

San Diego ISR Board Alateen Report

Ron Parks, Interim Alateen Chair/AMIAS (Al-Anon Member in Alateen Service)

August 12th, 2023

Find Your Place in Alateen!

"We all can find a place in our hearts for Alateen because we all are affected!"

Please join in sharing the latest Alateen outreach messaging containing: **"Find Your Place in Alateen!"**. This message relates to everyone in or out of the program including Al-Anon & Alateen members, family, friends, relatives, professionals, etc., all who have considered and support the Alateen program. Al-Anon is Alateen. Please help spread the word for your part in Alateen.

General Events and Outreach

***SCAC (Southern California Alateen Conference) 2023**

It was great to attend the SCAC event this year in early July at the University of Redlands campus after its' 6-year hiatus! The 2-day overnight event consisted of about 50 Alateens and AMIAS sharing their experience, strength, and hope! Teens ages ranged from 12-18 years. This is currently the only stand-alone Alateen conference in California. What a great re-launch!

Although many of the Alateens attending expressed their concern or curiosity at what the event would be or provide, not a one that I recall came away disappointed! Members and contributors involved were from all over California, including Fresno, Barstow, Brawley, Palm Springs, Los Angeles, Riverside, San Fernando Valley, and San Diego County, to mention a few.

Most came away inspired and encouraged to apply themselves more directly and actively to their current programs and service work. And many acquired new friends and relationships, some that can potentially last a lifetime, as some of the speakers and members shared.

Alateen Member shares and sentiments of SCAC:

"It made me feel like I could share anything without judgement for my mistakes or trauma. People at SCAC were there to listen to me, and never tried to put me down. Everyone there got along so well. I am excited to return for next year." *Lauren K.*

"SCAC was unlike any other meeting I had gone to. It had the structure and intention of any Alateen meeting, but the people who arrived carried the whole experience. Sitting in these circles, were collective souls with the same desire, to heal, connect, and cope with the world we shared. It felt so right to be there with everyone, to be real and raw, even if only for a few days. Rejuvenating, truly." *Safiena S.*

"I feel so blessed to have received a scholarship for an event that has forever changed my life. I know that I feel at home at my local Alateen meeting, yet I wasn't sure what to expect when I first got to SCAC. But once the first SCAC meeting started, I knew that I was at home again. I found solace and comfort in hearing what everyone shared. I made friends that I know truly understand what I've been through. I'm excited to attend and hopefully plan future SCAC events!" *Lilly D. :)*

“SCAC 2023 was amazing, I enjoyed it so much. Everyone there was compassionate, kind, and understanding. The kindness was so natural that it felt unnatural! Overall, I hope to see more fellow Alateens at future events, and I welcome you with open arms. Hope everyone there had a great time.”
Austin F.

“I did not have enough of the Alateen spirit when I first came to SCAC this year. I have only been in Alateen for three years, and I wasn’t always listening in. My mom told me that SCAC was a spiritual experience for her when she had her first SCAC. I didn’t believe her at first, but I enjoyed my time there, and got the Alateen spirit I so desperately needed.”
Dimi B.

Thanks to all who participated in the support and re-establishment of this very sacred event!

***VCAAC (Ventura County AA Convention) with Al-Anon/Alateen Participation, 09/09/2023**

This event promises to have great Alateen participation for Southern California Alateen members.

***Alateen Day, San Diego Spring Round Up, 2024**

Several of the recent SCAC attendees were so inspired by their recent conference experience, that they are already putting together a program for next years’ Round Up activities at Alateen Day!

***General Inquires:**

- Sweetwater Union School District inquired about referrals for potential Alateen members.
- Vista School District is considering combining schools for an after school Alateen meeting.
- The topic of Mandated Reporters at Alateen meetings, and specifically in school programs, was circulated. It was confirmed at the local level, and at the area level, that Al-Anon members, and AMIAS are not in fact required to be mandated reporters.

If you hear things at an Alateen meeting, just like an Al-Anon meeting, that you are uncomfortable with, then you choose how to react to it. There are processes to follow and report, but only as individual citizens within a community, and not as an AMIAS or Al-Anon member. AMIAS are not required to be Mandated Reporters.

- Many members have responded, how to become involved in Alateen. SCWS (Southern California World Service) Al-Anon/Alateen website hosts a great collection of possibilities and processes to become an AMIAS and get involved. New certifications and re-certifications are held year-round. Look under Alateen/Be of Service.

***Alateen Outreach:**

Multiple Alateen related outreach events occurred over the last month including:

- An on-line event/workshop with 150+ participants regarding sponsorship, including the experience, strength, and hope of Alateen sponsorship.
- An AMIAS Meet and Greet, on-line event was held by Central California, District 3, discussing further involvement and expansion in the school programs.

- Al-Anon groups are being asked to take a few simple steps to facilitate Alateen outreach and to “Find their place in Alateen”!

Three basic requests are suggested for Al-Anon groups:

- 1) Tell others and those in need about Alateen.
- 2) Display the Alateen tent card (M-80), alongside your regular anonymity tent card (S-9), at your group meetings.
- 3) Incorporate Alateen verbiage in your meeting outline during opening readings. Make a motion at your group’s next business meeting to add the following content:
“Alateen is part of Al-Anon. If you know a young person whose life has been affected by someone else’s drinking, please give them the chance to recover in Alateen that you do in Al-Anon. There are options for Zoom, Chat and Face-to-Face meetings available.”
These simple steps can be applied easily by every group and member to help spread the word about Alateen!

Local AIS and Website Updates:

***San Diego AFG website enhancements**

Please check out the latest enhancements for Alateen on our local office website, San Diego Al-Anon AFG. A landing page of sorts is being compiled specifically for Alateen, consolidating many of the common Alateen requests and inquiries such as meeting locations, notices, news and events, etc. The page is easily navigated to with Alateen buttons on the home page and drop-down menus.

Our hope is for this resource to be utilized and readily available for our youth, AMIAS, and other members when interest or questions regarding Alateen arise. And to provide current and relevant information, postings, and topics included.

A taskforce is being established to make further Alateen improvements to the website, and to explore deeper into the realm of social media and connection with our teens. The first on-line task force meeting will be held on August 21st at 6PM.

For any Alateens, AMIAS, or Al-Anon members interested in this type of service, or that have specific skills or talents in this respect, and would like to participate in this thought force, please contact Ron P. at 619 322-8558, or at Alateen@AlanonSanDiego.org. Together we can make it happen!

***Facebook Page**

The San Diego AIS board is considering launching a Facebook page, and in compliance with World Service guidelines. Although Facebook may seem a bit outdated for our youth, and other media or applications may be more inviting, this will be one of our first local probes into the active world of social media. And we hope through the task force and potential surveys to be included, that we find the sweet spot for Alateens’ comfort zone and reaching out to each other as part of social media.

Gratefully in service,

Ron P.

Interim Alateen Chair

San Diego AFG, Inc.