

# ALA-TALK

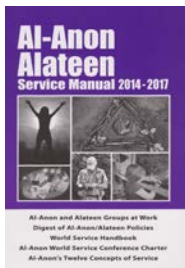
Area 30 ([www.msafg.org](http://www.msafg.org))

Spring 2017

## Al-Anon 2017 Spring Assembly of MSAFG

**April 1, 2017**  
**9:00a - 5:00p**

**Nativity Lutheran Church**  
**495 Crossgates Blvd.**  
**Brandon, MS**



## **2017 Area 30 Al-Anon Convention**

**Opening Doors & Handing  
Out Hope**

**June 9-11, 2017**

**Lake Serene Club House**  
**256 W Lake Road**  
**Hattiesburg, MS**

**Join us in sharing  
experience, strength & hope:**

**- Facilitator led & group  
activity workshops**

## **2016 Area 30 Fall Assembly Minutes (Draft) – Summary** **October 22, Hattiesburg, MS**

The 2016 Area 30 Fall Assembly was opened by Area Chairperson Mary J. at 9:00 am, Saturday, October 22, 2015, at a conference room in Open Door church. Heidi Z., district representative for District 1 which was host of the assembly, was introduced. Among other housekeeping details, Heidi mentioned that in keeping with the World Service Office's (WSO) suggestion, the assembly was dedicated to the 65<sup>th</sup> birthday/anniversary of Lois W. A Lois W. "Look A Like" contest would be held later in the day. All attendees were provided with a gift bag from District 1, which included among other things a pair of 1950's era glasses, so everyone could look like Lois W. for a day.

The assembly opened with a moment of silence, followed by the Serenity Prayer and reading of the Suggested Welcome, Preamble, 12 Steps, 12 Traditions, 12 Concepts and the Warranties.

The Chair welcomed all the District Representatives (DR), Group Representatives (GR) and their alternates, plus Area World Service Committee (AWSC) members. Area Secretary Roland J. conducted a roll call with all GR, DR and AWSC officers identifying their home group. There were 22 members attending who registered at the door. Fifteen of those were voting members. All but District 3 had representation or members present. The Chair handed out copies of the agenda and thanked District 1 for hosting the assembly. The Chair mentioned that WSO provides chat groups for all service positions, as well as one specifically for members. (For further information go to AFG Connects at the AFG/WSO webpage). The Chair also handed out copies of the GR guidelines to those GRs present.

Secretary Roland J. provided a summary of the minutes from the 2016 Area 30 Spring Assembly and handed out a few copies of the full draft. He solicited comments or changes from the floor prior to a markup as final and vote for approval, which was tabled for a period to provide time for members to review. The Secretary reminded all that draft copies of minutes go out to the AWSC and all DRs soon after an assembly. It is the responsibility of DRs and subsequently GRs to make available to all members. Additionally, Ala-Talk Coordinator Deb S. has been publishing a full set of the draft minutes in the bi-annual newsletter and the minutes are posted on the MSAFG website. A member from D7 was present and asked to be added to the Secretary's DR distribution for minutes. Another member requested information on getting their GR data updated with MSAFG. The Chair referred them to the GR form

## AGENDA SPRING 2017 AREA ASSEMBLY SATURDAY APRIL 1, 2017

**9:00 am**-Meeting called to order with the Serenity Prayer  
-Read the Opening, Steps, Traditions, and Concepts

**9:15 am**- Roll Call  
-Recognition of first time attendants of Area Assembly  
-Introductions: name, home group & position

**9:45 am**- Read minutes from fall assembly Secretary Report

**10:00 am**-Delegate Report

**10:20 am**-Alt Delegate Report

**10:30 am**- BREAK

**10:40 am**-AWSC Coordinators Reports (*Treasurer, Group Records, Forum and Literature, Alateen, Newsletter/Archives*)

**12:00 noon** LUNCH AND WORKSHOP—

**How to build your group from *Reaching for Personal Freedom***

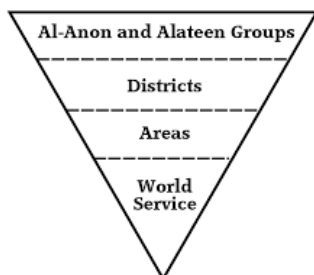
**1:30 pm**- AWSC Coordinators Reports cont. (*Public Outreach, Web Coordinator, LDC Gulf Coast & District 4*)

