

When District 2 was challenged to have Alateen meetings we were caught flat-footed about how to start a meeting. Elsewhere in the district some Gainesville Al-Anon members had expressed an interest in working the Beginners Meeting Guideline and we had collected the suggest CAL listed in the G-2 Guideline.

Having had some Beginners Meeting momentum we thought that using the same format to introduce the program to the teens would likewise be a good foundation. Two AMIAS committed to hold six Alateen meetings using the Beginners Meeting Guideline. We suggested that after the six meetings we would ask the Alateens if they wanted to start a meeting. At the end of the sixth meeting the teens voted to start a group.

Interestingly, as things work out exactly as they are supposed to, the teen member that initially urged us to start the meetings no longer attends and one member that voted against starting the group is now deeply rooted in the program. After the Super Alateen Dolphin Riders first year four of our original six members attend weekly. Recently we had 7 newcomers at a meeting for a record ten Alateens in attendance while three regular members were away on vacation. The newcomers hear from the "oldtimers" how the principles of the program can be applied to improve their lives.

Rick S