

**Area World Service Committee (AWSC) Minutes
South Carolina State Museum
301 Gervais Street (Red Room), Columbia, SC
August 27, 2011**

Jeri W. opened the meeting with a moment of silence, followed by the Serenity Prayer. Marietta N. read the 12 Concepts and General Warranties.

Area Secretary – Melanie M. – The minutes for the May 7, 2011, Area World Service Committee were presented. Motion to approve minutes was made by Mary Ellen R. and seconded by Nan M. and approved unanimously.

Area Treasurer – Fran B. - Beginning Balance is **\$ 7,651.51**. Income for the period was **\$6,381.13** and total expenses were **\$4,909.86** with an ending balance of **\$9,122.78**. Motion to approve Treasurer's Report was made by Marie J. and seconded by Margaret L. and approved unanimously. Fran went over the TEAM Itemized Categories with Income being \$2,765.00, Expenses of 2,192.57 with a profit of \$572.43.

Alateen – Jan H. – At the last AWSC I described a growing concern about our declining numbers and referenced the frustration of providing timely Alateen referrals to newcomers through our current word of mouth. I was asked by the panel to prepare a formal motion for consideration at this AWSC meeting to include rationale and support documentation. The following represents that request along with a statement, collected facts and documentation.

STATEMENT: This is a call for help to [SC] Al-Anon to resuscitate our [SC] Alateen program. It appears that our once vital Alateen fellowship, one of the oldest in the nation, is being snuffed out for lack of access and nourishment. We are in need of support in all areas – emotional, spiritual, physical and financial. The following has been prepared based on information gathered and...detective work that has been required in my transition of office serving as AAC since January 1, 2011. I believe I speak as the majority voice today of our participating fellowship from those in attendance at our business meetings, participating as sponsors of Alateen groups teen and adult members participating in Alateen groups and events. Among this fellowship are teens actively involved over 7 years, and adult members who have served at all levels of SC Al-Anon service and active in Alateen service over 18 year's.

MOTION: I would like to move that the following changes regarding the dispersing of Alateen information be made immediately: that Alateen meeting information be provided the same access as Al-Anon meetings. This includes publishing the day, times and meeting locations in all the same manner as Al-Anon meetings enjoy. *** See NOTE

Further, I would like to request the following of our fellowship:

1. **Of AFGs:** Please announce the availability of Alateen in the opening or closing of your meetings indicating time, day, location of the nearest Alateen meeting in your district, having in hand the primary contact information of the group. When no Alateen meeting is nearby, please have a list of where Alateens meet in the area with contacts and strive to include Alateen literature to welcome Alateens to your meetings.
2. **Of DRs:** Please ask your district fellowship to make Alateen a priority. This priority includes the above [#1] Consider becoming a certified AMIAS and ask others to do the same, Appoint a District Alateen coordinators (adult and teen), to link groups and Area representatives; Provide opportunities in your meetings and all day events for Alateens and Alateen Sponsors to share and aim for offering at least one weekly Alateen meeting in your district.
3. **Of the Area Public Outreach:** Publish a list of SC Alateen Meetings (day/time/address of meeting location) and a contact on the members' only pages of the area website. (To be provided)

4. **Of the Area Public Outreach:** Publish certified Alateen Sponsor contact information (like DRs are listed) in the same area of the website...(to be provided)
5. **Of the Area Public Outreach:** Add Alateen meetings (day, time and location) in all the same public avenues that Al-Anon meetings currently appear... on the website, on district & regional meeting lists distributed, reference on telephone hotlines (assuring all those answering the phone are informed) and include a map quest link for driving directions to the website meeting list.

Other Related Forthcoming Concerns:

1. Call for opportunities and support for Alateen fundraising opportunities within the Al-Anon fellowship on local, district and area events.
2. Call for a review of SC requirements to certification Alateen Sponsors.

RATIONALE: As new coordinator 6 months into the Area Alateen post, I was challenged turning up pertinent Alateen meeting information and Alateen Sponsor contact information for the actively meeting Alateen groups and still further lack of clarity on those no longer meeting. What I have turned up is that our SC Alateen fellowship is in rapid decline. Meetings are disappearing, sponsors are not re-certifying in all districts except District 6. Much has surfaced through my efforts to respond to the public Alateen e-mail box established in March this year. Disseminating Alateen information to newcomers is labor intensive, untimely with difficult to no follow up. More importantly, it appears to be unnecessary and goes against our primary purpose - to help other Alateens.

*** See NOTE

At all Alateen business meetings this year, teens and sponsors shared in several concerns. How to find better ways to share with each other and how to increase participation in our events? These discussions always return to concerns unique to Alateen public outreach. There is a serious breakdown of providing timely referral information to newcomers. The secrecy of meeting information and breakdown in updating contact information is keeping the general public from Alateen help – and is a roadblock to our sustenance not to mention growth. While there are some obvious internal systems we can improve, it is time for a real change of access to Alateen in SC.

Further, this current secrecy of Alateen meeting information implies there is some heightened risk for teens attending Alateen meetings compared to other community youth service organizations openly publicized online and in print for community access. Little League baseball schedules, girl scout and boy scout weekly meetings and their overnight camps, public library after-school tutoring, pre-school reading programs, youth tennis matches, dance classes, youth choir rehearsals, bible school classes, weekly day camps and much, much more are available in the news, online and community calendars.