**2:00 pm**-DR report (in numerical order)

**3:00 pm**- Old Business: MS area redistricting  
New Business: 2017 MS State Al-Anon Convention   \*\* times may vary\*\*

### REMINDERS TO PREPARE FOR ASSEMBLY

- Please bring your **service manuals AND Reaching for Personal Freedom** workbook
- What is your group or district doing for Al-Anon's **65<sup>th</sup> Birthday**?



## Al-Anon's Sixth International Convention

Our next Al-Anon/Alateen International Convention will be July 6-8, 2018 in Baltimore, Maryland!

Now is the best time to start planning your budget to attend. A few important things to consider:

1. Estimate your travel expense
2. Think about how many others you may want to room with
3. Plan on registering early for the lowest registration price
4. Total these items for a preliminary budget
5. **Divide this number by weeks remaining to determine how much to save each week**

***Our own Mississippi Area 30 Daphne F. from District 1 will be speaking at the convention.***

### **AL-ANON REQUESTS**

**Anyone hearing Al-Anon public outreach ads on television or radio, please send a letter anonymously thanking the stations for airing the WSO ads.**

**Anyone interested in serving in your district as Public Outreach Coordinator.**

## COORDINATOR REPORTS—

**Ala-Talk**—Coordinator Deb S. was not in attendance but provided a written report read by the secretary. She has served as newsletter coordinator for about 2 ½ years. Deb reported the Ala-Talk is our Area (30) newsletter published to disseminate business, area events and other information to all members. Digital copies are free on request by emailing [alataalk@msafg.org](mailto:alataalk@msafg.org). Be sure to identify your city of residence to be placed in the correct database for receiving the newsletter when it is published. Print copies are \$5 per year for two issues published in the Spring and Fall prior to the Assembly. Request a copy of the print edition by emailing the above web address or mailing the tear off form in the most recent issue. Mail a check along with the form to the address listed on the form. This year, Deb has sent out 62 digital copies, posted a copy on the MSAFG web page and mailed 10 print copies. Newsletter Coordinator Deb S. also produces the Ala-Talk newsletter. She was unable to attend but forwarded a written report, which was presented on her behalf by Kathy E. The Ala-Talk newsletter is published twice annually, just prior to the Spring and Fall assemblies respectively, in both print and electronic versions. The purpose of the newsletter is to disseminate information from the previous assembly including minutes, coordinator's reports and DR reports. It's also an avenue for members to share common interests and experiences of their groups, districts and activities in Al-Anon in MS. In 2015, subscriptions included 16 individual print and 49 electronic editions, along with 6 group subscriptions. Currently, 2016 subscriptions include 8 individual print and 49 electronic, along with 3 for group use. At the end of February 2016, a redacted edition of the newsletter was posted on the MSAFG webpage under the Members tab. Deb requested submissions and feedback for the newsletter from all groups and districts relative to sharings, flyers for activities, speakers, special meetings and other topics that have value for our members in the state. She also requested that someone within the district hosting an assembly provide a sharing prior to the next assembly. For instance, District 2 hosted the 2016 Spring Assembly and could post a sharing to be published in the fall edition prior to the fall assembly. It could be about the previous assembly or the experience of hosting or any other topic but would need to

information to make the assembly productive. She also requests that where possible members submit sharings and coordinator reports electronically to her so that retyping for the newsletter isn't necessary. A copy of the current Ala-Talk was provided. Print subscription is \$2.50 and the electronic copy is free. She encouraged GR to obtain electronically and print out a group copy. The AWSC insert will be updated for the fall edition.

