



La Treasure Chest

Volume 47, Issue 4, November 2016

This publication is part of the Louisiana Al-Anon Area Assembly

You are invited! Join us at Area Assembly. You do not need to hold a Group, District or Area service position to attend and participate in Area Assembly. You need only be a member of the worldwide fellowship of Al-Anon and Alateen.

NEXT ASSEMBLY

November 19-20, 2016
 Holiday Inn South
 9940 Airline Hwy.
 Baton Rouge, La.
 225-924-7021

Make your reservations early and mention Louisiana Area Assembly for a group rate.

Concept Four: Participation is the key to harmony.

Newsletter Editor:

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 Reporters: all Louisiana Al-Anon members.

To subscribe to *La Treasure Chest* online go to www.la-al-anon.org and enter the Members section of the Web site. Click on *La Treasure Chest*, Subscribe, and then enter your e-mail address. The newsletter editor will add it to the distribution list.

Silent Auction at Assembly

Remember to bring new or gently-used items for the silent auction at November Area Assembly.

November is Election Assembly

Calling all Group Representatives:
 You are needed to vote for our next officers & our next delegate to WSC.

Louisiana AFG Area Assembly, Inc. Mission Statement

The mission of the Louisiana AFG Area Assembly is to foster participation in service and interest in the Steps, Traditions, and Concepts; to provide opportunities for groups to associate with other groups; to inform about the activities and services in our region; and to maintain representation to and from the World Service Conference.

How to make your Louisiana Area Assembly Donations

Make checks payable to Louisiana AFG. Include group name, number and district number. Send donations to Jan Von Hoven, 5624 Camphor St., Metairie, LA 70003. Please do not send cash. Thank you for supporting Area Assembly.

“If we live spiritually in our daily life, then we find a deeper fulfillment for ourselves. I don’t think there is a spiritual part of the program. I think Al-Anon is a spiritual program. Every activity can have a spiritual motive.”
 —Lois W., *First Steps*

April 2016 Business Meeting**Unapproved Minutes**

4/10/16 Assembly Minutes, unapproved

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The regular quarterly meeting of the Louisiana AFG Area Assembly, Inc. was held on April 10, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. at the Holiday Inn South in Baton Rouge.

Chairperson GW opened the meeting with the Serenity Prayer, read the Assembly's mission statement, and announced the dates of the remaining 2016 assemblies: August 20, 21 and November 19, 20. The dates for State Convention are July 8-10.

Secretary

GW announced that Eric N. is the new Secretary. GW requested that in the future, anyone giving a report type it up in Word and email it to secretary@la-al-anon.org. GW announced later in the meeting that we will approve the January and April Assembly minutes at the August Assembly.

Treasurer—Jan V.

The Assembly's net increase in income for 2015 (\$2,935.41) was sent to WSO. The checking account balance on 12/31/15 was \$22,684.85. Net Income for 2016 as of 3/31/16 was -\$3,143.02. The checking account balance on 3/31/16 was \$19,541.83. Subtracting the reserve amount of \$9,000, the Alateen fundraiser amount of \$292.89, and the SCRDM seed money of \$450 left a cash-on-hand balance of \$9,798.94. Please remember to write your group's full name—for example, "Monday Morning Just For Today" instead of "Just For Today"—and WSO group number on your group donation checks.

Alternate Delegate—Carmen O.

We achieved the goal of having a workshop on the Traditions and Concepts. Thank you to Cody for being our Saturday night speaker. Greeting cards were passed around to be signed and sent to our Delegate, Angela, who is at the World Service Conference. Last month, Carmen attended the South Central Regional Delegates Meeting in Oklahoma City. At SCRDM, members celebrated Lois's birthday and the 65th anniversary of Al-Anon. The SCRDM prioritized agenda items to present at the WSC. The 2017 SCRDM will be in Bentonville, Arkansas.

Delegate's report—Carmen O.

Angela expressed gratitude for the privilege of representing the Assembly at the WSC. Angela reminds the Assembly to read the Delegate's Corner blog on the Louisiana Al-Anon Web site while she is at the WSC. Carmen read the talk that Angela will give on Thursday at the WSC.

Special Committee Reports**Newcomers' Meeting—Cindy D.**

There were three newcomers at Saturday's meeting. Prospective GRs can read the newcomer's booklet on the state Web site to find out what to expect at Area Assembly.

