

Area Assembly Minutes for June 7, 2019, Panel 57

Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center Approved 27 Oct 2019

Area Assembly started at 6:30PM with the Serenity Prayer. Nan read the 12 Concepts and Warranties. People attending their first assembly were welcomed. We had guests visiting due to TEAM the next day. Assembly Minutes, January 26, 2019, approved with a 1st by Ian and approved unanimously
Treasurer's Report approved unanimously

Delegate's Report – David Bryant

WSC's theme is "Action is Attraction – There is No Growth in the Comfort Zone" David forwarded his presentations as separate documents. He presented an overview of conference. He explained, Al-Anon spends \$292.39 average for every Al-Anon group. If each group sent \$17.00 more a year, the budget deficit would go away. The next conference will be April 20-April 24, 2020.

Group Records Coordinator and Alternate Delegate's Report – Bob Colborn

Thank you for the support for my attendance at the Southeastern Regional Delegates Get Together in Myrtle Beach in March. It was wonderful to be a part of a conference that included present and past Delegates, Trustees and Alternate Delegates. Conference agenda items from last year's World Service Conference were discussed, business from SERDGT was conducted, and friendships were made and renewed. Dave B. did an awesome job as the host delegate and Linda R. and Valentina attended as well in support of South Carolina. Next year's conference is in Puerto Rico so if you are considering running for Delegate this fall that will be quite a perk your first year! If you are or have been a District Rep or an Area officer you are qualified.

Just a few weeks ago the World Service Office sent out the annual update sheet to all South Carolina groups. All GRs or CMAs please compare the information listed to what is correct currently, and to the information on the South Carolina and World Service websites. Changes can be made if necessary at

<https://al-anon.org/for-members/group-resources/group-records/changes-existing-al-anon-group/>. Please let me know at SCAFGGroupRecords@gmail.com if you make any changes.

As of today there are 134 groups with 153 meetings in South Carolina. Twenty one groups have no GR. I am happy to report that 151 meetings have a Current Mailing Address. Two groups, Dutch Square AFG and New Beginnings of North Myrtle Beach, had the quarterly appeal letter returned to WSO. One group, Friends of Lois AFG has a bounced email address. If you are here representing any of these groups please see me later to get this rectified.

NEW BUSINESS:

Passed with (a 1st from Bette and a 2nd from Pat) 31 approved and 1 abstain

- Motion: Raise the South Carolina pre-registration (early registration) fee to \$30.00 and the registration fee to \$35.00 starting with the 2021 convention.
- Rationale: The past 2 conventions were not able to return the seed money due to increasing costs.

OLD BUSINESS:

- 501c4 Status Update waiting on word from the IRS
- Will move forward to include liability for the Board. Activities already insured include Alateen Conference, Convention, Assembly meetings and AWSC meetings are covered. The Board members are also covered having no liability. This insurance does not cover individual districts or groups.

COORDINATORS' REPORTS

Literature -- Tom Cassidy

The big news on the literature front is that the **Just for Tonight Bookmark (M-81)** was introduced in March. It's proving to be incredibly popular; it went into a second printing almost immediately, and the Raleigh Literature Distribution Center was sold out when I called. If you like it and you're using it, let me and WSO know. Send in your review to *The Forum* or to *In the Loop*.

And speaking of *The Forum*, "CAL Corner" is a regular feature of the magazine. As a week or so ago, they were particularly looking for articles on

- *Intimacy in Alcoholic Relationships* (B-33),
- *Hope & Understanding for Parents & Grandparents* (P-94),

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- ...*In All Our Affairs* (B-15),
- *Living Today in Alateen*, and
- *As We Understood....* Please see the writing guideline for "CAL Corner" in the Guidelines & Procedures folder under the "Library" folders in the Literature Coordinator community.

Have any of these works –or portions of them—helped you? Why not tell your story, in about 300 words, and send it to Al-Anon World Service (Attn: Cal Corner). The point is not to tell us about the literature itself, but how it has helped you. Even if they don't publish it, the feedback is valuable!

