

Restoring WSO Confidence in SCWS and our Area's Use of the Alateen Name.

Background & Timeline Summary

July 26, 2017: Email from **Sue Perez** (WSO Associate Director-Groups) to our Delegate and Alateen Sponsor Coordinator regarding a letter sent to the WSO from a church which housed two Alateen meetings. The church's main concern/complaint was **"rowdy and unsupervised behavior of the Alateens" and "there was no adult leadership on site and the Alateens were unsupervised for 20 minutes after the scheduled start time."** A conference call was requested to discuss the issue.

July 27, 2017: Email from **Sue Perez** summarizing July 27 conference call with the Delegate and the Alateen Sponsor Coordinator. **"Any punitive action from the Church can also affect the Al-Anon meeting on site as well as Al-Anon meetings at sister sites."** Also discussion about how forms are completed that the meeting location/ facility requires. The Alateen Sponsor Coordinator agreed to visit the Alateen meeting that same night and discuss the incident with the Alateens and AMIAS present. She would email Sue Perez the outcome of that meeting as this would assist the WSO in formulating a written response to the church.

Aug. 1, 2017: The Alateen-Sponsor Coordinator emailed the WSO with a report of the outcome of the July 27 visit to the Alateen meeting.

Aug. 3, 2017: Email from **Sue** expressing need for copy of the Alateen **meeting's "behavioral contracts/Alateen meeting rules"**. Questioned why Group Sponsors were not following the Church's policies that were signed by the Sponsor (as indicated on application for facility use) & why the DR/DAL of the district weren't notified? **"Overall, there appears to be a much broader issue at hand which is the understanding that Al-Anon as a fellowship is responsible for Alateen. There needs to be a clear and distinct connection between the two. Alateen does not operate in a vacuum. The Area is the overseer of all Alateen activity by virtue of the Safety and Behavioral Requirements in place. The Alateen Group Sponsors have a network of support to assist them when decisions need to be made. While we encourage the participation of the Alateens in certain decisions, some are made exclusively by the Al-Anon members. While the spirit of commitment on the part of the Sponsors is valuable, it needs to be done in the spirit of unity, vigilance and self-discipline."** A copy of the letter to be sent to the Church from the WSO was forwarded to the Delegate and Alateen Sponsor Coordinator for review. The WSO requested that the Area also formulate a written response to the Church in addition to providing a behavior contract. Both trusted servants replied the next day. The Alateen Sponsor Coordinator agreed to write the letter to the Church and attach the behavior contract. The letter from the WSO was mailed on 8/7/17.

Aug. 17: Email from **Sue** with second request for our letter to the church and a copy of the behavioral contract to be forwarded to WSO.

Aug. 30: Email from **Sue** (now including cc **Mary Gregory**, WSO Interim Executive Director & **Marsha Ware**, WSO Director of Programs) requesting that the copy of the letter to the church & behavioral contract (previously requested) be sent **"no later than Sept. 7, 2017."** If the documentation wasn't received, they would be **"advising all concerned that the meetings can no longer use the Alateen name. In addition, the meeting will no longer be included in our database. We want you to know that the actions of this meeting has placed the use of the Alateen name in jeopardy in Area 4 California South."**

Sept. 7: Email from Marsha Ware, WSO Director of Programs, informing the Delegate and Alateen Sponsor Coordinator that no letter or behavior contract has been received and if any assistance was needed. The Delegate responded the same day that the Alateen Sponsor Coordinator was texted and stated she forgot to email the letter to the WSO but that that she would forward the letter (as it was written on Aug. 17 to the Church) to the WSO Staff. The Area Chair is now added into the conversation thread as well as Vali F., the new Executive Director at the WSO.

Sept. 8: Email from Area Alateen Sponsor Coordinator to the WSO with update regarding the meetings and documents requested. Marsha Ware responded within an hour that the letter to the Church was not attached.