**Area Archives**—Coordinator Deb S. has served in this position almost 8 years. She provided a written report read by the secretary. Currently, the Area archives consist of 586 folders containing 3,259 files in digital format. She tries to maintain a digital copy of any event flyers, minutes, Ala-Talk and all other types of documents that reflect the activity of AFG in Mississippi. She requests that groups donate a copy of information flyers, meeting dates, dinners, speakers, etc., to the Archives for preservation. She also continues to scan and add older printed documents to the archive. She has focused recently on gathering a complete historical set of all The Forums. She noted that Philene A. donated 242 copies of The Forum for archives. Anyone interested in donating Forums should send a request to [alataalk@msafg.org](mailto:alataalk@msafg.org) and Deb will send you back an index of issues she is still searching for. The most recent issue she has is November 2015. She sent a special thanks to Kathy E. for donating Forums and a compact disc, which was contained a recording of Lois W. in Topeka, Kansas in 1975 and another recording of Bill and Lois W. at the 5<sup>th</sup> Al-Anon World Service conference in 1965. The CD was produced by B. Serene Recordings, Florence, South Carolina. Deb submitted a letter to the Chair in which she regretfully resigned the positions of Archives Coordinator and Ala-Talk coordinator due to personal reasons. She said that she is about halfway complete with digitizing the Area's existing records and urged someone to volunteer who has an interest in such preservation, including storing hard records in a safe environment. She also offered to assist her replacement with information and advice.



**2017 Convention Committee** - Cheryl M. from the Progress Not Perfection group in Hattiesburg announced that District 2 is the host for the 2017 MSAFG convention. The committee has had 7 planning meetings prior to the Fall Assembly. They have met on the second Saturday of every month since April. Not every position on the convention committee is filled but there has been a consistent core in these early stages. The convention will be in June in Hattiesburg. They have been working to finalize the “save the date” and specific location. The theme “Opening Doors and Handing Out Hope” has been finalized. A survey was distributed requesting member information about the length of the convention. From that input, it was decided the convention would run Friday evening through Sunday morning. More information will be distributed as the planning continues.



*Please mail*

*Group Record Change Form to—*

*AFG, 146 Pittman Road, Ocean Springs, 39564*

**OR**

*AFG Headquarters, 1600 Corporate Landing Pkwy  
Virginia Beach, VA 23454*

## **Gulf Coast Men's Al-Anon Speaker Meeting**

**(Dinner at 6:00p )**

**March 15  
June 21  
September 20**

**De L'Epee Deaf Center,  
1450 North Street,  
Gulfport  
(just off Cowan Road)**

Dinner and speaker hosted by the Gulf Coast Men's Al-Anon Family Group. Bring some food to share & then listen to guest speaker Julie from Poplarville talk about her Al-Anon experience. If your life has been adversely affected by an alcoholic or addict, this might be the most important meeting you ever attend.

*Please mail*

*Area Contributions to —*

**MSAFG**

**12 Lang Circle, Columbia, MS 39249**

***Make checks payable to “MSAFG” AND  
include your Group name & Group num-  
ber/Individual contribution on your  
check.***



# Al-Anon Registration/Group Records Change Form (GR-1)

Please send this form through your Area Process or the WSO

## 1. Group Record

WSO I.D. Number \_\_\_\_\_

District Number \_\_\_\_\_

Area Name (Abbreviation) \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Status

- ☐ New  
☐ Change  
☐ Inactive  
☐ Not Sure If Registered

## 3. Changes (Check all that apply)

- ☐ Group Name  
☐ Current Mailing Address (CMA)  
☐ Mtg Place  
☐ Mtg Day ☐ Mtg Time  
☐ GR ☐ Contact

## 4. Group/Registration Overview

Group Name \_\_\_\_\_ Mailing Language \_\_\_\_\_

*Reflects Al-Anon principles and is inviting to all. See Instructions to fill out the GR-1 Form. Please note that group names not in compliance with the Al-Anon policy will delay processing of the registration. Contact your Area Group Records Coordinator or the WSO for further information.*

Location: Meeting Place \_\_\_\_\_

Meeting Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Province \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

Group e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Contact First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Contact First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