Convention—Erica F.

The 2016 LA AFG Convention will be **July 7, 8 and 9** at the DoubleTree by Hilton on 1521 West Pinhook Road in Lafayette. The theme chosen by the Committee is Garden of Gratitude, and the person who submitted that theme, Rachel B. from Folsom, has received her gift subscription to *The Forum*. GRs and DRs, please make sure to pick up **Convention packets** for your groups! These packets include Convention brochures, books of raffle tickets, an appeal letter, and an envelope your groups can use to send in contributions. Please let your groups know that a set of the speaker CDs will be given away in the raffle, although the raffle tickets don't mention it. **Registration** is \$20 for current and potential A.A.s/Al-Anons & \$5 for current and potential Alateens. Online registration is available again this year until July 1 on www.la-al-anon.org: click on the "Garden of Gratitude" banner to get to online Convention registration. The rate for a standard double room is \$89/night, and king rooms are \$99/night. **These rates are only valid if you book under the LA AFG Convention block rate over the phone or online by July 1.** The number to call and reserve your room is (800) HILTONS. Online reservations are available

for the first time this year until July 1 on www.la-al-anon.org. Click on the “Garden of Gratitude” banner to get to the online reservation agent. The Convention gets a \$25 credit against the cost of the venue each night a room is booked under the LA AFG Convention block rate, **so please tell your groups that this is a great way to support the Convention & experience non-stop Al-Anon fellowship all weekend!!!** The Ramada was the only hotel that would allow outside food and drink on their premises, so **Hospitality** will not be able to serve meals, as it has in the past. However, as room rates for standard double rooms have decreased from \$98/night to \$89/night, you may want to use that savings to explore the many sit-down restaurants, fastfood chains, and cafes that are located less than two miles from the hotel (refer to restaurant “cheat sheet”). Please note that whole fruit, packaged goodies, home-baked goodies, coffee, and water will continue to be available in this room. Feel free to use it as a fellowshipping area while enjoying the view of the Vermilion River. There will be a **Saturday night banquet** at the hotel that you can choose to attend for \$29/person, which will be plated, rather than buffet style, this year. You will be able to choose which plated option you would like to have on the brochure online registration forms (once you’re checking out).

Every year, the Convention holds a **Friday night kickoff dinner** in order to welcome the speakers and fellowship over dinner. If you would like to join us, the dinner will be held from 5:15-7:00 p.m. at Don’s Seafood & Steakhouse, which is located at 301 East Vermilion Street. At that point, you will be able to choose from a few different entrée options. If you would like to come, please make sure to arrive at the restaurant by 5:15, as we will be ordering by 5:30. This will give us enough time to comfortably order, eat, and fellowship before heading back to the hotel for the Friday night speaker meeting. Dinner will cost approximately \$24 and you will have your choice at the restaurant of choosing from Broiled Tilapia, Grilled Boneless Chicken Breast, ½ Fried Shrimp & ½ Fried Catfish, or Hamburger Steak. These all come with drinks, salad, and dessert. Seating is limited, so please email our Convention Co-Chairperson Kay Leslie.Barnett@woodgroup.com if you want to be added to the head count for Don’s Downtown. The **current balance** in the LA AFG Convention checking account is \$18,391.30. We are happy to report that the Convention will be fully self-supporting in the event of an emergency in which no one is able to attend, but Convention-related expenses still need to be paid. This is aligned with Warranty One of Concept Twelve which reads “that only sufficient operating funds, including an ample reserve, be its prudent financial principle.” Referring to proposed changes to the Convention section of the Service Manual, which says that only **seed money** for the next convention should be held in reserve, a member asked about the need for the Louisiana State Convention to hold as much money as it does in its checking account. Erica replied that the checking account amount is necessary to pay expenses in case of low or no attendance at Convention. Erica encouraged **first-time attendees** who can’t afford the registration to come to Convention anyway; they are always welcome. If such a member is in your group, Erica said, please ask them to register so Convention staff will have an accurate head count.

D-SAC—Pebble B.