Sept. 15: After confirming with the Church on 9/14 that no letter had been received from the California South Area, an email was sent from **Vali Fayen**, (WSO Executive Director) containing a formal letter “to California South” with the letter to the Church attached. The letter to the Church informed them that the “...two Alateen groups meeting at their church are no longer permitted to use the Alateen name in accordance with the ultimate legal authority of the Board of Trustees, who are responsible for protecting the Alateen/Al-Anon name and the ensuring compliance to the Alateen Safety and Behavioral Requirements Policy.” “...this action is the natural consequence of the California South Area’s failure to provide the WSO the requested documentation that would assure us the Alateen meetings being held at the Church are in compliance with the Area 4 California South Alateen Safety and Behavioral Requirements.” “...we took this action because we have lost confidence in California South’s willingness to ensure compliance with your Area’s Area Safety and Behavioral Requirements. Speaking with the Pastor at the Church on September 14th, we learned the church has received neither letter nor behavioral contract from California South. The World Service Office remains committed to supporting California South as you determine the steps necessary to restore confidence that the California South Alateen Safety and Behavioral Requirements process is being followed and is achieving its aim of protecting the safety of young people who attend Alateen meetings and preserving the integrity of the Al-Anon and Alateen name.” The Alateen groups in question are removed from the online group meeting search found on www.al-anon.org.

Sept. 18: Email received from Alateen Sponsor Coordinator with copy of fedex label for letter mailed that date to the Church as well as the copy of the letter written to the Church.

Sept. 22, 2017: Email sent from **Vali** to Calif. South. “We have received your email including California South’s letter to the church sent via FedEx on Monday, September 18th and appreciate your following up. However, this action does not reduce our concern regarding compliance to the Area Alateen Safety and Behavioral Requirements in this situation.” “Given the magnitude of the concern – the church indicated this behavior had been identified repeatedly – we would have anticipated, according to the California South Process, that all members of the Area Alateen Resolution Committee would have been informed and involved in resolution rather than it resting on the shoulders of only one person. We look forward to hearing from you regarding the steps your Area has taken and changes implemented to assure yourselves and the Board of Trustees that the California South Alateen Safety and Behavioral Requirements process is meeting its objectives so our confidence can be restored as to the safety of young people who attend Alateen meetings and the integrity of the Al-Anon and Alateen names.”

Oct. 27, 2017: AAPP emailed L.A. AIS requesting that the two Alateen meetings be removed from its directory.

***Ideas gathered from SCWS Officers & Coordinators to Improve our Alateen Program
(*note to Assembly: these are only in draft form)***

The SCWS Officers and Board met, and have had conference calls with WSO to problem-solve and “reason things out”. We are gathering ideas regarding changes for our Area that would increase the communication between the Area, District & AMIAS, improve the supervision of Alateens, and enhance trainings for AMIAS. As a start we have identified three categories for focus with a few of the initial suggestions (possibilities) listed below.

1. ***At the Area Level:*** Increase awareness/education to our members regarding “Alateen is Al-Anon” and that we are all responsible for Alateen safety; Divide & distribute current workload for SCWS Alateen/AMIAS related Coordinator positions to more than two Coordinators; Trainings for District Alateen Liaisons (DAL); Update trainings for AMIAS; Revisit and revise our 2013 Area Alateen Safety and Behavioral Requirements.
2. ***At the District Level:*** Have DAL, DR and AMIAS (in the same district) attend quarterly meetings held within the district to promote and advance ongoing communication; DR and/or DAL to visit each Alateen meeting in their district at least twice a year; Have the DAL/District maintain copies of the required facility documents & meeting behavioral plans for each Alateen meeting in their district.
3. ***At the Alateen Group and AMIAS Level:*** Establish/update AMIAS sub-lists for each Alateen meeting with at least 3-5 possible subs; Revise individual Alateen meeting’s Behavioral Contracts/Meeting Rules to reflect any supervision policy changes (ex: the AMIAS’& Area are ultimately responsible for their safety) and awareness that we are guests of the facility; Increase communication with the District and Area, especially to update changes, express concerns, and connect for assistance.