Archives -- Nancy Bommer

In gathering information for our area Archives, I continue to use the issues of the Reflector and old copies of the minutes. Thanks goes out to those who have assisted me in obtaining old issues of the Forum and continue to assist me in locating the four issues of the Reflector we are missing. The four issues still missing are: No 4 – June/July 1979; No. 4 – June/July 1980; No. 6 – November/December 1982; No. 4 at July/August 1983. I continue to seek these copies and hopefully one day I will be able to report to you that they have become part of our SC Archives.

Please continue to send your group histories and Longtimer forms to me at Nancy Bommer, 403 Edisto Lake Road, Wagener, SC 29164 or to my email – scflutter@aol.com. Also encourage your groups to place a copy of their group history in your group notebooks so that group's past will continue to be passed on. Then following group elections in August, it is suggested that you update your group histories by sending me a copy and keeping a copy for your group notebooks.

Also districts please send me a copy of your minutes and reports to be placed into the Area Archives. This can certainly be helpful in having this information in the area Archives.

If your groups or districts are searching for information, I suggest if you cannot locate the information you're your also contact me as it might be recorded in Archives. Over the next few months, I will continue to sort and scan information.

Thanks for your enthusiasm as I know this is exciting for me to have this opportunity to compile and share with you.

Newsletter Editor -- Charlotte Hogue

The Reflector is the Area Newsletter that compiles information from the Area Chair, the Delegate, the Alternate Delegate, the Group Records Coordinator, the Secretary, the Treasurer, the Forum Coordinator, the Area Alateen Coordinator, the Literature Coordinator, from Archives, AAPP, Public Information, the Web Site Coordinator and the District Representatives. The Reflector is so informative! Discover service reports, special events, announcements for Area/District workshops, Al-Anon conventions, group events and group birthdays. The Reflector is for you, the members of Al-Anon and Alateen. Go to the website to see the most recent issue AND other issues dating back to 2008, over ten years of information! This is a great resource to find inspiration and ideas for meetings and events. As you will see, The Reflector is a great communication tool about Al-Anon, particularly Area 50. It is FREE to those who sign onto the website. The site address is: sc-al-anon.org. Click on the Members Area, then scroll down to Archives. The site and The Reflector have a password which is: scarea50. A paper copy can be mailed to you - three (3) issues when you submit \$12.00 to our treasurer, Sara. Finally, I always look forward to receiving the information from our trusted services to be shared with our Al-Anon Family Group.

Forum -- Jan Salvato A report was given but not turned into the secretary

Public Outreach -- Jodi Macko

All DRs present at the 5/4/19 AWSC meeting will receive Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism magazines, Al-Anon posters and business cards. There is \$831.20 left in the budget for 2019.

The members' survey distributed at the last assembly and the Area Public Outreach Committee recommended spending the remainder of our funds on 1) professional packets in support of our ongoing campaign to engage those who most frequently refer families to our programs, 2) bookmarks for shelter and newcomer outreach, and 3) billboards.

Unfortunately, WSO is out of both professional packets and Just For Tonight bookmarks for an undetermined period of time, and we do not as of yet have the 501(c)4 status identifier needed to purchase billboard space at the reduced rates available for non-profit organizations. The committee will meet again once these issues are explored by the area po coordinator.

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Beautiful Alateen posters were submitted for WSO approval. Approval was denied due to the use of copyrighted photos from the Forum. The committee is working to change the photos for resubmission. We will keep you posted! If any districts need more Al-Anon posters, they are available for download on our SC website Members' Area (www.al-anon-sc.org).

A new campaign to launch Public Service Announcements (PSAs) has begun. In order to have our WSO approved announcements played by stations that have already received the pre-recorded PSAs, we need to find out who to contact at those stations. Radio and TV stations won't play the announcements unless they get requests from the public to play them. The trick is to find out which person at the station can actually get the announcements on the air. The first step in the campaign is to gather station contact information. Any member can do this:

- Please go to the SC Al-Anon Website at www.al-anon-sc.org. Find the main menu. Click on Member's Area. In the member's area are two documents. One is a spreadsheet containing a list of all the radio and TV stations in SC that have already received PSAs from WSO. It also includes how many times those announcements have aired. We need volunteers to call those stations and find out who the contact person is.

- The second document is a script with instructions on what to say when calling a station. It provides step by step instructions on how to obtain the contact information from the station and what to do with the information once obtained.