This is the first in a very long time that Alateens outnumbered Al-Anons or A.A. members at the Deep South Alateen Conference. D-SAC is solvent. It keeps \$5,000 in its account, although D-SAC itself costs much more than that. D-SAC appreciates the group and private donations it has received, which allow scholarships for Alateens who could not otherwise afford to attend.¹

¹ Pebble B. submitted the following report to the Secretary after Assembly: “D-SAC was held April 1, 2, and 3, 2016 at Camp Living Water in Loranger. There were 62 attendees (30 Alateens, 26 Al-Anons, and 6 A.A.s). Of the Al-Anons present, there were 14 certified Al-Anon Members Involved In Alateen Service (AMIASs). We received \$1,250 in donations from Al-Anon groups and Al-Anon members throughout the state. There were two Alateen speakers, one Al-Anon speaker, and one A.A. speaker for the weekend. Three workshops were scheduled with multiple open meetings.”

GR/DR Meeting—Jay P.

We had a good discussion about Alateens. Topics included how to start a meeting, AMIAS certification, and what Alateen is all about. Another discussion was how to add some liveliness to your group. Ideas included having a speaker meeting once a quarter or discussing a Concept or Tradition once a month. The final discussion was about the importance of DRs. Many DR positions are vacant, and GRs feel disconnected without a DR. The DR can pass information to GRs who cannot attend the Assembly. The DR can get the GRs together to discuss and resolve issues, and provide them with moral support. The Assembly officer positions require a member to have been a GR and a DR. That is six years of service—time enough to understand the Traditions and Concepts with the guidance of a Service Sponsor. Higher service positions require such an understanding. By resolving conflict in the fellowship using the Traditions and Concepts, we learn how to use them in our daily lives. The Steps help us forge a relationship with our Higher Power; the Traditions help us in our relationships with other people; and the Concepts help us in service to the wider world. Practicing all 36 Legacies keeps the fellowship on a strong spiritual foundation.

Action Committee Reports**Group Services**—Kathleen F.

The committee had about a dozen members this time. Our project from last time was to mail WSO's printed group information to all the Group Representatives and Current Mailing Addresses in the state to make sure we have accurate information. We would include a letter in the mailing to explain how to update the information, and we would invite the GRs and CMAs to attend the next two Assemblies. We have stuffed envelopes with this information to send to all 144 groups in the state and will be mailing them in the next couple of days. Kathleen is giving some envelopes to GRs in person. Please see that they reach the groups. Groups can update their information either on the Meeting Updater on the state Web site or by mailing the forms to Kathleen. This time, the mailings are going directly to GRs, bypassing DRs, who normally submit group information changes. The reason is that many districts don't have a DR. The mailings do not include Alateen meetings. Changes to Alateen meetings go through the Alateen Coordinator, who can use the Meeting Updater to change Alateen group information. Another project is to brainstorm all that we have learned as a committee so we can pass that information to the next Group Records Coordinator, who will chair the committee. The Committee reaffirms that it has in writing the motion that Area Assembly will pay for the background checks of all potential AMIASs.

Fellowship Communications—Dave K.

We had 11 people present. We talked about ways to use *The Forum* in our meetings and to promote *The Forum* in our groups. We also talked about *Courage To Change*, *How Al-Anon Works*, and *The Forum* being available in electronic format. Kobo Books, Amazon, Kindle, Apple, and Nook are venues for buying these publications. WSO benefits from the sale of CAL e-books. We also discussed the use of Conference Approved Literature to determine who is qualified for different service positions. The deadline for the next issue of the newsletter is July 20, one month before Assembly. Dave will send the newsletter to all GRs if given the list of their email addresses. Members can subscribe to the newsletter on the state Web site.

Membership Outreach—Claire D.

The committee initiated a Convention-naming contest. Rachel B. won the contest with “Garden of Gratitude.” Convention tent cards are posted on the Web site. We encourage groups to practice “Participation is the key to harmony.” To this end, Claire will email DRs two weeks ahead of events so the DRs can remind their groups to “excite and invite” group members to attend events and bring another member. We have more Web site stickers. The Policies and Procedures manual needs updating regarding fundraising. The Assembly can have only two fundraisers per year involving chance, e.g. raffles. Rachel

B. is chairing a workshop in Slidell in January and asks that members email her at gabeandrach@yahoo.com with ideas for this and other workshops.

Public Outreach—Elizabeth T.

Twelve members attended the meeting. Public Service Announcements have been run in the Monroe/Rustin area, on Channel 4 in New Orleans, and on the St. Tammany government channel. The public is not picking up the public outreach booklet *Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism 2016* very much. We wonder if the title is misleading. We considered bringing Al-Anon information to VA centers; emergency rooms; help lines and hotlines; medical, nursing and social work schools; and psychiatric wards. We discussed the usefulness of the booklet for the medical and professional communities, and about asking permission before leaving AFAs in doctors' offices, clinics, etc.