FACTS:

1. Alcoholism is a family dis-ease. Al-Anon is adapted from AA providing recovery to affected members of the family. Alateen is a part of Al-Anon, the recovery program for our youth ages 13 – 19. When an Alateen meeting is not available, teens are welcomed to Al-Anon meetings.
2. Alateen is a feeder program to Al-Anon. Some areas encourage teens to transition to Al-Anon even before they reach 19.
3. SC Alateen Program is 35 years old, one of the oldest in the nation.
4. WSO instituted core Alateen behavior guidelines in 2003 allowing area autonomy...in particular to address state laws related to working with youth; SC Area Behavior Requirements were instituted in 2004.
5. There is nothing written in SC Alateen Behavior Requirements addressing how we can or cannot post Alateen meeting information to the public. However, there has been a restriction passed down verbally, member to member and to sponsors through SC certification training restricting the posting of Alateen meeting information to the public. Personal screening has been required through internal Al-Anon/Alateen members.
6. Internal Al-Anon channels are untimely, labor intensive and have broken down.

7. Times have changed. SC Alateen public outreach has not. SC has not stayed current with other area Alateen standard practices. All areas but one or possibly 2 post Alateen meeting information alongside Al-Anon and AA meetings on their printed schedules and online. The new standard is electronic/digital/satellite and global. Our new vocabulary includes Google, Broad Band, Wikipedia, Cloud Computing, Wi-Fi, Twitter, YouTube, Face book, Pandora & Flickr to mention only a few. Access is the new pressing agenda and the standard in all communications whether business, news, social including the 12-step program. Has anyone Googled an AA/Al-Anon or Alateen meeting lately? Out state Alateen rep has and has attended 4 out of state Alateen meetings on his summer travels. I received voicemails and text messages about his experiences and hopes that we can have the same in SC. WSO has recently established a Facebook page. Alateen Chat meetings are being encouraged and any meeting is open to any teen that registers.
8. WSO does not advise areas to NOT post weekly Alateen meeting information. They encourage the opposite. The only thing WSO has cautioned areas about is considering not posting annual Alateen Conference information because these gatherings are not typically designed for newcomers. However, this is only a suggestion.
9. Out of 67 areas, SC remains one of possibly 2 other areas that do not publish meeting information online and they, like us, are trying to change this practice. Alateen meetings are published right alongside their counterparts with Al-Anon and AA meetings noted.
10. In the not too distant past, a reported height of participating teens attending the annual SC Alateen (summer) Conference = **(100)**
11. Participating teens in 2011 = **(30)** (No records on participating sponsors.)
12. A former height of SC Alateen Groups meeting weekly = **(35)** and at least **(1)** group in every district.
13. One former group sponsor reported having **(28)** members; the group has long disbanded. Current groups (2 - 15) members.
14. At least **(6)** groups are either not meeting or have dissolved in the last five years. Only two new groups have formed.
15. **(2)** of **(9)** current Alateen groups are down to 2 or 3 regular members.
16. **(4)** Of **(10)** districts (1, 2, 8 & 10) have zero weekly Alateen meetings. AFGs meeting in these districts (6, 12 and 19).
17. **(3 of 7)** (4, 5, & 9) districts with active groups operating with **one** sponsor i.e. **(0)** back up certified AMIAS. WSO recommends that we have two. AFGs meeting in the same districts **22, 6, 16** several - meeting more than one day a week.
18. In the last year, Certified AMIAS dropped 50% with annual recertification complete - from **(50)** in 2010 to **(25)** in 2011.
19. Of (126 AFGs) and estimated 300+ Al-Anon members in SC - 8% are certified Alateen Sponsors, a requirement to assist Alateens directly or back up a current sponsor. This means 92% of the SC Al-Anon fellowship are ineligible to help Alateens directly, back up an Alateen sponsor when business, illness or personal travel conflicts or provide an Alateen a ride to a meeting, district, area or other program related event.
20. Alateen public inquiries via sc_alateen@yahoo.com reveals a demand throughout the state; the highest number to date are from the districts w/o weekly Alateen meetings.
21. Live, one-on-one contact with the fellowship when responding to public inquiries whether phone or e-mail is slow. Personally serving as sole responder to online inquiries, I find it requires regular review and transference of extensive contact information. Additionally, final connections can often be days even weeks later w/o assurance of follow up. With such an easy alternative (posting meeting information online) this outdated system appears to serve more as a roadblock to help.
22. Consultation with a SC Lawyer (specializing in criminal law) revealed zero added liability to taking Alateen meeting information public.
23. The rationale for SC's withholding meeting (day, time & location) from the public has been described as a safety measure to screen callers and provide protective measures in general, but more specifically protection from sexual predators. There is no evidence that our practices prevent sexual predators from doing anything. However, several other measures written into the SC Behavior Requirement code provides true safety measures. These include defining who can and cannot attend Alateen

meetings, that Alateens are with sponsors at all times until released to their parent or guardians, teens are not allowed to wander facilities alone or leave the buildings except with whom they came. Additionally, all Alateen meetings are held in the same buildings with their counterpart 12-step groups...AA/NA & Al-Anon meetings concurrently – except one group meeting in a high school where security from outsiders is also established.

24. I have personally visited over 20 different area websites including all states in the southeast and major metropolitan centers across the US. (Samples provided) Some code their meetings and include an index at the top or bottom, others id by the group name w/ Alateen in the title while many provide a MapQuest link for downloading driving directions.