## 5. Meeting Details

Day \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ AM ☐ PM

Type: ☐ Open ☐ Closed

Spoken Language \_\_\_\_\_ Member Count \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Beginners\* ☐ Introductory\*\* ☐ Limited Access\*\*\*

☐ Handicap Access ☐ Babysitting ☐ Fragrance Free

☐ Smoking Permitted ☐ Sign Language

Location Instructions \_\_\_\_\_

## Additional Meeting

Day \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ AM ☐ PM

Type: ☐ Open ☐ Closed

Spoken Language \_\_\_\_\_ Member Count \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Beginners\* ☐ Introductory\*\* ☐ Limited Access\*\*\*

☐ Handicap Access ☐ Babysitting ☐ Fragrance Free

☐ Smoking Permitted ☐ Sign Language

Location Instructions \_\_\_\_\_

\* Held in conjunction with a regular Al-Anon group meeting; not considered an Al-Anon group. Provide newcomers a simple introduction to Al-Anon.

\*\* Attendance changes frequently; not considered an Al-Anon group. Attendees are invited to go to regular Al-Anon meetings.

\*\*\* Meeting access is limited due to the facility's entry restrictions. These groups meet at sites such as military bases, institutions, industrial plants, or schools.

## 6. Current Mailing Address (WSO mail for the group is sent to the CMA postal and e-mail addresses)

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street/PO Box \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Province \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

*CMA e-mail address is entered here. Please enter Group e-mail address in section #4 (See instructions for more information)*

## 7. For Area Use

☐ Group Rep ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street/PO Box \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Province \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

*The WSO will register any group designating itself as an Al-Anon Family Group with the understanding that it will abide by the Traditions and that meeting will be open to any Al-Anon members. Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual (P-24/27), "Digest of Al-Anon and Alateen Policies"*

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

## DELEGATE REPORT

Angie R. provided an oral and written report. The World Service Conference (WSC) for Area Delegates was held April 11-15<sup>th</sup>, at the Wyndham Ocean Front hotel in Virginia Beach, VA. Angie personally paid extra to attend a day early, which she suggested would be helpful for any delegate to get acclimated prior to the actual start of the conference. She said the daily schedule for the conference is very packed and meetings were conducted in nine separate conference rooms. The conference provides an Al-Anon meeting at 7am and delegates are expected to be seated and ready to work by 8am. There is a fifteen minute break in the morning and afternoon, with one hour allotted for lunch. The work day ended around 9pm. It is a real whirlwind of activity, especially for a first time delegate. Angie's conference sponsor was Ann B. from Connecticut. She received a lot of encouragement at the conference and made some lifelong friends. She would like to see more time for fellowship at the WSC, which is strictly focused on the work that needs to be accomplished. The new Executive Director at WSO is Mary Gregory, who is an Al-Anon member. The retiring XD gets a pension and health benefits till death to the tune of approximately \$260,000. According to Daphne F., he is an active Al-Anon member. John T. asked how long he had been the XD. Daphne F. said at least 20 years. Getting more contributions to WSO was a large part of the conference presentations and breakout sessions. There were 3 task forces started at the 2016 WSC to seek ways to increase contributions. MS contributions to WSO for 2016 totaled \$2,639 compared to \$2,859 in 2015. 38.9% of MS Area groups are contributing, with an average of \$94.25 per group. According to WSO, the average cost of WSO services to groups is \$268. If the gap isn't closed, then WSO will have to consider cutting group services. One of the motions made and carried regarded amending memorial contributions, which is found on p.95 of the current Service Manual. Previously, this was limited to Al-Anon members only. Now, WSO will accept memorial contributions in honor of a deceased Al-Anon member from "family that is not Al-Anon members". The amount is limited to not greater than \$500. "Family members" is further described in the WSC summary, a few copies of which she handed out to AWSC, DRs and coordinators and is also accessible on the WSO website. Angie said WSO is really emphasizing contributions for 2017 because they project almost a \$500,000 deficit between estimated revenue and expenses. One member noted the WSO budget that Angie circulated showed approximately 75% of the nearly \$5 million budget went to salaries for WSO staff. Angie said as delegate representing our area, she went

