

2019 Alateen Conference Final Report, AWSC Area 9

From Alateen Conference Committee Chair Erika P.

**Thank you Area 9 for letting there be a 2019 Florida Alateen Conference!
It was a great success and we look forward to keeping the ball rolling!**

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve, listen, and learn. My slogan of choice to stay on track was “Keep It Simple.” “Progress, Not Perfection” and “Let Go and Let God” were other slogans I referenced often to maintain my serenity and stay on task.

The committee that was mainly made up of Alateens operated under a familiar primary purpose, “Keep It Simple.”

Committee Chair Responsibilities:

- I corresponded and set-up the venue – we had little choice of the dates due to the late start. I worked with the area treasurer, chairperson, and D8 DR to sign the contract.
- I created a Google share drive.
- I set-up the meetings. Initially, we held two physical meetings at the beginning and had a packing party right before the Conference. Google Meetups were held for three months prior to the Conference every Tuesday lasting 30 minutes.
- Some members needed support to get online initially.
- Those that wished to touch base regularly had a convenient way that didn't require travel.
- I printed flyers, Change For Change cards, and registration packets. These were delivered at Assembly and mailed out to both North and South Florida.

Alateen Co-Chair Responsibilities:

- Assisted Committee Chair with input regarding Conference activities and meetings.
- Took place of Committee Chair when unable to make events.
- Helped spread the word about the 2019 Alateen Conference at events and with fellow Alateens.

The Registration Chair, Treasurer, Hospitality Chair, Security Chairs, and Medical Chair were an integral part of making the 2019 Alateen Conference a tremendous success! Without them we could not have done it!

Program was mostly by Alateens! They picked the topics, planned meetings, put materials together, and got it all organized. Activities were selected by Alateens and I set them up with the venue.

During the weekend:

- Alateens were empowered to run their own meetings. They seemed genuinely engaged and regulated their own behavior to ensure everyone was heard.
- Some experienced Alateens lend a helping hand to the meeting for the younger ones.

Registration:

- Most registrations happened in May and June 2019.
- We offered scholarships and promoted Districts to sponsor Alateens and accompanying Adults. Total attendees: 58
 - Adult: male, 5, female, 14=19
 - Alateen: boys, 17, girls, 22=39
- Cost to attend \$140 per attendee before May 15th, \$150.00 after because we had no idea how many people were coming. If the ball keeps rolling, this can probably be decreased.

Finances:

The current bank balance is \$6536.40.

Incoming Funds:

- Our starting balance was \$1497, which was the remaining seed money once the deposit was paid for the venue
- We took in \$7085.46 in Change for Change Donations
- We took in \$2080.00 for registrations (16 total)
- So our total incoming money $\$1497 + \$7068.46 + 2080$ was \$10,645.46.

Outgoing Funds:

- Area paid \$503 as a deposit for the venue. That was deducted from the \$2000 seed money and why we started the account with \$1497.
- We paid the venue an additional fee of \$3767.
- We paid \$156.54 for half of the 2 night AMIAS+Alateen hotel expense at AWS (Reimbursement to Charon)
- We paid \$36.92 for a volunteer's gas (Wayne)
- We paid 39.01 for Printing,
- \$39.15 for Postage:
- \$42.75 for VECHS Fingerprints:
- and an additional \$27.69 in -Gas & Tolls:(Erika)
- So our total expenses paid out of the bank account is \$4109.06 with an additional \$503 paid by Area
- Total income = \$10,645.46 minus Total expense = \$4109.06 leaves \$6536.40 in the bank.

Important:

- Note that our incoming registration money of \$2080 added to our \$2000 seed money was \$20.06 shy of covering our total expenses. This means that the change for change, for the most part, went directly to scholarships.
- After returning the seed money of \$2,000 to the area, the remaining balance would be \$4536.40.

Raffle:

- Assembly leftover baskets went to the adults
- Wrapped surprise gifts went to the youth.
- We did not use tickets. We pulled from the registration cards. This was very effective.

*We had an Alateen literature table.

The Camp:

- Security is a cinch is because we were all in one building.
- Booking earlier would get closer meeting rooms.
- Facility provides full-sized fridge and coffee maker.
- Camp is close to civilization such a grocery store, pharmacy, and hotel/motels.
- Good food.
- Several spots where members could mediate and/or talk in small groups.
- Good A/C.
- There was a lake which had a beach and giant inflatables.
- There were bunnies and birds.

Volunteers were very forthcoming.

- AMIASs
- Al-Anons
- Alateens

Survey Results:

- Overall, Alateens and AMIAS enjoyed the venue.
- Location was centrally located in the state.
- The food was good! Those with special dietary needs were able to have their needs met and enjoyed the food provided.
- Alateens and AMIAS enjoyed their meetings and got to know more about their Higher Power.
- Though it was hot, outdoor activities (challenge course, beach time, bonfire) were popular.
- Attendees enjoyed the wildlife, especially the bunnies on the beach!
- Alateens enjoyed building bonds with Alateens from other parts of the state.
- Attendees hope the event is held on a non-holiday weekend next year (it was the weekend of Father's Day)
- Alateens and AMIAS would enjoy having the Conference here again.

General Review:

Overall, all the attended had a great time and would enjoy coming back to this location for the event. Though it was hot, what most Alateens and AMIAS enjoyed the most was being outdoors in a safe location and meeting friends and new people alike. Attendees enjoyed practicing their program in different place and felt they learned new things they could put into practice going forward. Alateens and AMIAS alike expressed they can't wait for future Alateen events and next year's Conference!

Signs of Keeping It Simple:

- We offered literature, but no money was needed.
- We did use raffle tickets, we used the registration cards.
- We had no decorations, but we did have paper covered tables with markers.
- There were no goodie bags; we gave out a souvenir pencil for doing their survey.
- We only had water. We made it fun by decorating their one bottle.

Tips:

- Reserving early lets you choose better dates, meeting rooms, and activity times.
- We used the facility wristbands as name tags. This worked well.
- Due to booking late, there was not room for non-AMIAS. The giant plus was that the kids were mingled and made friends much faster.
- Consider offering a buddy system to help less experienced Alateens feel more comfortable.
- We ensured that each person's program card had their name and AMIAS name and contact number.
- We enforced that there be no sleeping by day.
- They enjoyed staying up late Saturday. This was easy to monitor since we were in one building.
- Ice breaker are a great way to get youth to know each other.
- Tip: Have rain options. We planned for rain, but it didn't come.
- Tip: Group chat app, (WhatsApp), helped volunteers communicate unexpected changes by cell phone and shared photos.
- Paper covered tables with markers provided were once again a big hit.