Personal Experience:

The Alateen e-mail box sc_alateen@yahoo.com has required considerable time and review to turn up resources, (I.E... determining current status of active Alateen meetings, sponsor certification status and updated contact information.) If the AAC is challenged providing updated information on Alateen in SC, how could it improve through the channels? Since early March I have documented a steady stream of Alateen interest from all 10 districts – receiving inquiries even from districts w/ telephone hotlines. Facing the cold harsh reality of how FEW weekly Alateen meetings there are (9); the large expanse of the state absent Alateen, One meeting in the north...top 1/2 of the SE coastline; District Alateen Coordinators (4); Total (AMIAS) Al-Anon Members in Alateen Service (25). Then discovering how MANY Alateen Group Sponsors are getting by solo (1/3.) One might think this service is painful...yet checking in with current sponsors, they celebrate this decision to serve with our young adults as many admit this decisions among the best they have ever made. Ask them. We need more help and wonder why more aren't willing to join us?

This is not a criticism of members or our SC fellowship on prior decisions, but rather a look at the present to see what we might be able to do better. While we are excited about additions of the website, building our electronic communications, we are finding it difficult to grow w/out a stronger foundation.

References: Various Websites, E-mail correspondence (Brandon, Linda, Bee, Mary Lou/WSO) Alateen Business meeting discussion, Printed records from SC Assembly motions & votes re Alateen Behavior Requirements, WSO Alateen guidelines, Alateen Inquiries via sc_alateen@yahoo.com/EXCEL doc; SC Alateen Group Histories; Notes from WSO conference call.

*** * * NOTE:** The motion that Jan presented was written and presented to the body of the AWSC as follows:

MOTION: Jan made the following motion: I would like to move that the following changes regarding the dispersing of Alateen information be made immediately; that Alateen meeting information be provided the same access as Al-Anon meetings. This includes publishing the day, times and meeting location in all the same manner as Al-Anon meetings enjoy.

Rationale: To resuscitate the Alateen program in South Carolina. The Alateens are unable to find us and we need to be able to publish our meetings.

This will now go to the Area Assembly for vote.

Gene W. – Sorry I could not be here to say these things myself. I won't bother saying too much in this letter, that's Jan H's job. I would, however, like to cover 2 topics. First camp, this last camp was a great year in my opinion. A lot of new things were tried, most worked, but others need to be altered a little to increase efficiency. I have had a lot of positive feedback as well. Thank you to everyone that helped, you made this a very memorable year of camp. My second topic is on the issue relating to posting Alateen meetings, locations, and times, for the public to see. As I have been traveling, I have been to meetings in Virginia, New Hampshire, and Delaware; all of which have their meetings posted online. If I understand the issue properly, concern arises over the worry that predators may use this information. I spoke with two Area Alateen Coordinators, ones from New Hampshire and Delaware. They have never heard of any problems relating to predators preying on Alateens by gaining meeting locations off the internet. The only case one had ever heard of involving a predator, was actually an Alateen sponsor that was certified and had had a background

check to get that certification. I think this is the best example that no matter how much you try, you cannot completely protect the Alateens from predators, because chances are good that they might be within the program as well as outside of it. The bottom line, as I see it, is that posing meetings online will allow for more potential Alateens, something that the program desperately needs, considering our decline in numbers, and there is virtually no more risk by posting meeting locations online as there is by just letting Alateen be know within the program. Remember, the only person who wins if you let predators cause our fall, is the predator... Those that lose are the current Alateens, the troubled teens that need Alateen, and even AI-Anon in the long run. Have a wonderful meeting and please consider my words.

AAPP – Susan O. – Susan reported the following information for Alateen:

23 Alateen Sponsors recertified
23 did not recertify
Lost 5 groups due to no Sponsor
Have certified 10 new Sponsors for a total of 33
Currently have 10 Alateen groups

Literature – Nan M. – Hi everyone recently I finished the book Many Voices, One Journey. (B-31) I found it to be loaded with our history in AI-Anon, but what is clearly unique about it is you will find many questions and sharing's that afford us the ability to climb into our own recovery work if we so choose. I encourage you all to use it in your groups for a meeting topic or maybe encourage your sponsees to read it daily in small sections to grow and learn in their program. Several groups in my district are taking How AI-Anon Works (B-32) in the paperback \$5.00 edition and ordering several and in turn giving it out to newcomers. Please take this back to your groups and ask them to consider this option. We have found the positive responses from newcomers to be a real sense of appreciation for our willingness to share this with them without any expectations. For me this is a nice way to practice Step 12. Our newest piece of literature is our 2011 World Service Conference Summary (P-46). By the time I share this with the fellowship I will probably have completed my reading. What a wonderful way for service sponsors to support their sponsees in service. Consider investing the small amount of money to buy one for all your sponsees. Consider also, even if your service activity is limited, to share with others to gain a better understanding of how service in AI-Anon works in order to assure the preservation of our program. It is available on the Members' site at www.al-anon.alateen.org/members.

Finally a couple pieces of important info:

1. I will have given to all the D.R.s a copy of the Intimacy Sharing Sheet, working title INTIMACY IN ALCOHOLIC RELATIONSHIPS, the piece approved by this year's World Service Conference. Please feel free to copy, distribute and of course submit a sharing.
2. Please don't forget to post sharing's on any of the three Legacy blogs found on our members' web site (www.alanon.org/members) This is for the the new legacy workbook in development. There is hope the workbook may be available at the 2013 AI-Anon International Convention in Vancouver, BC.
3. The CAL Sample Chapter for October and December, can be found on the members' web site and the public outreach website, is within IN ALL OUR AFFAIRS (B-15). The topic is "From Denial to Awareness."