Please ask your membership to consider calling a listed station in your area. If they follow the script, the contact information should be easy to obtain. If there are any questions, Jodi M. may be reached at scdistrict2po@gmail.com.

Area Alateen Coordinator -- Shannon Smith

State Convention 2019

This was a very positive experience for the Alateen program. Approximately 15 Alateens attended, staying with either their parents, grandparents, or Sponsors. Alateens participated by attending Al-Anon speaker meetings/workshops and provided the Saturday evening entertainment by performing a skit written by Myra W. (a current AMIAS and past AAC). Evening Alateen meetings were also held to provide additional opportunities for the Alateens to bond with each other. The depth of sharing by these young people was absolutely incredible, a credit to their Group Sponsors and the willingness of each Alateen to pursue personal growth.

Marissa E and Mike J were the Alateen speakers, sharing their experience, strength, hope – and humor. The Alateen workshop was attended by over 100 participants, who were encouraged to “dig deep” by the Alateens and get in touch with how their emotions were related to their relationships with others. The Alateen 4th Step Inventory booklet provided the framework, and participants were divided into groups of about 8-10 so everyone had an opportunity to share. At the end, a spokesperson shared what their group members discovered about themselves with all the workshop participants.

“Best Seats in the House” fundraising continued to provide an opportunity for the Alateens to interact with the Al-Anons, raising \$538.00. Because Area Alateen finances are strong this year, the Alateen leaders decided to donate all the money, with 30% going to WSO and 70% going to the Raleigh Literature Distribution Center in memory of Judy, who recently passed away.

Alateen Conference 2019

The 43rd annual Alateen Conference (aka, Camp) will be held August 25-27 at Camp Kinard in Batesburg-Leesville. The theme will be “Keep an Open Mind”. We will be celebrating 62 years of Alateen with open discussion meetings, speaker meetings, workshops, a birthday party, trust activities, arts and crafts, and lots of time in the swimming pool. The Alateens will be electing a new State Representative and Alternate Representative as well.

The cost per person for the entire weekend is \$110 (meals, lodging, activities), and the cost for Saturday only attendance is \$15, which includes lunch.

All Al-/Anons are invited to join us for the day on August 26 to participate in the activities. This is one of the few times when Alateens open up their events to adults in the fellowship, so please invite everyone in your groups to attend the 2019 Conference.

Alateen Finances

A copy of the Alateen Financial Report is attached. Many thanks to Margaret L for building the spreadsheet and keeping it up to date. To increase Area Alateen financial transparency and accountability, I established a Thought Force to evaluate processes related to Alateen finances in South Carolina. Our first meeting via conference call was on December 29, 2018. Members included several past delegates and Area Alateen Coordinators, our current Alternate Delegate, Area Alateen Process Person and District Alateen Coordinators, and Alateen Sponsors with a long history of service. Topics discussed included guidelines for use of the Alateen checking account, donations to Alateen, Tradition 7, fundraising, and ample reserve guidelines.

The outcome of the Thought Force meeting was to establish a Task Force which will provide recommendations to AWSC. The Task Force will be having their first meeting via conference call this summer to discuss the above topics. Due to Area 50 Al-Anon's pending 501C4 status, we will also be discussing whether it is more appropriate for Alateen to continue to have separate finances or to combine them with Al-Anon. In either case, the Task Force will propose guidelines to AWSC for approval. This is part of an overall effort to update our Area Alateen Service Structure and Process.

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Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or great ideas for Alateen.

State Alateen Rep – Marissa Estebanez A report was given but not turned into the secretary

Convention 2019 Final report – Clara and Teresa

Thank you, South Carolina Al-Anon Family, for the opportunity to serve as the 2019 SCAFG Convention Chair. This was my first time Chairing a Convention in Al-Anon. Thank you to the amazing

Officers:

- **Co-Chair** Teresa thank you for your experience and helping to keep me grounded
- **Treasurer(s)** Connie for getting us started and Mary Jane for jumping in mid way and carrying us through to the Convention and beyond and for your thorough report and suggestions on how we can further simplify the process
- **Secretary**, Barbara for your amazing note taking and those who took notes when Barbara could not attend
- To Tina - Thank you for your enthusiastic **Voice** in keeping the transitions between sessions smooth and vibrant!
- Thank you to ALL the amazing and inspiring **Alateens**. Thank you not only for what you already was scheduled to present but for your willingness to jump in and help when needed. Your energy is wonderfully contagious!

