times felt overwhelming . there were 6 motions brought forward and all carried. One discussion was tabled for next year. Our 2014 theme " Our Spiritual Principals In Action " was carried out in all areas of voting, discussions, elections, and workshops . WSO Executive Director Ric B. gave reports from his visits to several countries sharing and giving AL-Anon materials to many that attended .

The audit report was favorable , the budget was past, Group e news was share as a way for GR'S and CMA'S to stay in the loop with changes and news from WSO . It was also suggested to begin getting more participation with in the Home Group , such as newcomer packets, welcoming , sharing with them and addressing concern that they may have . I am already looking forward to Southeastern Delegates Get Together in 2015 in Nashville and again to Virginia Beach in April to Conference . Thanks to everyone who has supported me on this journey and as I continue on into the next 2 years .

Love in Service  
Joyce Hord  
Panel 54 S.C. Delegate

**Chairman's Report** – Jan R. – In my home group, Entirely Ready AFG, we have been studying *Paths to Recovery* for two meetings a month since we began the group. We have just finished with Concept 4 – **Participation is the Key to Harmony**. One of the questions at the end of that chapter really made me stop and think. The question is: “Is there a situation in my life today where those concerned do not participate equally in all decisions?” My immediate thought was, yes, at Assemblies. At the most recent count, we have approximately 130+ AI-Anon groups in South Carolina. At our Assemblies, we regularly have around 60-75 people attend. Not all of those attending are GR's. That means we have less than half of the groups in South Carolina represented at Assembly. Is your group participating equally in all decisions? If not, why not? Assembly meets three times a year to do the business of South Carolina AI-Anon, have opportunities for GR's and DR's to meet and discuss issues, have workshops, speakers, opportunities for Convention Planning committee to meet, Alateens to meet, and have general discussions about Area issues. The more people who participate in these assemblies, the more ideas we hear, the better the choice we are able to make.

Today, I have three items to bring to your attention. You will hear more about some of these after the August AWSC and at the October Assembly. But I wanted to start the discussion today on these in order to make better decisions at AWSC:

- 1) We have a new venue for our AWSC and Assembly meetings. After today, we will be having all our meetings at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center, on Lincoln Street, here in Columbia. Lincoln Street is a couple of blocks up Gervais Street –you will turn between the Longhorns Restaurant and the Liberty Tavern. Go past the convention center to the parking lot entrance. We will be entering the door off the parking lot and meeting in the Carolina Room for most of our meetings. This change will give us considerable cost savings, and have you close to a large variety of choices for lunch. There is also a snack bar in the convention center, vending machines, and plenty of restrooms. Joyce and I took a tour of the center and we think you will be pleased.
- 2) Southeast Regional Trustee/Trustee at Large:  
It is once again time for us to be thinking about putting forth candidates from South Carolina for these trustee positions. If you are interested in standing for one of these Trustee positions, please contact me or Joyce for more information and an application. The process is that you notify your district of your interest in standing. If they decide to nominate you, you will fill out the resume/application and your DR will bring it to AWSC. At AWSC, the candidates will be reviewed and nominated to Area for an Assembly vote. At Assembly, the GR's will vote who they would like for SC to put forward as their candidate for Trustee. Applications must be turned in through Joyce to WSO by August 15, 2015. A vote for Trustee will take place at the 2016 World Service Conference.
- 3) Fundraising – we discussed this today at our AWSC special meeting. It has been brought to our attention and legal advice has been sought – raffles are illegal in South Carolina. As a result, it will no longer be possible for us to have raffles for quilts, baskets, 50-50's, etc. at our events. We will have to come up with other alternatives to find the funds to be able to have conventions, all days, etc. We are looking for ideas, suggestions, insight, etc., on what we can do to raise the necessary funds. Without fundraising, the conventions are not feasible.

At this point, I would like to open the floor for discussion on any of these points. You will each have 2 minutes at the microphone. You will only get one chance to speak on each of these topics. If someone else says what you were going to say, please sit down and don't repeat ideas. Thank you.

LIS,  
Jan Rogerson  
Area Chair

## **Coordinators' Reports:**

**Alateen** – Liz W. – Stand up all Sponsors and Alateens – round of applause

Camp is coming up – August 1-3, 2014, Camp Kinard in Batesburg-Leesville. We've got a great initial schedule of activities. We're looking for one Alanon and one AA speaker. Registration forms will be up on website shortly. Price is same as before. If there are Alanon groups who want to sponsor Alateens to go to camp, please let me know.

Alateen meeting today at lunch – 30 minutes after we break in Blue Room

With love in service

Elizabeth

**AAPP**– Bob C. – The SC AMIAS recertification project is just about complete. Although we had about 15 who did not recertify, we have about 20 new certified AMIAS.