out session, she asked for a list or breakdown of those investments but could not get it. She was assured that AFG, Inc. does not have stock in alcohol or tobacco companies but they do have foreign stocks and pharmaceuticals. According to the WSC summary, WSO employs approximately 47 full time staff. The only salaries that are publicized are those making over \$100,000 per year because a particular annual tax form is required for those individuals. That completed tax form filed by Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc., is available at WSO website. She noted that AFG Headquarters, Inc. (WSO), is totally separate from Al-Anon Family Groups (AFG). This is by design of delegates in a long past conference. The former is the corporation of the HQ, also known as the WSO. Not all of the WSO employees are Al-Anon members and a few positions are prohibited from being an Al-Anon member. There were 3 more positions created in the 2016 WSC and Angie said if all open positions were filled the total employees would be 53. Within the budget there is a line item for post-retirement health benefits. If you've ever been on the WSO staff, you get those benefits. The WSC discussed the propriety of that benefit, which is typically for senior executives in the private sector or government employees. Angie noted that after she asked questions and made comments about the budget, stock market and employee compensations, she received some unexpected negative feedback, which she found discouraging. She told the Assembly this was a large part of why she resigned as Delegate. She did not feel that she could continue to represent our Area appropriately. She voted no on 4 of 6 motions that were approved. Of 92 delegates, there were only 2 no votes on those motions. There was a lot of heartburn and discussion from the floor about the budget information that Angie brought to the Assembly, especially as it pertains to local groups, contributions and expectations about where those funds are used at WSO. Daphne F. advised most of the staff that's not Al-Anon is clerical or IT, etc. People on the finance committee and so forth are probably active Al-Anon members. The Chair advised that seems to be changing. Specifically, on the WSO website it declares the chairman of the finance committee is not a member of Al-Anon. Angie added that David Zack was seated as the new director of member services and he is not an Al-Anon member. Daphne and Angie reminded all present that is the purpose of the Al-Anon structure, assemblies and service. AFG is structured so that everything begins at the group level and goes up to WSO rather than the other way around. DRs should attend assemblies and make sure members get and give information from delegates and at area level. There should always be transparency and adherence to the Steps, Traditions, Concepts and Warranties. Joyce G. also urged members to contact their own delegate, trustee, the at large trustee and others who represent us, so that WSO does hear from individual members and groups. Three new pieces of Conference Approved Literature (CFL) are in process. A new daily reader, one on intimacy and alcoholic relationships, and parents/grandparents of young problem drinkers. WSO has received 1,170 sharings on the latter two but has also re-

## ***DISTRICT REPORTS***

**District 1**—District Representative (DR) Heidi Z. provided an oral report that there are 12 active groups and one Alateen meeting in Long Beach. The Alateen group has a couple of regular members and Connie G. has volunteered to be the Alateen Coordinator for District 1. A new group has been meeting on Thursday night in Gulfport and we believe they are in the process of officially registering with WSO. The group began when several dual members sought an AFG meeting location and time that didn't conflict with their primary program. Currently, there is formal no Alcoholic Adult Children (AAC) but Daphne F. has volunteered to be the point of contact for anyone interested. The alternate DR just resigned so they will be electing a new alternate at their next district meeting. The Literature Distribution Center (LDC) needs contributions. There was an AA state convention in Biloxi during June 17-19 with Al-Anon participation and speaker. Daphne F. was the Al-Anon participant on their convention committee. She also led an Al-Anon workshop on "Sexual Intimacy in Relationships). There also were several Al-Anon topic meetings and an Al-Anon literature booth. The Gulf Coast Men's AFG continues to hold their quarterly dinner and speaker meeting. Their speaker in September was Cheryl M. and the next meeting is Dec 21<sup>st</sup>. The Al-Anon on the Coast Anniversary gratitude dinner, hosted by District 1, will be Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup>. There will be an Al-Anon and AA speaker and flyers went out across the state and the MSAFG website. They still need volunteers to share about Al-Anon at the Crossroads Treatment Center, which occurs monthly. It's one of the district's public outreach opportunities. Contact Daphne F. if you are interested. District 1 and 6 man the Al-Anon Information Service (AIS) phone line on the coast. Heidi has had great personal experiences volunteering to answer that line. Heidi expressed thanks to Jody for the idea of placing a free advertisement into the Penny Pincher. She circulated a copy of the ad for everyone to review and mentioned that the district is trying to send a thank you card to entities like that newspaper when they help our public outreach efforts. The past couple of months were heavy with planning the instant assembly. The AA Gratitude Roundup, with Al-Anon participation, is Thanksgiving weekend at the Ramada Inn on Highway 49 North Gulfport.

