

Alateen Round Up Guidelines Task Force

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Background Info: Area 9 has a tradition of an annual one day Alateen Round Up. This event is hosted by a District, with a set dollar amount contributed from the Area. It is considered an Area event hosted by a District. For the last many years when it has occurred it has been held at a public park or other outdoor venue, usually from about 9 am - 3 pm. There are activities and meetings/workshops for the Alateens, and separate ones for the AI-Anons who may attend. There are WSO Guidelines for Alateen events, and there is information in the Area Behavioral Guidelines however there are no specific guidelines for Districts to follow.

For our purposes we will be creating some Temporary Guidelines for District 11 to follow as they hold an Alateen Roundup in the summer of 2015. They will then give the Task Force feedback on what worked, what didn't and what we may need to know going forward.

The plan is to complete the Task Force by August 1 so that we can present Guidelines to the AWSC panel for consideration. If approved they would go as a recommendation to Assembly in October.

Financial Impact: Possible financial impact at the Area level if amount needs to be increased. Financial impact to the District should be decided by the District before standing for the Event. When the Area puts a line item in the budget for an event, that is all the money approved by the Assembly for that Event. Extra money, if needed, must be provided by the District.

Charge: With the cooperation of District 11, create temporary Guidelines for the District to use in holding an Alateen Roundup in 2015. With feedback from the District afterwards, create Guidelines for the AWSC Panel to consider adopting for the Area.

Five KBDM Questions

1. What do we know about our membership's needs, wants and preferences that is relevant to this topic?

I know that many of our members want to do things to support Alateen, but I also know that we tend to make decisions at Area then push the responsibility off on to the Districts. Some Districts are more active with Alateen, others want to be. And some do not want to focus on Alateen. Is there a place for all of these perspectives in our Area?

I believe that a lot of members are scared of the Alateens and the requirements that go along with dealing with them while others embrace the Alateens as the up and coming AI-Anons. Some Districts, such as #11, really do not have Alateens in meetings but are willing to have the activities for them from other areas.

What if D11 were to help sponsor a ½ day Alateen Roundup that would take place in Orlando at our AWSC in August or our Assembly in October? It would be easy to arrange for another ballroom, and parents could participate in the Area event. Maybe partnering with D10 and the Spanish Intergroup (who both have teens in Alateen) we could make it an invitational event (see #3 below)?

The kids like things less structured. 1 or 2 meetings then social stuff. This is an event where you can "keep it simple" think of it like a one day district day of workshops or like the service workshop you guys did. If you still have stuff from the carnival theme when you did convention they like things like that - competition and challenges.

Here is what I know I don't know. What is the purpose of the Alateen Round Up. What are our motives for having a Round Up? Is the Round Up inline with the AI-Anon/Alateen Traditions? Is the Round Up keeping the spirit of Alateen when reading the History of Alateen on page 29 of the Service Manual?

These are good questions. What are your concerns?

2. What do we know about our resources (finances, member participation, etc) that is relevant to this topic?

I know that the Area budgets only a certain amount, and that there are lots of needs in the Area. My opinion is that this Alateen Event needs to remain something low-key and affordable... more of a "field-trip" type of event, rather than something complicated and expensive like a Conference or Convention. I also wonder if it would be possible to have this event concurrently with one of our already-scheduled Area meetings (such as August AWSC)?

In the past, I believe the funding of \$250 was the amount allotted for the one-day event. It was a low-key event and if the hosting District held workshops for the AI-Anons at the same time and had a small registration fee as well as raffle and other donations of craft and raffle baskets from other areas, it was workable. What do Alateens like to eat? The AI-Anons get to eat the same fare and a good time is had by all, at least at the Round-ups that I have attended. They don't have to be fancy and micro-managed; outdoor activities are best to burn off sugar energy!

I don't know of any book or other materials. Maybe archives?

Do we have any idea what the teens would want? Do we have any information on the age of our current Alateen members?

3. What do we know about the current realities (membership, culture, etc) and our fellowship's environment (technology, geography, demographic, etc) that is relevant to this topic?

If we look at the actual districts with Alateen membership and ask ourselves where the majority of these members are located, will these members be willing and/or able to attend a one-day Round-up without hardship or possibly having to be dishonest (are they normally attending a school meeting or an evening meeting) on where they are going if their parent doesn't know they are attending meetings, what do they like to do that can be done safely and securely to protect both the teens and the program with reasonable cost containment.

I'm wondering if we were to re-orient the Round Up into something more like an invitational event, or an Alateen Meeting on Wheels ... where we host an Alateen Event but open it up to people that are NOT in Alateen, and invite them to come find out about it. I think it could be a

shorter event (maybe 4 hours and a meal) with some physical activity, but with workshops, meetings, etc put on by teens for teens. And of course something for the Parents in another room. This would allow for possible attendance in any District. Not just carting Alateens from one place to another.

Datewise doing it right after Conference could be really hard on the AMIASes and Alateen Coordinators.

4. What are the ethical implications of our choices – what are the pros and cons? Will our decision be consistent with our spiritual principles?

This almost refers back to my answer in number 3. We might also need to balance the cost per attendee (even though that argument has been held up to Concept 5) to look at the greater good (Tradition 1) - refer to the discussion of Hospitality Room for Assembly as an example

For me the ethical implications around Alateen activities often come back to my own program. Why does Al-Anon work for me? Because *I* work it, not because someone tells me to. And I think it is a cop out for us to imagine that we should/could tell teens what they need to do to recover. Ethically, and consistent with our principles, I'd like to see us help our current Alateens create a space to attract others into Alateen. Rather than create events that require us to do a bunch of 'getting someone to come' and kind of force-feeding recovery.

5. What do we wish we knew, but don't?

In the past years, is there a history of theme, location, cost, number of attendees, any participant feedback, did they come back the next year - why or why not?

We might be able to ask the Archives Coordinator to look through the stuff for things on Alateen Roundups. But I know that they have been sparsely attended in the last 6 years. District 4 will be at Assembly, and I think they chaired the last one that had some Alateens attending.

What I wish we knew is: what do the teens think? What do the teens want? For those who are *IN* Alateen why don't they attend Assembly? Do they practice recovery in Alateen? Or, is it a social place where Al-Anon parents feel safe letting their kids attend?