I have been in touch with the North Carolina AAPP , sharing information about our respective states alateen sponsor requirements. I also sent him our SCAC registration packets.

I have begun using our new webmail for alateen correspondence and find it easy to use and beneficial to keeping it separate from my own . My new email address is [aapp@al-anon-sc.org](mailto:aapp@al-anon-sc.org).

The South Carolina Alateen Conference is right around the corner and I will be sending out registration packets to all certified AMIAS. It will be posted on the website shortly. Other AI-anons who would like a registration packet please email me at the address above. The dates for this year's camp are August 1st-3rd.

Another project on the horizon is a directory of all certified AMIAS. As always, please observe our anonymity guidelines when using this directory . In addition I'll bring the meeting list up to date.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve!

Bob C

**Literature** – Linda F. – I have placed and received a large literature order for our Area – to replace the books sold at the Convention. I have many of our books with me today, as well as our newest book, "Reaching for Personal Freedom". I also have some bookmarks and wallet cards which are free of charge. Please visit the table which I have set up today during our lunch break. The literature will be available until 2PM today.

My challenge for you between now and next Area Assembly is to use a piece of our literature when you chair a meeting that you have never used before and let me know how that meeting turns out. Also, I suggest reading from our newest book when chairing a meeting on the Traditions or Concepts. The discussions which follow will be amazing, I promise!

See you at the next Area Assembly in October,  
Linda Flohr

**Public Outreach** – David T. – "...if AI-Anon is to continue to exist, it must continue to grow. There is no standing still without retrogression."

"AI-Anon is attracting when it tells people WHY we are, WHAT we are, WHAT we do and HOW; we let them know that we are available if and when help is needed".

Unfortunately, today, the vast majority of the general public has no idea about what AI-Anon is, and that is our fault. The single major problem has been a failure over the years to follow the primary principle of sound marketing: Repetition Builds Reputation.

First, our plan is to use existing material from WSO or, if necessary, create new print media and schedule the placement of that media at appropriate, consistent times throughout the state over the next three years. It will be important to develop a consistent "logo style" for districts and groups to use in adding local contact/meeting information within that media. This follows principle two of sound marketing: Consistency.

Expand the distribution of "Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism" which is less expensive than many brochures. (25 copies are .72 each, 100 are .50, 200 are .375, and 400 are only .35 each). Maybe if we order even more we can get a better price.

After the May 1, 2014 AWSC meeting we intend to form an Area Outreach Committee, any volunteers?

David Taylor

**Website** – Russ G. – During the May 2014 AWSC, it was agreed that our organization could benefit from the use of @al-anon-sc.org email accounts for all officers/ reps/coordinators and as such, I created new email accounts for all 25 Panel 54 positions. The cost to add these additional accounts was less than \$60 and I have since distributed the login details to all reps as well as updated the website "Trusted Servants" section to reflect the updates.

There have been no improvements to the website since the May 2014 AWSC meeting so there is little to report at this time other than, there will be some upcoming enhancements such as additional meeting searches for Beginners meetings, Speaker meetings, search by day of the week, etc.

As of this date, I still have not heard a yah nor a nah from WSO regarding the legality of the content on our website. I'm confident that when they do return a response, we'll be in compliance with the corporate guidelines but if any changes are required, I'll be sure to make the updates as needed.

Reminder that our website is intended to help newcomers find meetings and get involved, but it is equally intended to help existing members get more from their program. PLEASE get involved by requesting the webmaster to post local District events on the site. The request must go directly from the DR to the webmaster to help streamline the process, but it's up to the GR's and local members to ask the DR to send such a request. I'm happy to post as much information as the membership desires and get everyone to learn the full benefit of our website.

Until our next meeting....

My Sincerest Regards and Love,  
Russ Gahart  
Area 50 – Panel 54 – Webmaster

**Newsletter Editor** – Jeri W. – Please let me know if your group has not received the current issue of the Reflector. Only two (2) email addresses came back to me and I forwarded that information to our Group Records Coordinator. There are some groups that have no email address established. I will let the District Representatives know so that every group can get a Reflector.

The next deadline for articles is September 22th. If there is someone you would like to hear from, a tradition, concept, or step addressed, email me at [ReflectorEditor@al-anon-sc.org](mailto:ReflectorEditor@al-anon-sc.org). This is your publication. I just get the honor of cutting, pasting, and adding new pictures.

In grateful service,  
Jeri Wesner

**Forum** – Lynn E. – Hello All! I am excited to let everyone know that I have volunteered and been accepted for the position of Forum Coordinator. I believe the Forum continues to be a terrific way to 'carry the message'! I hope that I can continue to help all of us utilize the Forum in personal and outreach opportunities.