**District 2**—DR Larissa A. provided an oral report. There are 8 active meetings in the district; 3 in Meridian, 1 in Laurel, 3 in Hattiesburg, 1 in Columbia and they are hop-

email list for all members in the district to facilitate communication and specifically to assist in convention planning.

**District 3**—No DR present and no report submitted.

**District 4**—DR Betty V. provided a written and oral report. She said since the Spring Assembly in March, they've had one district sponsored event. A salad/dessert luncheon was conducted in May to celebrate the 65th birthday of AFG. The theme was "Hats Off to Lois" and all attendees were asked to don their hats and attend. Philene, of Cleveland, MS, was their inspirational speaker the raffle prizes were wrapped in birthday paper. Alateen helped with decorations, providing creative posters and wishes of welcome. There were 33 attendees, representing 13 groups in the district. Emails were sent to all the groups encouraging them to celebrate the birthday of AFG in some fashion. They were also asked to circulate their event flyers within the district. Several groups had speaker meetings. In response to the Area Delegate's request for love gifts, their groups were asked to send "love tokens" by mail to Delegate Angie in Virginia Beach. Several groups contributed. Canton AFG send home made crosses with Al-Anon slogans and keys labeled with "Al-Anon: the KEY to Serenity". The groups that participated were enthusiastic. At their district meeting on Sep 17, 2016, they voted to discontinue using a post office box and instead have all communication for the treasurer be directed to her home address, which they felt was a wise budget decision. Self-addressed envelopes were provided to the groups for their use and all groups were encouraged to donate to the Area and District to help with upcoming Area events. Crossgates Group in Brandon has become inactive. They are no longer meeting due to declining membership but there are other meetings available in the immediate area. Their next district meeting is Nov 12<sup>th</sup>, where they will plan their annual Christmas party set for Dec 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**NUTS: Not. Using. The. Steps.**

**FEAR: False. Evidence. Appearing. Real.**

**HALT if you're... : Hungry. Angry. Lonely. Tired.**

**QTIP: Quit. Taking. It. Personally.**

**LOVE: Let. Others. Voluntarily. Evolve.**

**THINK is it..?: Thoughtful. Honest. Intelligent.**

**Necessary. Kind.**



***Area World Service Committee  
(AWSC) Meeting  
February 2017 Brandon, MS***

**Meeting Begins at 12:00 pm**

**OPEN DOOR CHURCH  
2180 Oak Grove Rd,  
Hattiesburg, MS 39402**

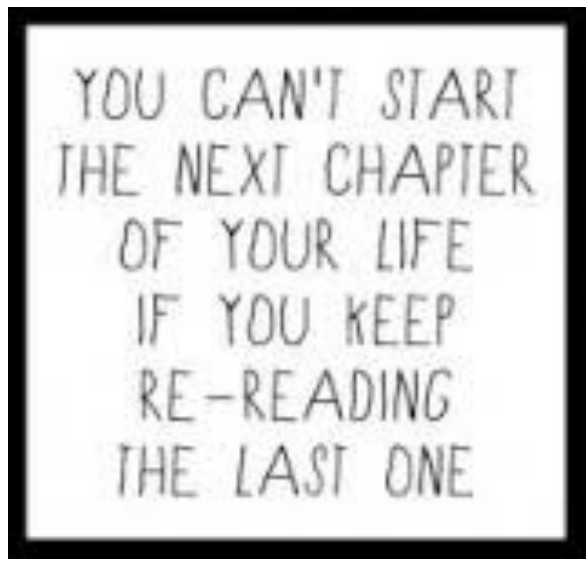
During this meeting our main objective is to set the agenda for the March 5 Area Assembly. It will be our first one day assembly in many years.

