

November 2020

Southern California

AMIAS/Alateen

Newsletter



What's Happening in Southern California Alateen?

- Alateen speakers are sharing at Alateen and Al-Anon meetings, in other states and countries!
- There are still fifteen registered electronic Alateen meetings in Southern California
- The Southern California Alateen Conference (SCAC) Task Force is still working hard to get SCAC back!
- A very successful Al-Anon Member Involved in Alateen Service (AMIAS) Sponsor workshop was held on 10/9! Thanks to everyone who participated, especially Ron P. and Tina S. (More info on this on page 2.)
- And, our new Area Alateen Safety and Behavioral Requirements were unanimously accepted by the Group Reps at the 9/26 Mini-Assembly!

<https://www.scws-al-anon.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/CA-S-Area-ASBR-2020.pdf>

Thank you all for helping with the AMIAS/Sponsor survey. We've included some of the responses as bullet points below.

Although many Alateen groups are not meeting, some are meeting, virtually. The sponsors are doing an excellent job of reaching out to the kids and keeping the safety requirements. As always, outreach is a challenge. Having a virtual Alateen meeting at the same time as a virtual AI-Anon meeting seems to help.

- We have 4 3AMIAS signed up to rotate our meeting. As far as I know, the Alateens have not reached out to us to find out about continuing to meet during COVID... we have not established anything online or in person... we don't have contact info for most of the Alateens and have not looked into listing an Alateen Zoom meeting to attract newcomers or ask the known AI-Anon parents.
- Our Alateen meeting is promoted via flyers with email and phone # for DAL, flyer is shared with Group Reps, who announce it at their meetings. DAL screens prospective members, via phone call, going over safety precautions and only shares login info after that. We require first name of potential attendees so we can recognize them in waiting room and admit them to meeting. We play it by ear as far as whether we require attendees to turn on video. We encourage it, but let newcomers do it as they feel comfortable. We have not included info about privacy vis-a-vis headphones etc - good idea. We will add that!
- Our meeting is a Young Alateen meeting. Parent and/or new Alateen member calls one of the AMIASes to get the meeting id prior to attending his or her first meeting. Our meeting runs during the same time as an adult AI-Anon meeting. Most of the parents of our members attend that meeting. We encourage members to ensure privacy by either being in a separate room or by using headphones. We require videos to stay on during the meeting, however, the group made an exception for a member who we know well and who couldn't deal with having the video on. We screen share literature that is part of the format during the meeting. Additionally members and AMIASes read from readers and other literature as part of sharing time. An AMIAS from another meeting who has been joining us is arranging for all our members to receive a daily reader. Our meeting format and discussions are evolving. It has taken me a long time to accept that Zoom meetings are a long term reality.
- Currently, we are screening in the Zoom waiting room only. We are encouraging members to join with video, but have not yet made it a requirement. (That is under consideration. And guidance would be welcomed.) And we have just taken a group conscience to mail newcomer packets, group Sponsor will mail as a 7th tradition.
- Screening: The login and password are only available to new members via our DALs. They speak to the prospective new member to see if they are a teenager. Literature: The host : "screen shares" the format via a PDF. The DAL is in the process of adding literature to the PDF, but the process is not complete. Some of our members have literature at home. Most Alateens who have their own literature prefer to read from their books, bookmarks and pamphlets rather than read off the screen Welcome: We considered mailing literature, but decided it was intrusive to ask brand new people for their address. We give them the website for the local AIS and tell them they can ask for a Newcomer packet, which is free for Greater LA
- For safety, we have also disabled the chat between teens. Chat is only available to host of meeting

Reminder about Information regarding electronic Alateen meetings...

Alateen Meeting information available online!

https://scws-al-anon.org/alateen/20200514_Alateen-E-Meetings.pdf You may need the password “SCAC” to enter the “protected” pages of our “SCWS” site. And, if you register your regular meeting with the WSO and your local Al-Anon Information Service (AIS) office, you can add AMIAS Sponsor contact information so potential and new members can find you!

We are grateful to the sponsors who are the primary contacts and have assumed responsibility for the safety and security of meetings. Alateen meetings are open to younger members who have been affected by the disease of alcoholism. Others are encouraged to attend Al-Anon.

Thanks to everyone who was part of the effort of getting information for online meetings, the sponsors who have become willing to learn a few new tricks and our Alateen members for helping us!