Forum – Susan E. - A subscription to the Forum was given at the June Assembly and another will be given at the October Area Assembly. I am currently making up packages to be given to the GR's at Area Assembly consisting of Forum sharing sheets and subscription forms. I also hope to have a Forum Display at Area Assembly.

Public Outreach – Nancy G. - Carolina's AI-Anon District Public Outreach Coordinators have been very busy over the long hot summer months. Anywhere there is a treatment center from the mountains to the se, District members are bringing institution meetings of recovery to families of alcoholics. Phoenix Center in Greenville, Institute of Psychiatry/MUSC in Charleston, Morris Village and Palmetto Behavioral

Care/Adolescent Recover Center in Columbia are to name a few of the places where the Al-Anon message of Hope and Recovery are being shared.

Program given to Employee Assistance program was held with a rave review from the participants. Meeting schedules, website address along with our daily readers and pamphlets were given.

Members have given their time & hope at Health Fairs, Street Fairs, First Day in August for parents & teachers to share pamphlets, books, Forums & meeting schedules.

New meetings are popping up all over the state, one request from a church pastor that says his congregation has alcohol problems and he wants a meeting at this church. We are making contact with Police & Sheriff's departments along with request for members to share their experience, strength and hope at Drug Court.

Three Districts - 4, 7 & 9 submitted reports. Those three are eligible for the state monies to replace supplies of pamphlets, books and meeting schedules.

Website - Mike M. - We now have a protected web area on the SC website for the Alateen to get together and share. If the web doesn't have correct information please get with Joyce for changes. There are groups that are not in the area specified. Mike looks at the website as if he is a new person. Can I get to this meeting and walk in the door? We do have some descriptions. Make it as clear as possible. To his knowledge everything is up to speed. Please let him know of changes. Listings by districts are actually useless for anyone but old-timers. He is going to create a listing by city and county. He has a new map for the counties. Give him time he will get it up and running. It will connect to city, county and district when you go to our website. Look at the Calendar of Events and make sure it is up-to-day. Get him the information electronically and it will look better. Links of Service - it is imperative that the DRs are functioning and alive and working with Mike. He loves new ideas and please get the groups and the districts to get them to him. They have to be approved, but funnel those ideas through the DR if possible, but he will take the ideas from anyone and will present that information for approval.

Alternate Delegate - Joyce H. - I am now looking forward to visiting groups within Area 50. I feel that this will benefit me and also the groups to have the chance to have a one-on-one connection. I would also like to visit some District meetings to see how a difference or similarity that there is within Districts in the Area.

We are coming up on 1 year since voting for your new panel, it has been a year of learning, reminding myself Principals above Personalities and no matter how hard I try, I still am not perfect. I "Keep Coming Back," not to finally achieve perfection, but to do what is necessary in this program to know the difference.

Group Services - Joyce H. - Finally a light at the end of the tunnel for Area 50 Groups. We currently have 123 active Al-Anon groups in our Area. I have tried to make sure all information gets to WSO immediately after receiving it. I also send this info to our Webmaster to be placed on line. I then send all officers a copy of changes along with all DR's that have had changes in groups within their District. We have 8 new groups in Area 50,

District 2:	Monday AFG, Boiling Springs
District 6:	Steps and Traditions Study Group, Beaufort The New Beginnings AFG, Bluffton
District 7:	Island AFG, Daniels Island Begin With Me, Johns Island Johns Island Primary Purpose
District 8:	Recovery AFG, Conway Myrtle Beach Parents

Welcome to all these new groups. I hope that all changes will now be sent ASAP and I will do my best to make sure these are sent to WSO so groups will continue to receive mail. It is very important that all GR's get information to their DR's and then forwarded to me for this to happen. Once WSO gets mail returned from a group, they automatically put that group in "no mail" status. Please keep an open line to me so this does not happen.

I am hoping to start a project educating all GR with their WSO ID #. This # is beneficial for group Treasurers also. If your Treasurer places this # on your contributions it will be much easier and efficient for Fran B. our Area Treasurer to post, same goes for you District Contributions and WSO. Please remember

however that the appeal contributions are individual members and therefore group ID # is not to be used. Here is to Growing in Fellowship together.

Reflector – Diane F. - Reflector reports are due September 13. Diane's email address has changed diane_anonymous@sc.twcbc.com and can also be found on the *member's only* portion of the state website.

2011 Convention – Joyce H. – Joyce let us know that they are having Spring Maid Resort do an audit of their bill for the convention. She believes that there will probably be a loss on the 2011 convention, She will send in a final report after the audit.

2012 Convention – Janet L. – The 2012 Convention Committee met on May 7th after AWSC meeting and will meet again this afternoon at 1:30 pm at Virginia Wingard United Methodist Church.

The convention registration form and hotel information are posted on the Area web site. The registration form now includes t-shirt information. We're giving copies of the registration form to District Representatives today to distribute to their groups.

The Speaker Committee has completed selection of speakers except for the Alateen speaker on Saturday morning. The Workshop Committee has chosen workshop topics and has been recruiting workshop leaders. Both the speakers and the workshop topics are listed on the registration form.