**Remember to bring your**

**D1 & 6 AIS/LDC—Gulf Coast Automated Information Service/Literature Distribution Center (GC AIS/LDC)**—Interim Chairperson Karen S. was not present and no report was submitted.

**District 4 LDC**—Kathy M.  
**Forum**—Coordinator Patty B. not present. No written report provided.

**Literature**—Coordinator Patty B. not present. No written report provided.



**Alateen Report**—Coordinator Sharon G. provided a written and oral report. Currently she has been working on the annual recertification of all Al-Anon Members in Alateen Service (AMIAS), which is the WSO term for what used to be called an Alateen sponsor. The process to be an AMIAS is formal application, involving the sign-off of various people who verify the person is an active member and to their integrity, character and so forth. The annual deadline for initial or recertification is July 1. The process is digitized and has become simple to accomplish and easier to maintain. WSO also maintains a copy of the data. There are currently 27 active AMIAS in MS. Seven were placed into position this year just along the Gulf Coast. Availability of AMIAS throughout the state remains high but there simply aren't many Alateens attending any groups in the state. Although she had high hopes of rejuvenating Alateen throughout the state, teens just don't appear to be attending and so there are a lot of inactive groups. Connie G. volunteered to be the Alateen Coordinator for District 1, which is ideally what should be happening in all the districts in Area 30. She said we still have 13 registered Alateen groups in Area 30, however, all but 5 are inactive. For instance there are only 2 teens that attend the Alateen group in Natchez. WSO has begun a teen chat site. She doesn't know how successful it is yet but at least WSO is trying to do their part. Sharon had recently returned from the Conference of Loving Alateens (COLA), which is the annual Mississippi Alateen conference held at Percy Quinn State Park in McComb. There were 70 participants from AA, AFG and Alateen. Annually a contingent from Kentucky travels 16 hours to attend. This year the contingent numbered 15.

***Upcoming Alateen Events***

***DSAC 2017  
March 31-April 2  
Camp Living Waters, Loranger, LA  
\$90.00***

***COLA 2017  
October 6-8  
Percy Quinn State Park***



### **Treasurer Report-**

Susie B. from Columbia Serenity Group provided a written and oral report of the 2016 budgeted and actual expenses to date. The beginning year cash balance was \$6,280.60. Deposits were \$2,819.85. Checks/disbursements were \$2,434.53 and the balance to date is \$6,665.92. At the Spring Assembly it was discussed that the cost to send our Delegate to the WSC could be paid as “equalized” (equally shared by all delegates) or “actual” but the firm numbers from WSO were not available during the assembly. For purposes of the instant treasurer’s report, Susie tentatively plugged in the equalized expense of \$1,260 but the check had not been sent to WSO yet pending confirmation from the Assembly. The alternative is to pay “actual” expenses for our delegate, which would be \$1,900. The amount must be sent to WSO by December. Group contributions were \$2,326.85, Area assembly collections were \$419, birthday contributions \$34, Area reimbursement donations \$10 and Ala-Talk subscriptions were \$30 for a total of \$2,819.85. The Area Assembly expense was \$292, the Delegate equalized expense was plugged in as \$1,260 (not yet expensed). The Delegate get together was \$471.83. Secretary expense was \$30.82, treasurer expense \$160, web coordinator \$179.88 and AWSC travel expenses were \$40; for a total of \$2,434.53. The difference between income and expenses to date is \$385.32 positive. Susie raised several items to be considered for the 2017 budget discussion set for later on the agenda. 1) Do we want a set amount of money to stay in the account, (2) Do we want to set a mileage reimbursement amount and (3) Do we want to pay the full delegate expense amount or the equalized expense amount for WSC attendance. Susie reminded all that contributions should be made out to MSAFG (Mississippi Al-Anon Family Groups) and sent to Susan Bridges, 12 Lang

