March 22, 2020

Dear AMIAS’s and Alateen members,

Below offers some guidance from WSO’s staff, the SCWS Group Records, and SCWS Area Alateen Coordinators regarding the current situation with our Area’s meeting situation, given that we cannot meet in person.

Please remember that: Alateen members are members of Al-Anon and as such are welcome to attend Al-Anon meetings.

**How do I find electronic or phone meetings?**

You have a number of choices:

1. Go to [al-anon.org](http://al-anon.org) and click on the “Meetings” tab. One of the choices is “Electronic Meetings.” On that page is also a link for Phone Meetings. There are close to 300 meetings to choose from!

2. Go to the website of the Al-Anon Information Service (AIS) Office that publishes the directory for the meetings you attend. If you don’t know your AIS Office, we have a list of them at the bottom of this update.

3. Regular members of meetings typically have the contact information of at least one other member of that meeting—or they have a phone list of members who have agreed to be contacted between meetings. Regular members may use the phone list to stay informed about the telemeetings but without broadcasting the specific information to the general public.

**How do I find established online Alateen Chat Meetings?**

Chat live with other teens in any of the scheduled meetings! Young people aged 13 to 18 who have been affected by someone else’s drinking are invited to share experience, strength and hope with other teens.


Please inform Alateen members that these meetings are only accessible from a computer, not a mobile device, tablet or ipad.

**Can Alateen members choose to temporarily set up electronic meetings without the assistance of Alateen Group Sponsors?**

No. (see next item)
Can Alateen members along with their Alateen Group Sponsors choose to temporarily set up electronic meetings? What is the guideline for creating an online meeting?

1. Yes, it is okay to temporarily hold meetings in an electronic format in place of face-to-face meetings as long as that meeting is set up by the Alateen Group Sponsor. We strongly encourage these to be held at the same day and time as their face-to-face versions for the benefit of all members and we would appreciate your assistance in reinforcing this message when you get asked.

2. If local Groups choose to meet online using teleconferencing software, or by conference call, they may do so. The Group’s Sponsor is responsible for:
   ● communicating any meeting changes to the Group’s members,
   ● setting up the conferencing software for their Group’s members, and
   ● establishing any parameters to the format of the meeting that ensures the anonymity and confidentiality of the Group’s members.

3. Remember that all Alateen meetings are “Closed” meetings; that is, only Alateen Members and certified AMIAS may attend.

4. Take all precautions to protect the anonymity and confidentiality of members during electronic meetings.

5. You can use your meeting’s phone list to inform the regular members of the meeting about that information.

Should Alateen Group Sponsors inform WSO or our Area Group Records Coordinator about electronic meetings?

Please notify your local AIS/LDC office and/or your District Rep (DR) regarding temporary electronic meetings.

Continue to submit all other (permanent) group changes to Laura, our Area Alateen Process Person (AAPP) using the SCWS GR-3 on-line form: http://scws-al-anon.org/scwso_forms.php

Should Alateen Group Sponsors use the “Report Problem” feature on the WSO website to report temporary changes?

NO. Please do not use the “Report Problem” link on the WSO webpage! Contact your local AIS Office with the information about the electronic meeting. All regular meetings will remain “Active” in the WSO database with the expectation that the meetings will resume face-to-face once it is safe to do so.

Please do not “inactivate” groups that are temporarily not meeting. The WSO doesn't have the Staff to manually change all of these records, and we are concerned that some groups may fail to "reactivate" after the pandemic has subsided. WSO hopes to avoid that future problem.

Do Alateen Group Sponsors need to register our virtual meetings?

No. It is not necessary to register these meetings. Remember that this is a temporary situation for the vast majority of the virtual meetings that are created during this period. Your registered meeting’s status will remain “Active” in the WSO database in the meantime.
Once groups are able to meet again, please remind members to close the various conference call lines and online platforms.

**Will WSO create a new group “status” meeting for temporary meetings during this time?**
No. There have been requests/suggestions to create a new group status to indicate a temporarily suspended meeting, however, the WSO would not be able to program and test a new feature like that in the time frame needed to respond to this situation.

Instead WSO is relying on the local links of service to reinforce the above messages. **Please check with local offices and your Group’s members** about alternatives to face-to-face meetings.

If you have any questions or concerns, you can always contact us at:

- **groupandmemberconcerns@scws-al-anon.org**
- **alateen-amiasconcerns@scws-al-anon.org**
- **preguntasdemiembroshispanos@scws-al-anon.org**

Thank you! And be well!

Love in Service, 
Bear W. 
Area Alateen Sponsor Coordinator

Love in Service, 
Donna E. 
Area Chair

With Gratitude, 
Marcia M. 
Area Delegate

**WSO messages came from:**
Kerri Kindelan 
Associate Director - International Services

Sue Perez 
Associate Director - Group Service

**Local Al-Anon Information Service (AIS) offices in California South:**

**Central Coast/San Luis Obispo/District 3:** al-anoncentralcoast.org

**Inland Empire AIS Office:** iealanon.org; AIS Office: 909-824-1516

**Kern County/District 6:** kernalanon.org (website is being updated)

**Los Angeles County AIS Office:** alanonla.org

**Orange County AIS Office:** ocalanon.org

**Palm Desert/District 42:** alanoninthedesert.com

**San Diego County AIS Office:** alanonsandiego.org

**Santa Barbara/District 8:** alanonsantabarbara.info/

**Ventura County AIS Office:** Their website is in transition. Please contact Ventura Intergroup Chairperson, Dani F., danic1264@aol.com, 210-383-1759

To all Spanish groups in California South/Para todos los grupos hispanos del Sur de California:

**Oficina intergrupal hispana del Sur de California, Inc.,** www.oficinaintergrupalhispanaal-anon.org

**Oficina intergrupal hispana Al-Anon S.D.,** oficinaintergrupal@hotmail.com (este es el correo electrónico para la oficina, no hay sitio web)