Unfinished Business

Job Descriptions—GW

The AWSC board is responsible for updating job descriptions. Cindy D. is chairing a committee that is collecting updated job descriptions. The committee will submit them to the board in time for the August Assembly so that anyone interested in a coordinator or officer position for the coming term can look at the job description. Any current coordinator or officer who updates their job description should email the update to Cindy D. at newcomers@la-al-anon.org or cindyd.afg@gmail.com.

Fundraising

In order to update the Area's *Policies and Procedures Manual*, the Assembly passed the following motion regarding fundraising:

MOTION #16-03—CARRIED

(BY CONSENSUS)

Submitted by Hope L. Seconded by Claire D.

Fundraising at Louisiana Area Assembly will consist of a silent auction. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, Louisiana Area Assembly is allowed two raffles per calendar year.

Alternate Chairperson—Kay B.

Sixty people registered at this Assembly. Members occupied 27 hotel rooms. Literature sales were \$193.48.

District duties for the upcoming August 20/21 Assembly:

- Saturday morning meeting: District 6
- Saturday morning registration: District 10
- Salts: District 7
- Sweets: District 16
- Night owl meeting: District 19
- Sunday morning meeting: District 15
- Sunday morning registration: District 8
- Silent auction: District 10

District 19 wins the Heart of Al-Anon award for having all of its groups represented and having its DR present. District 10 wins the Spirit Stick for having 17 members at Assembly.

New Business**Move to Lafayette**

A.A. is moving its assembly to Lafayette in 2017. The question is whether Al-Anon Area Assembly should meet at the same time and place as A.A.'s assembly. After discussion, the following motion was passed.

MOTION #16-04—CARRIED

(37 yes, 2 no, 0 abstentions)

Submitted by Cindy D. Seconded by Nicole R.

Louisiana AFG Area Assembly, Inc., although a separate entity, will be held at the same site and on the same dates as the Louisiana A.A. Assembly.

AMIAS background checks

Since 2004, Assembly has been paying for the background checks required for Al-Anon Members Involved In Alateen Service (AMIASs), but there has never been a motion stating that Assembly will pay for the background checks. The following motion was passed to correct the situation:

MOTION #16-05—CARRIED

(38 yes, 1 no, 0 abstentions)

Submitted by Pebble B. Seconded by Joy F.

Required background check for Al-Anon Members In Alateen Service to be certified will be paid for by the Louisiana AFG Area Assembly, Inc.

GW adjourned the meeting at 11:58 a.m. with a few moments of silence to allow time for personal prayer followed by the Al-Anon Declaration.

Eric N., Secretary

Welcome to Area 22 Assembly – November 19-20, 2016

Saturday:

08:00 – 9:00	Assembly officers meeting	Mesquite
08:30 – 9:00	Saturday Morning Al-Anon/Alateen Meeting (Note room change).....	Sierra 2
9:00 – 1:00	Registration (\$5)	Lobby area in front of Sedona 3
9:30 – 10:30	Newcomer's meeting. All 1st time attendees are invited to attend	Mesquite
9:30 – 10:30	Area World Service Committee Meeting. All are welcome to attend	Sedona 3
10:30– 10:45	Break	
10:45 – 11:15	Area WSC meeting (continued) All are welcome to attend	Sedona 3
11:15 – 11:30	Break	
11:30 – 12:30	Information forum. All are invited to attend	Sedona 3
	Topic: 2016 World Service Conference Report (Part 1) - Angela A	
12:30 – 1:30	Lunch available in the Hospitality Room..... Everyone is welcome	Hospitality Room
1:30 – 2:30	Workshop: All are invited to attend	Sedona 3
	Topic: 2016 World Service Conference Report (Part 2) - Angela A	
2:30 – 2:45	Break	
2:45 – 3:45	Action Committee groups meet	
	Districts 6, 11, 12, 13 <u>Membership Outreach Committee</u>	Sedona 3
	Chaired by the Budget and Finance Coordinator.	
	Districts 2, 8, 9, 15, 17 <u>Fellowship Communication Committee</u>	Sierra 3
	Chaired by the Newsletter Coordinator.	
	Districts 3, 4, 7, 10, 16 <u>Public Outreach Committee</u>	Mesquite
	Chaired by the Public Outreach Coordinator.	
	Districts 1, 5, 14, 18, 19 <u>Group Services Committee</u>	Mesa 1
	Chaired by Group Records Coordinator.	
3:45 – 4:00	Break	
4:00 – 5:00	DR's meeting. Chaired by Kay B.....	Mesquite
	GR's meeting. Chaired by Jay P.....	Sedona 3
7:30 – 8:30	Al-Anon Speaker Meeting – Quinten D., Lafayette, La. All are invited	Sedona 3
9:00 – 10:00	Al-Anon/Alateen Night Owl meeting. (following the speaker).....	Sedona 3