**District 4 LDC**—Chairperson Kathy M. provided a written and oral report. She said this LDC serves about 24 AFG in the district with an occasional order from a district without an LDC. Though some of the Conference Approved Literature (CAL) is available in electronic and digital formats from WSO and other outlets, she advised it is important to order from and support your local LDC because that provides funding for some districts for projects. For instance, the D4 LDC was able to send startup materials to several new groups, both Al-Anon and Alateen, in D4. They only ask that the group be registered with WSO. They also have provided public outreach materials for the VA Health Fair and to Whitfield State Hospital. In the past, donations of CAL were made to the Conference of Loving Alateens (COLA), Area meetings, conventions and social activities that the district hosted. None of that would be possible with member and group support of the LDC.

**Alternate Delegate** -Alternate Delegate report Kathy E. was not in attendance but provided a written report. In March, 2016 she attended the South Eastern Regional Delegates Get Together (SERDGT) along with Area Delegate Angie R. The meetings were a learning experience for her as the purpose of SERDGT is to prepare delegates for the WSC. In May she attended the Hats Off event that District 4 hosted in celebration of Al-Anon’s 65<sup>th</sup> birthday. In October she attended COLA, noting that attendance has increased over the past several years and more scholarship funds have been donated. She is encouraged by the finan-

communicating with members and including as many as possible in the planning process. In September she attended the AWSC meeting in Brandon. She looks forward to serving as Area Delegate.

**Group Records Report**—Coordinator Tammy W. was not present and provided no written report. The Chair noted that Tammy will be resigning and the position is open to be filled. Tammy will remain until the end of the calendar year if no one steps up before then.

**Public Outreach**—Coordinator Cindy H. not present and no report submitted. The Chair suggested that every member in fulfilling the 12<sup>th</sup> Step should consider public outreach w/in their district and walk of life. She shared her personal positive experience in monitoring the information phone GC AIS/LDC phone provided jointly by Districts 1 and 6 on the coast. She challenged District Representatives (DR) to think about their district and see what can be done locally to provide information about the availability of AFG. Can we talk about Alateen in the schools? Are there judges and courtrooms that would be interested? Perhaps a mass mailing to judges and drug courts.

**MSAFG Webpage** –Webmaster Tammy R. was not present and no report was submitted.

**Forum** – Coordinator Patty B. not present. No written report provided.

**Literature** – Coordinator Patty B. not present. No written report provided.

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Hello Everyone,

As your incoming Area Delegate, I welcome everyone to a new year of growth and service in Al-Anon. I ask that you make plans to attend the 2017 area conference. The conference will be held in Hattiesburg on June 9 -11, 2017 at the Lake Serene Clubhouse located at 256 West Lake Road. The theme is “Opening Doors and Handing Out Hope.” District 2 has done an outstanding job of planning. Thank you, District 2. Several other meetings are scheduled below:

Spring Assembly 2017 will be hosted by District 7 and held in the Jackson area on April 1.

SERDGT (South Eastern Regional Delegates Get Together) will be held on March 17- 19 in Lebanon, TN at the Comfort Inn and Suites.

World Service Conference will be held April 24-28, 2017 in Virginia Beach, VA at the Wyndham Oceanfront Hotel. This year’s theme for the conference is “Our Members are the Hope for the Future.”

The 2018 AFG International convention will be in Baltimore, Maryland on July 5-8, 2018. More information will be provided next year.

Also, Ala-teen events scheduled in 2017 are scheduled below:

DSAC (Deep South Ala-teen Conference) will be held March 31- April 2, at Camp Living Waters in Loranger, LA. COLA (Conference of Loving Ala-teen) will be held October 6-8, at Percy Quin State Park in McComb, MS. All members of Ala-teen, Ala-non and Alcoholics Anonymous are welcome. Scholarships are available to Ala-teens and any contributions to support scholarships are appreciated. *Paths to Recovery*, workbook (P-93), our newest publication is now available for purchase through the literature distribution coordinators. Share with your group members. If I can be of assistance to you in any way. I look forward to serving you as your new delegate for the remainder of the 2017-2018 term. Together we can make it by sharing our