I think we sometimes overlook that not only are we feeding ourselves when we READ the Forum- we are feeding ourselves when we WRITE for the Forum – helping others is just a byproduct of the writing. With that in mind I challenge everyone to write one item this year – 50 words or 500 words – let yourself go. Take a risk if you have never done this before – you may be surprised how you feel after you submit your ES&H to paper...and I know you ALL have some you can write down.

If I can help in any way let me know - if I can visit your district let me know – be assured you WILL see me with paper and pencils in hand for you ... somewhere...sometime...!! Stop by the Forum table at Assembly and write – or ‘compute’ and I will submit it for you.

AND if you don't already have a Forum subscription – SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

Submitted with Joy!! In service  
Lynn Edwards

**2014 Convention Chair** – Barbara Ann McK. – The 2014 39<sup>th</sup> Al-Anon convention, “Enjoying the Journey,” was indeed an enjoyable journey – from planning to the final event of the Convention. The success of the Convention was all due to the wonderful teamwork and hard work of the individual committees making up the convention committee. Negotiating is a wonderful talent of our Co-Chair, Pam P., and her skills were able to finalize a very good contract with the Bay Watch Hotel and her ability to handle emergencies was superb. Our budget for this Convention was set at \$9,000; we spent \$8,231.87.

The following is final information given by each individual committee chairman:

Finance – Ginger S.

Income	baskets	\$ 2,693.00	Seed money of \$2,500 returned to Area
	quilt	\$ 1,377.00	
	bracelet	\$ 122.00	
	hospitality	\$ 745.02	
	50/50	\$ 321.00	
	registration/ t-shirts	\$ 8,885.00	Income over expenses: \$3996.15
	other	\$ 585.00	which has been given to Area
		\$14,728.02	

Registration/T-shirts – Joyce H.

Preregistered	197
Total Registered	347
Alateens	33
No shows	7

Fundraising – Charlotte H. and Judy R.

Actual baskets donated 66

Also a bracelet was donated

Having our quilter on-site was well received.

This Committee recommends we have a little more break time between speaker meeting before winners are announced.

Hospitality – Vickie L. and Linda T.

The Hospitality Room was a huge success. Very much hard work was involved! Volunteers are all a large part of the success of this room. A decision was made early in the planning process not to have soups nor crock pots. Also, the hours of the Hospitality Room were changed to 7:30 a.m. until 10:30 p.m. Vickie and Linda made several suggestions for the Hospitality Room. They are as follows:

- 1) Make sure the room has running water.

- 2) Hospitality hours need to be set according to the activities on that particular day. Having coffee pots in each room prohibited people from flocking down to the Hospitality Room for early coffee which was made.
- 3) Ask groups attending to purchase bottled water and canned drinks and bring to the Hospitality room instead of donating money. This would lighten the load of the committee.
- 4) If you choose to have food brought in for lunches and dinners, it would be helpful if you had groups or districts to be in charge of a certain meal. This would make it easier than finding someone to go pick up the meal. (There were a few requesting vegetarian food.)

Workshops – Mike W. and Dick D.

This year the general Committee decided to have fewer workshops than in the past two years. There were, of course, a few people who commented that more workshops would have been better. At Convention time several changes were necessary with our workshops. One of our facilitators had a death in her family and could not come. Others stepped in and had their workshops twice. With teamwork all worked out well.

Enjoying the Journey Through Meditation and Trust Dick D.	17
Enjoying the Journey through the Tumbling Tide Becky L. (given twice)	101
Enjoying the Journey Traveling the Al-Anon Paths Judy R. – Greenville (given twice)	134
Sharing Your Journey from Your Heart in the Forum Lynn	67
WSO workshop J.P.M.	110+
How to Start a Journey of Forgiveness Mike W.	40

Meeting Coordinator – Peggy B.

Peggy had all meetings with readings, groups, and times well organized. Her attendance from all the speaker meetings are show in the listings of the speakers.

Entertainment – Debbie H.

Thanks to Debbie H. We had wonderful entertainment. The skits she chose were well received and if laughter is an indicator, they were well liked and understood!

Communications – Julie B. and Ligia H.

Again this committee came through with great signage, flyers, pre-registration forms, and programs. The speakers' table was decorated by this committee, as well as all other beach-themed decorations. At each task this committee was well ahead of time on getting out its information. We did not send flyers to the LDC in Raleigh, and only made 50 for the Regional Delegates' Get Together.

Alateen

The Alateens had 33 members present. They had their own meeting room in the third tower where they held all their meetings. This year we were unable to do the "best seat in the house:, but were able to do "the best chair in the house." The middle front chairs had bows to designate these were the "best chairs."

