

From: <marylou@al-anon.org>
Date: February 17, 2009 4:53:24 PM EST
To: <patmorgan@gamewood.net>
Subject: FW: Alateen Requirements: Recommendation Requested

Dear Pat,

Thanks for writing, and for the care that you and the rest of the Committee are taking in looking at the VA Area Alateen Safety and Behavioral Requirements. As I told you on the phone, I have had conversations regarding these matters with several members from the VA Area, and it seems that there has been some misinterpretation of those discussions. The WSO does not enter into discussion of specifics of Conference logistics; we have referred members to the statement in the *Alateen Conferences* guideline (G-16), which says:

“Most Alateen Conferences are closed events for Alateens and their Alateen Group sponsors only. An Alateen Conference with an open meeting(s) should develop a way to identify the Area-certified Al-Anon Members Involved in Alateen service (AMIAS) and a safety plan to insure that the Alateens are always in their care.”

What this means, is that if an event will have non-certified adults in attendance, there must be a plan in place to be sure that the Alateens are always in the care of certified AMIAS. What we see, in this situation, is that IF there will be non-certified adults staying in the same dormitory as Alateens, the planning committee must come up with a safety plan so that the Alateens are always in the care of AMIAS.

What we would suggest to the Virginia Area is that a statement similar to the one I've quoted be put into the document. This would ensure that if an event will have such “guests” that a safety plan will be put in place, yet allow each committee the flexibility to come up with a safety plan that works for them.

Again, the WSO does not advocate for or against having guests at Alateen Conferences. We are just looking to be sure that the Safety and Behavioral Requirements are followed.

Hope that is helpful, Pat—it was a pleasure speaking with you, as always!

Yours in service,
Mary Lou
Mary Lou Mahlman
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From: Pat Morgan
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 11:20 AM
To: Mary Lou Mahlman
Cc: Don Feick; Harriet Weckbacher
Subject: Alateen Requirements: Recommendation Requested

Marylou,

The VA Area is still discussing the changes to our Alateen Area Requirements and will present the edited document (that includes your and Ric's suggestions) to VAWSC March 21 then hopefully present a document to Assembly May 2-3.

There are a couple of people that are concerned that at an Alateen conference (MEAC I think), the facility is similar to an old fashion dorm and a guest speaker is assigned a room in that facility. In other words, at this conference, the all males (teens and adults) are housed on one floor with several community bathrooms and the females (teens and adults) are housed on another floor again with community bathrooms. I understand there are several group bathrooms on a floor. I also understand that there are no separate facilities that a guest could be house other than sending them to a hotel. The concern is that teens may be sharing the bathroom with a guest.

I am told that this issue has again been discussed and reviewed by the VA Alateen Safety Committee and they are continue to recommend the text that you & Ric [WSO Executive Director] have seen before which is as follows:

ALATEEN CONFERENCES

Alateen conference committees may invite guests as speakers. These guests should be identified to everyone attending the conference. Special nametags should be worn by guests to allow everyone attending the conference the ability to readily identify who is a guest. Guests should never be housed in rooms with any Alateen. Conference Boards may invite guests to participate in workshops at conferences provided that a least one AMIAS approved sponsor is present during the workshop. The Anonymity statement should be read aloud at the start of each meeting being attended by any guest.

In other words, the VA Alateen Safety Committee does not believe there is an issue with an Alateen using the same group bathroom as a guest.

At the Area Officer's meeting, I was asked to contact [WSO] to get your and Ric's thoughts concerning a guest using the group bathroom.

I want to again thank you for sharing your precious time with us and entering all those recommendations you and Ric discussed into the proposed changes to the VA Area Alateen Requirements document. What a gift you gave to VA Al-Anon! I know that took a great deal of time!

As always, I am growing in service,
Pat

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