Sunday:

8:00 – 08:30	Sunday Morning Al-Anon/Alateen meeting. (Note the room change).....	Sierra 2
8:30 – 10:00	Registration.....	Lobby area in front of Sedona 3
9:00 – 12:00	LA Area Assembly Business Meeting/Elections. All are invited to attend	Sedona 3
	The Silent Auction is concluded at the end of the business meeting.	

FELLOWSHIP COMMUNICATIONS	GROUP SERVICES	MEMBERSHIP OUTREACH	PUBLIC OUTREACH
*Newsletter Editor	*Group Records Coordinator	*Budget and Finance Coordinator	*Public Outreach Coordinator
Literature Coordinator	Archives Coordinator	Convention Coordinator	Assistant Public Outreach Coordinator
<i>Forum</i> Coordinator	Alateen Coordinator	Assembly Alternate Delegate	Web site Coordinator
Assembly Chair	Assembly Treasurer	Assembly Alternate Chair	Assembly Secretary
District & Group Representatives, and group members from Districts 2, 8, 9, 15, 17	District & Group Representatives, and group members from Districts 1, 5, 14, 18, 19	District & Group Representatives, and group members from Districts 6, 11, 12, 13	District & Group Representatives, and group members from Districts 3, 4, 7, 10, 16
SIERRA 3	MESA 1	SEDONA 3	MESQUITE

*These Coordinators serve as Action Committee chairmen and are responsible for the following:

1. Read Action Committee reports at the Assembly business meeting.
2. Submit a written report to the Newsletter Coordinator in a timely manner.
3. Maintain a summary page of the Action Committee goals and objectives and publish it in *La Treasure Chest*.

ACTION COMMITTEE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Fellowship Communications Committee

Encourage the use of Conference Approved Literature (CAL) and *The Forum*, encourage member response to need for new literature, and provide guidance on the use of CAL and *The Forum* in group meetings and all Al-Anon functions.

Group Services Committee

Strengthen connection between the Assembly and existing groups, encourage each group to have a GR attend the Assembly, reach out to newly registered groups to invite participation, keep mailing list current and record history of the group.

Membership Outreach Committee

Find ways to communicate within the fellowship about Al-Anon and Alateen activities, plan cooperation and information sharing for Al-Anon and Alateen participation in Area conventions and workshops, and reach out to members to invite unity and participation.

Public Outreach Committee

Carry out our primary purpose through outreach to the public and professional community, help reach the goal that every person will know that Al-Anon and Alateen are the best source of help for families and friends of alcoholics, and make getting in touch with Al-Anon and Alateen easier in Louisiana.

Groups requested to authorize who will vote

By Eric N., Secretary

One of the duties of Area Secretary at the November 20 Election Assembly will be to call the roll of eligible voters. To help the Secretary compile an accurate and valid roll, the Louisiana Area Assembly requests that each Al-Anon/Alateen group fill out the form below to authorize their representative to vote. Most often this person will be the Group Representative. In cases where the GR cannot attend, the group may wish to authorize the Alternate GR, other group officer or a group member to vote. The authorized voter should bring the filled-out form to the Assembly and hand it to the designated collector at the registration desk.

LOUISIANA AREA ASSEMBLY VOTER AUTHORIZATION

This letter authorizes _____ to vote at the November 2016 Area
(GR, Alt. GR, or representative's name)

Assembly for Al-Anon/Alateen Group _____ Group # _____
(Group name)

Signed: _____
(Group officer, member, or DR)

"...let the understanding, love, and peace of the program grow in you one day at a time."

Al-Anon Members Web Site: www.al-anon.org/members/, La. Al-Anon Web Site: www.la-al-anon.org