Committee Chairs:

- Robbie and her team for taking care of **Registration**
- Ana-**Hospitality** for creating a wonderful and warm space to chat and chew and for getting into action to move us to a better location because of the leaks and power outages
- **Meeting Coordinators**- Teresa and Mike for the great layout of the rooms! Great vision!
- **Speaker Seeker(s)** - Our Area Delegate Dave Bryant for finding the speaker from WSO, Mike for finding the Al-Anon, Alateen and AA speakers
- Myra for working with the Alateens for the **Entertainment**
- Madelaine for leading a great **Fundraising** committee
- **Workshop** Committee Coordinator Linda and the Coordinators for leading powerful workshops
- And Thank you to **all** those who served on each committee during the planning and throughout the Convention weekend. Thank you to those who jumped in spontaneously to help.

Now the numbers:

Attended:

- 170 Pre-Registered
- 103 Walk-Ins
- 273 Total

- 244 Al-anon
- 15 Alateen (estimated)
- 14 AA (these are members who came to convention - not just to a single meeting)

Finances:

1. Beginning Balance was **\$2500.00** seed money. A **\$1000.** deposit was sent directly from the Area to the hotel.
 2. Ending Balance after expenses and reimbursements **\$2234.20.**
 3. The difference is **\$265.80.**
 4. The check was hand delivered to the Area Treasurer at the AWSC on Saturday, May 4th and the bank account was closed on Thursday, May 30th, 2019.
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- Each committee submitted their proposed budget. Some committees were over budget. Other committees like fundraising, hospitality and registration brought in money.
 - Some members did not take their full reimbursement and instead offered them as contribution.
 - There were a few discrepancies on the final bill from the hotel and they took of them promptly.

A few mentions/warnings for the 2020 Convention Committee:

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That we keep front and foremost why we are holding the conventions and for whom. Tensions will emerge and it is easy to forget our program - we are human after all. If we can remember the 3 legacies: Steps, Traditions and Concepts and continue to demonstrate a working knowledge of these principles we can win over the disease each time. Our lives depend on this being a living program. Let's continue to carry the message to all those who are in need of hearing it.

Other suggestions:

Please communicate to the Convention Planning Committee Chair any and all changes and updates to the budget, especially if you plan on spending beyond the projected amount, this will help in staying on budget, let the Chair know who will speak and when, including the Chair. What are the expectations of the Officers and Committee Chairs - will they be speaking to share or answer questions about the Treasury for example, or Committees, if so, when and who has the authority to do what? There were unclear and uncommunicated expectations.

The Convention Guidelines are suggestions so the Chair may feel the need to change or modify how something is done so that actions transpire more effectively, please trust her judgment. This will prevent double-headed management and chaos. I always checked-in with my Co-Chair before implementing any changes - we didn't always agree but I appreciate her respect and trust in my HPs directing me. Thank you Teresa!

With that being said, the 2019 Convention Committee after reviewing the mostly positive comments from attendees, believes that the convention was a success.

District 2 -- John Macko

We held our District Meeting on Sunday, April 28th. We discussed the T.E.A.M. Event and the 2020 Convention. Jodi M. explained how to find PSA info on the SC web site. We also reviewed the District and Group election process. And closed our meeting with an open forum discussing ways our groups can welcome those who come to AI-Anon because "someone I love is addicted to drugs".

I have visited 17 out of 17 meetings. Most groups are doing well, three are struggling with declining numbers. All group detail sheets are up to date. The new daytime meeting in Rock Hill that started in December is up to 9 members.

Spartan AFG and Hope For Today celebrated their anniversaries in April with a covered dish and a speaker.

District 3 -- Nan Moorer

District three had a wonderful All Day on May 18, 2019. We had one AA speaker and one AI Anon speaker, a great Tarzan skit and AI Anon art project workshop as well as great fellowship and awesome food. How can we complain. Four of five groups were represented, we laughed, drank espresso and gave out many hugs and much love. Immediately following we had a rousing District Meeting where there was honest and challenging discussion. We were all reminded of the importance of the preservation of AI Anon and the importance of the District being fully self supporting. May we all continue to learn the importance of working the Twelve Steps with our sponsors and getting the most out of this AWESOME program of AI Anon.