Kurt O. has designed and nearly finished the quilt to express the convention theme, "Quiet the Mind; Open the Heart." We plan to post some pictures on the web site. In addition to the quilt raffle, we will have a gift basket raffle.

At October Assembly, we will have a package for each group—quilt raffle tickets and requests for gift basket donations and contributions for the Hospitality Room.

26 people have registered for convention. We will have a registration table at October Assembly.

The 2012 Convention Committee requests authorization to purchase a large coffee urn or urns. The cost will not exceed \$150.00 and will be reimbursed by the Area. The urn(s) will be the property of Area.

Motion made by Janet: 2012 convention committee requests authorization to purchase a large coffee urn or urns. The cost will not exceed \$150.00 and will be reimbursed by the Area. The urn(s) will be the property of Area

Rationale: The coffee urns will allow us to provide coffee at Conventions and other meetings at a lower cost than if supplied by a hotel or catering service. It was 2nd by Diane F.

Upon voting there were: 14 approved, 6 abstentions. Motion unanimously approved.

Jeri will make the announcement at the Area to let them know that the coffee pots will be purchased at a cost of no more than \$150.00.

2013 Convention – John C. - The 2013 SCAFG convention planning meeting was held at the library in Georgetown, SC on Saturday June 11th from 9 -12 noon. Representatives from District 6 and 8 were present. Many positions were filled. At the District 6 meeting held on July 9th in Walterboro, Sheree M. volunteered to take on convention registration. John C. traveled to the District 7 Meeting on July 16th in Charleston and presented the need for servants for the 2013 convention. Perhaps the new DR there Marietta N. can be of assistance in sounding the call in District 7 now.

Mike M. (Co-Chair of 2013 Convention) asked Heidi L to take on Treasurer's duty and she has accepted this position. Secretary, Raffle and Entertainment Committee chair person positions remain open and unfilled.

Conference calls and web meetings are planned in early September for next steps and additional planning.

The next scheduled meeting was to be held on September 10th in Walterboro following the District 6 meeting. THIS MEETING WILL BE CANCELLED and conference calls and web meetings will be held instead.

Trusted servants who are serving for the 2013 convention are:

First Name	Last Name	Position	Tel	e-mail
John	Chaconas	Chair	843-607-6996	jjchaconas@gmail.com
Mike	Melton	Co-Chair	843-847-1444	meltong@cfl.rr.com
Heidi	Little	Treasurer	240-381-1790	littlemcsc@homesc.com
		Secretary		
David	Taylor	Communications	610-256-1871	dwtay@hotmail.com
Linda	Ruthven	Speakers	843-871-8202	catsmeow2747@sc.rr.com
Lisa	Rosof	Meeting Chair	843-504-1057	l1808@aol.com
Monette	Dunn	Meeting Chair	843-235-0765	madunn1@sc.rr.com
Tom	Himmel	Hospitality	843-357-2509	thimmelsc@aol.com
Kitty	Bierling		843-871-3093	bierlings@yahoo.com
Mary	Vitek		410-353-6790	mcmwgV@gmail.com
Susan	Lebhar	Workshops	843-875-0784	sueleb@sc.rr.com
Linda	Queen	Hospitality	843-650-2813	lindaqueen@aol.com
Mary Ellen	Rathof	Voice	843-655-7477	mep4200@aol.com
Glenda	Tarry	Workshops	843-650-6249	gtarry@sc.rr.com
Melanie	Martin	General Store	843-333-9948	melmar7@sccoast.net
Sheree	Morris	Registration	843-384-6192	SMorris@mcnair.net
		Raffle		
Jan	Horan	Alateen	843-252-4903	sc_alateen@yahoo.com
Diane	E.	Quilt	843-821-4233	dekenstierna@yahoo.com
		Entertainment		

Spanish Liaison – We are still in need of a coordinator for this position. **Puede usted ayudar? Lo necesitamos! ***

Chairman - Jeri W. – Jeri was proud to announce that every district was represented at this AWSC. Woooo Hoooo!!! I sit at my desk thinking about what to share at Assembly...hmmm. As with my own spiritual awakenings, it doesn't come in a flash of light, but it comes in a subtle, gentle way. I stop and think and ask for my Higher Power's help. Then a direction is given to me. My only job is to listen with an open heart and mind.

As I grow through my journey in meetings and service work, I am reminded of my history and where I am today. Maybe this thought comes to me because I've been reading *Many Voices, One Journey*. Today it's important to see the progress we are experiencing and expressing with our families, in the rooms of Al-Anon and Alateen, and in our communities. In South Carolina I would like each of you to reflect on how you can be open to all that lies ahead of us and how our journeys can be positive and overflowing towards one another. How can we strive towards those ideals? How about beginning with TEAM? Our dual-chaired topics are Conflict Resolution, Concepts of Service, and Transitioning Alateens into Al-Anon. Isn't this a great way to start by:

- learning and practicing how to communicate in harmony with one another even when we initially may not see eye to eye; continuing to be part of the solution instead of the problem,
- Referring to our Service Manual section on the concepts of service when we are lost and don't know what the next right thing to do is, and
- Making sure the Alateens are valued and that they are welcomed into our South Carolina events so that they feel "a part of" instead of "apart from".

So much work to do, but in this case, work isn't a four letter word and we never do it alone. It's about hope for our future in South Carolina. I have faith that more people will get involved in service work and that each of you will reflect on how getting in the middle of Al-Anon/Alateen has become a vital part of your recovery.