Remember that virtual online meetings temporary substitutes for in-person meetings during COVID. Once groups are able to meet again, please remind members to close the various conference call lines and online platforms. We hope this information is helpful.

ENSURING CONFIDENTIALITY DURING TELECONFERENCING MEETINGS:

Some groups have added a paragraph such as this to their meeting format:

Please remember that this is an anonymous fellowship. If there are others in your home, please protect the anonymity of other members by using headphones and being mindful of who can see your screen or go to another location in your home where the meeting cannot be overheard or seen by others.

NOTE: If you have a password for entry, please provide your group’s email address (in lieu of password) to protect passwords being made public. Per our *SERVICE MANUAL*, a “group email address” can be created to receive electronic mailings (p. 34). For example, a member (GR, secretary, host, etc.) could create serenityonsunday@gmail... to use only for that purpose. The log-in information for that email address might be shared among group leaders, who can access that email address and contact prospective members who have used it to ask for your meeting’s password.

For the safety and to protect the anonymity of Alateens in online meetings, please consider

- Disabling the chat room
- Having members enable the video so the AMIAS knows they are seeing teenagers in their meetings.

Public Outreach *within the Fellowship*

Our groups can invite Alateen speakers or a panel to share at our meetings even if they are meeting electronically. Many members have never heard sharing from Alateen members about how their program has affected their lives.

Our Alateen Communications Coordinator, Suzanne, can help find you willing and available Alateen members to share experience, strength and hope at your meetings.

Please contact Suzanne at alateencommunications@scws-al-anon.org

There is a growing list of Alateen members who are willing to share their experience, strength and hope with other Alateen and AI-Anon meetings. Their information is kept confidential in accordance with our Area Safety and Behavioral Requirements. If you are an active AI-Anon member, we'd love to add you to the list. For now, we are only doing online meetings, but face to face will happen when it is safe to do so.

Alateen members from other countries and Areas may want to attend your electronic meetings. Please feel free to welcome them, as you would any Alateen member. Their Sponsors may ask if they can accompany their members to ensure their safety.

In gratitude...

I am a grateful AI-Anon member involved in Alateen service. Many years ago, my mum forced me to attend Alateen. I was angry and blamed my dad who was the alcoholic. I was in denial that I had problems, too.

At my first Alateen convention, I heard the stories of the teens, and understood that even if the details differed, I related to their feelings. I recognized that they had hope, and I did not, and I wanted what they had.

What I learned in Alateen:

- Alateen members and Sponsors didn't judge me. The fact that I had been affected by the family disease of alcoholism was enough. They always offered unconditional love and acceptance, and a safe place to share and be myself.
- Alateen members and Sponsors taught me that I could have feelings. I was so frozen inside that I didn't know what I felt, much less, how to find the words. My first Alateen sponsor suggested that I try to do a "feelings check" when I looked at my watch to check the time.
- Alateen members and Sponsors taught me about anonymity: "Whom you see here, what you hear here, when you leave here, let it stay here."
- Alateen members and my Sponsor taught me the importance of everyone being involved in service to keep the meeting running.
- Alateen taught me to have compassion for my parents, and accept that they did the best they could with what they had at the time.

Thought for the Day

Alateen is part of the AI-Anon Family Groups. Teens deserve the same chance to heal from the family disease of alcoholism that adults do. As an AI-Anon member, what can I do to support Alateen?

-Anonymous

al-anon.org/for-alateen



"When I was 13, a judge charged my dad with driving under the influence of alcohol and sent him to A.A. I knew he drank a lot, but I didn't realize he was an alcoholic."

We'd love to publish your Alateen related shares with SCWS AMIAS (Al-Anon Members in Alateen Service) and Alateen members about your experiences in Alateen service. And don't forget to ask our Alateen members to do the same. Send info to...

Suzanne.aacc.scws@gmail.com

al-anon.org/for-alateen



"WHAT'S RIGHT FOR US WON'T ALWAYS BE RIGHT FOR SOMEONE ELSE... WHEN IT COMES TO OTHER PEOPLE'S IDEAS & PHILOSOPHIES, THERE IS NEITHER A RIGHT WAY NOR A WRONG WAY. SO WE JUST LIVE OUR LIVES & LET OTHERS LIVE THEIRS."