District 4 -- Barbara O'Donnell

Groups records remain the same with 20 Active AFG, one Alateen AFG; one change is that Peggy W. is now the Current Mailing address for Spring Lake AFG.

District Meetings were held Jan, March & May, the final business meetings are Sept 8th and November. Approximately half the groups have representation at District Meetings, all groups are emailed with all information regarding District matters.

Happy Hour AFG, BackDoor AFG and Sunday Serenity AFG will host the annual District Holiday Dinner in December which has been held every year but one since 1975.

Members serve on other sub committees; Public Outreach, Lis B. Coordinator, and the new District Fellowship Event, Joelyn M. Chair; both of Sparkleberry AFG. Lis is also serving on the Area Public Outreach Committee and will participate with TEAM EVENT tomorrow. Two District emails have been established SCAFGD4.Events@gmail.com and scafgd4.outreach@gmail.com.

District Treasurer Janet L. reworked the Calendars for rotation of the District Answering Service and Holiday Dinner hosts. In March, The GR's voted to discontinue renting the AIS Area Information Service P.O. BOX as it does not receive any correspondence, also the AIS

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has not been active for at least 5 years and there are not officers. In March, we began a trial of emailing the District Four Meeting Schedule to the Group Reps and/or Current Mailing Addresses; we created two versions, one for printing and one to view electronically.

The first District Four Fellowship Event with workshops, speaker & food is Saturday July 13th, from 9:00AM to 4:PM, with registration @ 9:00AM. Ashland United Methodist Church 2600 Ashland Road Columbia, Sc 29210. Questions go to SCAFGD4.Events@gmail.com. Suggested \$5 donation.

The District Representatives, myself, District 3 Nan and District 5 Kathryn have called the initial Planning Committee Meeting for the annual SCAFG Convention 2021. The meeting will be following the District Four fellowship event @ 4:00PM on Saturday July 13th @ . Ashland United Methodist Church 2600 Ashland Road Columbia, Sc 29210.

District 7 -- Clara Tala

In Sept 2019 we will be voting in new district officers for the Panel that starts January 2020. The goal is to begin transferring all the information to the new officers, so the transition is easy come January 1, 2020.

We will discuss District inventory results and come up with strategies on implementing the suggestions for improvement and address the issues brought forth.

Alateen finished Charleston District 7 Library Project.

There has been interest in having an Alateen meeting in the North Charleston area. I have been approached on several different occasions by parents that attend AI-Anon and AA and live in the North Charleston area, they must attend meetings in other areas where AI-Anon, AA and Alateen meet at the same time. This causes an inconvenience. I submitted my paperwork, last year, on time to the AAPP and have not heard anything back. I cannot get a straight answer as to why my paperwork has not been processed even though I was trained by two people in my District who are longtime Alateen sponsors.

The District AIS person had to step down from her position early because she is traveling out of the country. Lindi the Alt DR is taking over until the end of the year.

Our Public Outreach coordinator, Myra, continues to seek opportunities in the community to carry the message.

Our website coordinator, Mary S, reports that the usage patterns have remained steady, the most visited pages are the meeting listings. She also made changes to include open/closed meeting status and hope to complete this by the next district meeting in July. Meetings are holding group conscience to determine if they will be open or closed meetings and sending that information to the website coordinator.

District Inventory Audit Report we are scheduling time to specifically to discuss the results of the report. It was suggested that each GR review the report and come prepared to discuss at least 3 questions from the report at our next district meeting.

Our Treasurer, Genevieve, decluttered and organized "treasurer's file box" and is ready for the next treasurer and has room for more years!

It was voted to pay for expenses to send DR to the TEAM meeting in June. Some groups sent a little extra funds to help with that expense. District Representative agrees to share information she learned at the TEAM event our next meeting and will provide receipts.

District 9 -- Zermah Dawes A report was given but not turned into the secretary

Absent: Mike Melton – AAPP, Amanda Childers – Website Coordinator, Suzanne Jankosky – District 8 Rep, Teresa Hinnant – District 6 Rep

Our Area Assembly time was abbreviated. We met on Friday evening and attended the TEAM event the next day. We closed at 9:45PM with the AI-Anon/Alateen Declaration