What are we as a panel doing today?

- trying to reinforce how important it is to pick up the phone when emails and texting just don't give us the whole picture
- continually updating the website to make it full of useful information for anyone who needs Al-Anon and Alateen
- getting accurate group records so each group gets WSO information in a timely manner
- asking for someone to take on the position of Spanish Liaison Coordinator or Institutions Coordinator on the area level; these positions are still open
- discussing how Alateen can grow in our state via e-communities and our website

What is in the immediate future?

- Thought forces; establishing a group of people as a "think tank" in regards to our current action committees' structure
- Task forces; taking the thought force results and finishing the project; we will be doing this with the convention guidelines

Both of these groups will be reporting to AWSC on August 27th.

For background information:

Once a thought force completes its job, it is followed by discussion at AWSC to see if further action is needed. AWSC may conclude that we need to develop a task force to accomplish the final results. Whatever the decision may be, there will be discussion.

How are these groups going to be successful? By using informed group conscience – the key word being "informed". You can get more information about this process by going to our new book and looking up "knowledge-based decision making" in the index.

How can you help? That's easy - by volunteering to engage in this process. As always, I stress the importance of rotation of service. We are inclusive, not exclusive.

Delegate - Jan R. – First, I would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards and well wishes during my hip replacement. I am on the mend and almost back to 100 %. I hope I am walking like a normal person by Assembly.

I have some news from WSO:

- There are some Trustee-At-Large positions open. If you are interested in applying, please let me know.
- The International Al-Anon General Services Meeting will be held in Cape Town, South Africa this year. This will allow us to bring the fellowship of Al-Anon to those who need us.
- A new piece of literature on intimacy is in the works. WSO is looking for sharings for "Intimacy in Alcoholic Relationships" (working title). I have more information if you are interested in sending in a sharing.
- Al-Anon is now on Twitter and Facebook. You can "like" them (Al-Anon WSO) on Facebook and receive postings from WSO. Members are asked not to post comments.
- Al-Anon Family Groups Headquarters (Canada) Inc. has a new virtual office in Ottawa effective September 1.
- Some groups will be receiving information regarding a newcomer's survey. If you have any questions, please contact me.
- There have been 3 TEAM events so far and 4 more are scheduled through next April.

I would like to ask how many of you have been handing out “How Al-Anon Works” to your newcomers. With the idea of Abundant Resources, Al-Anon is trying to carry the message in having these paperback versions at a lower cost. I hope all your groups are taking advantage of this opportunity for outreach. Another possibility is using them for outreach to professionals, carrying the message to areas that reach a diverse population (i.e., hair salons, churches, etc.)

While I was at conference we were visited by the Spirit of Generosity – a member dressed up similar to a Leprechaun, and tossing out coins and bills (with his picture on them!) We were presented with vignettes of situations that depicted where the money sent to WSO is used for outreach, literature, etc. Each vignette was accompanied by “Our Spirit Soars with Every Gift” to the tune of “When the Saints Go Marching In.” This emphasized how our contributions are being used in very real ways daily. One way we can increase our contributions in our group is to suggest that members think about contributing more than their usual contribution one week out of each month. In the almost quarter century that I’ve been in Al-Anon, members are still donating \$1 to the basket – while prices have risen on literature, rent, coffee, insurance, gas, etc. exponentially during that time. Right now groups that do contribute average \$104.04 per groups, while WSO’s cost for serving each group is \$238.23 per group.

Other information to keep you updated is:

- ∇ Online Group Records
- ∇ This allows all Area Delegates and Group Records Coordinators to look at and report on group information for their Area, as well as allowing Area Group Records Coordinators to update group information directly in the WSO database.
- ∇ Future plans include registering Alateen meetings on-line after insuring the safety requirements for each Area will be met.
- ∇ Unlimited Abundant Resources Skills Inventory Database
- ∇ Right now, there are over 1,000 members, but we are always interested in members who would like to offer their expertise to be of service.
- ∇ In the future, there will be a page to update a member’s status and to opt out after submitting the data, if the member so chooses.
- ∇ Alateen Chat
- ∇ Eight areas host chat rooms: four in the United States and four in Canada.
- ∇ The registration process is now automatic for teens; they no longer have to wait to be added to the system.
- ∇ The registration process has been translated into French, Spanish, and German.
- ∇ Blogs
- ∇ There are now twelve active blogs: six English, three French, and three Spanish.
- ∇ ‘For Members and Groups’ and ‘Thinking Abundantly in...’ are the two newest blogs.
- ∇ Audio is being added to the Traditions blog each month.
- ∇ e-Communities
- ∇ Quite a few communities were added last year, including one for past and current Conference members.
- ∇ The discussion forums are being used by some communities.
- ∇ Area Chairpersons and District Representatives will be the next two communities to be added.
- ∇ Electronic Newsletters and Notifications
- ∇ In early July all members who were listed as the Current Mailing Address for a specific meeting, and had an e-mail address in the WSO data base, were sent the CMA Newsletter.
- ∇ A second mailing to key service people went out at the end of July with the announcement of the Appeal Letter.
- ∇ The plan is to use this process for an e-News for Professionals newsletter and to notify members who formally received Area Highlights that it is posted on the Members’ Web site. Many

additional notices that would have been posted in multiple communities will now come via this system to avoid Delegates and other trusted servants receiving an e-mail notification for every e-community they can access.