Speaker Committee – Bessie L., Dale C., and Ginger S.

Bessie and Dale began working on speakers two years ago. They had gotten most of their work done when Dale died. Ginger began helping Bessie when she needed it at that time. Our speakers were:

Thursday night	Joyce H., Delegate	120
Friday Night	J. P. M., former Trustee WSO	225
Saturday Morning	Danny B., Alateen	204
Saturday afternoon	Gary H., AA	279
Saturday Night	Valentina H., AI-Anon	290
Sunday Morning	Judy D., AI-Anon	176

The 2014 Convention gave no gifts to the speakers; instead we donated \$100 to WDO for the group, \$20 to SCAFG for the Alateen speaker, \$20 to AA's office.

Master Copy Recording was a delight to work with. They are from Florida. Their income is received from selling the cds and a few other items, including tapes from other places.

### Some Suggestions

- 1) A longer break between Saturday night speaker and the giving out of baskets
- 2) AA speaker appears to work better on Saturday afternoon. This year it had to be right after lunch but that did seem to be a good time. (We had scheduled it for Saturday morning but because of tyrip problems we had to delay it.)
- 3) Literature table needs to be manned between events rather than leaving it on the honesty policy. There were too many people asking questions that we at the registration table (we were right next to it) could not answer.
- 4) From our "comments" came a request for more workshops.
- 5) In reverse, we had many comments about having more fellowship time without having to rush from one workshop to another all the time.
- 6) Hospitality room – one comment was "please be more aware of allergies– meaning peanuts, nuts, etc." – solution is that these can all be easily identified. There would need to be more identification if nuts were in cakes or pies. One comment was "soups, crock pots, etc. were so much more pleasing in the hospitality room." It was the Committee's choice not to ave these items at this Convention.

**2015 Convention Chair** – Margaret L. – The 2015 Convention Committee reports that we are moving right along with the plans for our Feb 19 - 22, 2015 Serenity Starts Today convention to be held at Ocean Dunes Resort in Myrtle Beach. The registration forms are available to you today at Assembly and we urge you to register now (and avoid the last minute rush!). All the information you need for reservations (dates/hotel rates/convention registration/T-shirts) is on the form, and we will submit the final form for access on the web site immediately following this meeting today. You will be able to register for your rooms both by phone or on-line using the special codes on the registration form.

The workshops are filling in, the speakers are confirmed, entertainment is getting it together, and hospitality is getting themselves organized. Speaking of Hospitality, we will have the equivalent of three hotel rooms worth of space with microwaves and full refrigerator. Hospitality is requesting no crockpots this year, but all other contributions will be welcome. We will have access out to a roof-top view of the ocean where we will have tables and heaters, if necessary, so that we can all enjoy the beach as we enjoy fellowship together. It is just lovely out on that roof.

I would like to say that our quilt project has been most special. Diane F has coordinated a unique and fabulous project resulting in a quilt that is a piece of us from all over our three districts. Just getting to this point has been program all the way. Each square was contributed by a member responsible for getting it together; the very act of some of us when we accepted a square not knowing the first thing about what we were doing was Courage to Change. We told ourselves from the start that we could not do it; we convinced ourselves that our square would not be good enough to make the quilt; we had to quell the perfection defect; we plodded on and we got them done. What an unbelievable result! The process thus far has been the most important part, but I think you will agree that the end product is indeed uplifting (on the wings of a butterfly). Just looking at these quilts, one feels serenity surround and envelop. How can serenity NOT start today with these quilts?

We are also requesting that groups prepare the ever-popular baskets (what WOULD Convention be without BASKETS!). We so look forward to seeing what you all create.

We will have packets ready to distribute to the DRs at the August AWSC meeting and request that the DRs distribute to their groups ASAP after that. We look forward to seeing you all at Ocean Dunes in February 2015!

Respectfully submitted in love and service,

Margaret Lattimore  
2015 Convention Chair

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **Proposed motion:**

The proposed motion (see below) was made by Margaret L. and seconded by Kris K. It passed with 2 abstentions.

**Motion:** To give authority to the 2015 Convention Committee to increase the AI-Anon-only (not Alateen) registration from \$20 to \$25 following the date of the first Area Assembly in 2015. The Alateen and one-day registration fees will remain at \$5 and \$10, respectively.

**Rationale:** Early registration at the regular fee encourages members to sign up before the increase in price, thereby aiding the Committee in providing better estimates of attendance used in planning workshops and hospitality.

### **The Forum Subscription Winner: Laura S.**

After the lunch break, there was an open mike to address concerns about SCAFG fundraising.

The last sessions of the day were a Public Outreach meeting and a District 6 discussion.

The meeting closed with the AI-Anon/Alateen Declaration.

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda R.,  
secretary