- ∇ Electronic Literature
- ∇ This is still being researched and discussed. As soon as there is anything concrete, the Conference members will receive notification.

The Theme for the 2012 World Service Conference has been announced. It is "Our Spiritual Journey – We Get as We Give." We do this in practicing the program, participating in service, being willing to sponsor, etc. I am looking forward to the conference and all the information I will be able to bring back to you from it. I have conference summaries for all of you today so that you can see what we did at conference. If you would like additional summaries, they can be ordered from WSO for the cost of shipping them.

In closing I would like to share with you my wish list for the area. I think it would be great if we could find a way to have assemblies that included fellowship and fun and not just the "business" for the area. Other areas have multi-day assemblies (2-3) days that include workshops, discussion groups, GR breakfasts with the coordinators, speakers, etc. We could reduce the number of Assemblies we have each year and have them as 2 day assemblies and include some 'fellowship' time in these. Just something to think about. My other wish would be that we re-look at how we do other things, such as conventions, and allow for some "out-of-the-box" thinking. I recently attended a convention in another area that was only Friday-Sunday. They had a speaker on Friday night, 3 speakers on Saturday and one on Sunday. The speakers chaired the 3 workshops they had on Saturday. It was a filled weekend, but it still allowed for time to just fellowship with the members. Again, something to think about.

The last thing is communication. When we presume good will and make an effort to communicate clearly with each other, information gets shared and things occur smoothly. Let's all make an effort to communicate well with each other.

Recently a survey was sent out by WSO that was being conducted by a university student. John C. of District 6 told Jan R. that someone who received the email was very upset that the information was going to a university and was being used for other purposes than for WSO's benefit. Jan was to give him a letter from Rick B., (WSO Executive Director) about that. Jan said that going on Al-Anon's E-Community would be a good place to start a discussion about that topic.

Old Business

- ✓ John C. from District 6 will hold a Thought-force Committee Meeting on Action Committees for a report in January.
- ✓ Talk about having a Convention Coordinator Thought-force will be moved to January because of limited time at this AWSC.
- ✓ Convention Guidelines Task Force report: Dale C. went over the guidelines, but again because of limited time they will be revisited.

New Business:

- ✓ **Budget** - Fran B. prepared, distributed and went over the Proposed Budget for 2012, line by line. There was discussion and clarification about the various line items. The line item for Convention Advance 2013 in the amount of \$2,500.00 was removed and Miscellaneous Expense was increased by \$150.00 for coffee urns. Because having or not having Action Committees has not been voted on, we cannot take out the expenses at this point, but may be removed at a later date after we know what is happening with them

John C. called for a motion to approved the amended Proposed Budget for 2012 with a total of 18,410.00, 2nd by Mary Ellen R. and unanimously approved. This budget will be presented to Area Assembly on October 1, 2012.

Motion to adjourn was made by Nancy G. and seconded by Marie J. Motion unanimously approved. Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer followed by the Al-Anon/Alateen Declaration.

Respectfully submitted,
Melanie Martin
Area Secretary

District Reports:

District 1 – Karen L. -

District 2 – Gene E. - Here we are coasting into the end of August and summer! How time flies! And right along with it, the blessing that come with service!

Hope for Tomorrow hosted our May District meeting. One area of discussion was groups being attended by student-observers. Pre-surgical, Jan R., was our guest presenter and shared her excitement about having attended the World Service Conference.

Members of our district attended the Area Assembly meeting in June and then the T.E.A.M. Conference.

Lancaster Co-Ed hosted our July District meeting. "Group money" was the focus of the meeting and workshop with questions from the groups like what expenses could be used as tax credits. What was the difference between "Not for Profit" and Non-profit?" Barbara Anne Mc. presented a Treasurers' Workshop and tackled those and many other financial questions offering suggestions for the Treasurers to consider putting into practice.

We have a new group, Monday AFG, in Boiling Springs!

Our next District Meeting is being hosted by Fort Mill AFG on Sunday, September 25, 2011. Please come join us!

District 3 – Jane K. - We have a district meeting planned for Sept 10 in Wagener, SC from 10-2. We will be planning the Attitude of Gratitude that will be held in Aiken and hosted by the Entirely Ready group on October 15. Our public outreach coordinator for our district, Sharla K, is currently working on a new meeting schedule for printing. District Three sent four Alateens to camp this year. Two full scholarships were awarded by the district and Entirely Ready gave a third scholarship. The Alateens also participated in some fund raisers.

District 4 – Margaret L. - District 4 has been trying to increase our Alateen sponsorship, and we have indeed certified one new sponsor. We sent several participants to the Alateen Conference in July as well as one sponsor. We have held District meetings in March, May and July, and our next District meeting is September 11. At that meeting, we have scheduled the Alateens to present a summary of the Conference they just attended and give us their feedback on the Conference and their program in general. We are also trying to schedule a visit from the Delegate to give her report. The District ordered a case of the new softcover *How Al-Anon Works* to give to the groups in our District so that each member can see the new version of this seasoned publication and decide how the groups can best utilize it in their meetings and outreach. The meetings have been holding group consciences to decide if each meeting considers itself as open or closed, per the definition in the Service Manual. We did this in conjunction with a professor in a social work curriculum who assigns her students to attend an AA, an NA and an Al-Anon meeting during their coursework. Other schools require this as well. Our groups wanted to be prepared for the visits of the students and have a good sense of self and how to respond to requests to attend as a non-member of Al-Anon. We plan to indicate on our schedule the meetings that are open. Interestingly enough, although we have been told that most Al-Anon groups are closed, all of the groups in District 4 who have reported the

votes from their group consciences have voted themselves to be open. Our annual holiday party is planned for Saturday, December 10, at Ashland United Methodist Church. We have members participating in the planning of the convention coming up in February along with our sister Districts 3, 5 & 10. What a lot of fun this has been! Our report concludes with our Public Outreach report from our District 4 Coordinator, Maris B:

Public Outreach Report: Maris Burton, Outreach Coordinator

During May, June and July, District 4 continued its long-standing service work of presenting institutional meetings at various locations. We present at Morris Village the first Tuesday of each month, rotating between long time members Lesley D, Lois P and more recent member Jim S. Thank you for your ongoing service and more free literature has been ordered! Big thanks to Pam H who has been facilitating a first Wednesday evening of the month parents' group at Palmetto Health Behavioral Care/The Adolescent Recovery Center for years. And thanks to Constants A. who facilitates Thursday evenings at Richland Springs. Your efforts are rewarded by increasing our members and spreading the word to families and friends in need.

In July, Pam H and I presented an hour-and-a-half program to more than 40 members of Employee Assistance Programs from all around the Midlands. We discussed the history of Al-Anon, the Steps, Traditions and principles and shared our personal stories. We also brought along many examples of our literature including daily readers, books, and pamphlets. Of course we had many copies of our schedules to hand out and publicized the website. The audience asked some difficult questions and we were able to demonstrate principles and love in our responses.

Upcoming plans include distribution of the new *Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism*, and ongoing presentations at health fairs whenever we hear about them.

District 5 – Dian R. -

District 6 – John C. - DR attended May 10th AWSC. , the 2012 convention flyer available on website. Group histories to be completed and given to Linda R. Change forms for each AFG are to be updated. A meeting to discuss 2013 convention is still to be arranged. District 6, 7, and 8 combined to plan for 2013 Convention. Encouraged support for TEAM event in Columbia.

Alateen Representative: Jan H. Alateen District Representative introduced term for 1 year (renewed for next 2 possible) requirements and responsibilities were presented, idea for attracting Alateens to district meeting, although there was a lot of discussion, the issue was tabled and had been discussed at January and March District Meetings. In May, Item was called to a vote and carried unanimously. The DR (John C.) will Appoint an Alateen DR by the July District 6 meeting.

The DR appointed a new Alateen Coordinator: Dave H.(to be assisted by Sally M.), new Alateen DR was appointed - Danny (alternate: Zoë), Many from District 6 attended TEAM Event in Columbia. 1 scholarship given to Alateen and basket passed,

2013 convention planners met and many positions were filled. Sheree M. volunteered to take on convention registration at the July meeting. Mike M. (Co-Chair of 2013 Convention) has asked a person to take on Treasurer's duty.

The DR. attended the District 7 meeting in search of people to fill more committee positions. District 6, 7, and 8 to host 2013 Convention, Planning committee meetings are being scheduled. District All Day - meeting with emphasis on Alateen in the fall to be determined.

GR Report (July) There was much discussion about the WSO survey. John (the DR) will take this to the AWSC. Diana S. (Bluffton) brought this to the District 6 attention. She sent the materials to the DR to take to the AWSC. Although not unanimous most people present thought the government involvement in this survey was against our policy of anonymity. A new intergroup registered in Summerville, and two new groups registered in the Beaufort and Hilton Head areas.

MAY WORKSHOP: Taking an Artful Fourth (step) – Walterboro AFG with Melissa G. and Linda L. presented a fun and though provoking craft centered workshop. The group worked individually to create drawings and paintings depicting their feelings about the fourth step and the emotions and feelings we dealt with while working on the fourth step. This was an outstanding workshop!

District 7 – Marietta N. -

District 8 – Mary Ellen R. - I have been very excited - we are having our All Day on the 17th of September at the Myrtle Beach State Park. How fun it that! We will have a potluck lunch, speakers, workshops and an auction to raise money for Alateen Camp. The weather promises to be beautiful and it's the perfect end to our Al-Anon summer. We are looking forward to our Delegate, Jan R., visiting our district meeting on the 19th of November. We can't wait to hear her presentation.

District 9 – Dale C. - Greetings from the hot city of Greenville! District 9 has been active despite the flaming temperatures! We are busily planning our all day spiritual retreat, "Seeking Serenity", to be held September 24 at Pleasant Ridge Retreat Center. We have a lot planned for the day ~ workshops, speakers, a skit, lunch, raffles, and of course, good old Al-Anon and Alateen fellowship. The registration form is available on the state website, so get yours in soon! We hope to see you there!

We have been beefing up our outreach by working on bringing a monthly meeting to the Phoenix Center in Greenville for family members of those seeking recovery there. We also hope to give out information at a street fair in September. Winning the \$35 at assembly in June helped us pay for books to give out. Jan S., our outreach coordinator, is doing a great job!

We are also looking into have a couple of Saturday morning workshops during the year. Our District Meeting is every other month on the third Tuesday evening for 1 ½ hours so we have very little time for workshops. We decided to try a couple of Saturday morning workshops and see if this is helpful.

District 10 – Marie J. -

***Can you help? We need you!**