

Lifeline

March-April 2014

Connecticut Area Newsletter for Al-Anon / Alateen

~ Special Alateen Edition ~

In This Issue:

Pg 1. Announcements
Pg 2. In the beginning..
Pg 3. Let Go and Let God

Pg 4-5. Jackie's story
Pg 6. Alateen Corner
Spotlight on Literature
Public Outreach News
Q & A

Pg 7. Emma's Story
Bob B.'s story
Pg 8. Alateen Sponsorship
Information



Announcements:

Al-Anon/Alateen Events:

- Thursday, April 24, 2014 48th Anniversary
Terryville Thursday Morning Family Group
Terryville Congregational Church
233 Main Street, Terryville, CT
9:30 am Coffee, 10:00 am AA, Al-Anon Speakers
Lunch to follow, Raffle, Finger foods appreciated
- **New Date May 8, 2014 6:30pm *NOT APRIL 17TH!**
Newington Thursday Night Alateen Group
Celebrates 7 Years of Recovery!

AA Events with Al-Anon participation:

- June 6-8, 2014 Soberfest - Odetah Camping Resort
A family fun filled weekend!

Meeting Format Change:

- Sunday 7:00 PM at Gaylord Hospital, Wallingford
second entrance, stone conference building
Chauncy Conf. Bldg., Gaylord Farm Rd.,
Wallingford, CT

Time Change:

- Danbury Thursday St. James meeting
****Beginner meeting closed**
Regular meeting 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm
- Old Lyme St. Anne's Episcopal Church
7:00 PM (Starting 1/5/14)
82 Shore Road, Old Lyme, CT

New Meeting:

- Fridays 12:00 noon to 1:15 PM
Blueprint for Progress 4th Step Inventory meeting
First Congregational Church
1 Walton Place, Stamford, CT 06901
Handicap accessible
- Wednesdays 6:00-7:00pm
Progress Not Perfection Al-Anon Group
St Patrick's Church (April 2, 2014)
169 Black Rock Turnpike
West Redding, CT 06896
- **Thursdays 7:00-8:30pm**
Lourdes in Litchfield Alateen Group
50 Monfort Rd. (end of road, top of hill)



Young Adult Meeting:

- Young Adult Al-Anon Meeting
University of Hartford
Tuesdays 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM
200 Bloomfield Ave (Rt. 189), West Hartford

Help Wanted:

- **LDC** needs volunteers: email ldc@ctalanon.org
Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30 PM - 3:30 PM,
Fridays 12:30 PM - 3:30 PM
*** Please call ahead 860-244-0022 ***

My first Alateen meeting I was nervous. I was bullied all my life I didn't know what to think. I was brought by a woman I was staying with because I had to leave my fathers' house because of his drinking. I walked in and everyone was smiling and welcoming but I wasn't gonna share. I was too scared to be judged. After I heard people share I was like wow they are similar to me. Some had the same experiences as me so I decided to share. I talked about why I had to move out of my dad's house I talked about my problems and my friends who had alcohol problems. I made a connection with one of the boys and whenever I need to talk he is always here. I had never felt so welcomed in my life. I thank Alateen for everything they have taught me.

~ Louis

When I first walked into the rooms of Alateen, I felt uncomfortable like I didn't belong there. I wasn't sure if I should talk or just sit there like an outsider. But then after about fifteen minutes I felt like I have known them forever. I didn't share my first day, and I didn't share the next week or the next, but once I felt comfortable I started sharing. I knew that whatever I said was kept in the walls of that room. Each week I can't wait till the next week to come back. Alateen makes me so happy. I was that person to put down something, or say something negative, and when I had my first meeting two years ago it changed my whole attitude. I became the girl who was happy and positive. This program helps me in so many ways, the people here are my true friends you can always get advice, and they will support you. Also I haven't been in Alateen forever but I feel like I have. Alateen is one of the few places where I can truly be myself. Alateen is my life, my home, and my family!

~ Abbi

I keep coming back to Alateen because I feel safe. No one judges me at my home group and whenever I had a problem they helped me out. My qualifier always made me stressed because of what was going on at home. There were times I didn't want to do anything I was so upset and I always had someone from my group text me. If I wasn't at a meeting I got a call or text asking if I was okay. I tried to make sure I never missed a meeting. I was always so sad or mad, but when I came to Alateen I was happy. They welcomed me with open arms. I have now been in Alateen for a year and I can say Alateen is my family away from home. I come back so that I know I have at least one person I can talk to when things get rough. I talk with them about things I can't talk to my friends or family about .Alateen finally got me to open up like no one else could. I was finally able to be the real me--- Louis

My name is Kayla, I'm a grateful member of Alateen. My first Alateen meeting was full of teenagers that I could connect to. I had walked in terrified that I wasn't going to be accepted into the program, that all the kids were going to hate me, but as I came in teenagers came up and introduced themselves with open arms. Throughout my first meeting, I listened to people talk and I began to realize that there are people in the world who are going through the same things I am. Everyone was so open about their feelings, which is something I have never been used to. I loved my first meeting and that I was greeted by such warm people that are such a young age. I've now been in the program for nearly four years and I honestly don't know where I would be without it. I keep coming back because I have never met a nicer group of people in my entire life. At Alateen, it doesn't matter your age, gender, race, religion, etc. everything is dropped at the door and it is full of people being able to talk about how they feel in the confidence of anonymity. I have made so many wonderful friends who I know I will associate myself with for years to come. I've learned in Alateen that I am not alone. I control my life and only my life and I shouldn't let other people's opinions of me matter. Over four years I've learned how to be myself openly and to never give up on myself. The person that I am today is someone who loves themselves, and I wouldn't have gotten to this point without my Alateen group.

When I was younger I used to lie about small stuff, like bringing down my laundry or letting my dogs outside. I thought lying about things then doing them later was technically telling the truth. My Mom would always figure me out and when she did enough times, lying made me feel really guilty. I also thought about how it made her feel. If I lie to her about small stuff will I tell her the truth when life changing events occur?

You have to take into consideration other people's feelings when you choose to lie about something. Being honest sets the stage for a healthy relationship. I would rather get my feelings hurt rather than be lied to. When I thought about that, how guilty lying makes me feel and how no matter what, my mom always figured me out, I decided that saying "honesty is the best policy" is one of the truest things I've ever learned. ~ Kayla

“Let Go and Let God” is a slogan that gets me through tough situations. First I think “How important is it?” Then I ponder for a long time, then, most often, I decide that it is not that important. I then turn my frustrations and my anger to God or my higher power.

~ Anonymous



The slogan “Let Go and Let God” means when you are in a hard situation, you give your problems away to your higher power and let them be solved. By doing this, I am giving the situation up to my higher power and trusting that they will handle the situation for the better or worse. I know I will receive what I need, and that is because I have faith. ~ Jordan

I came to Alateen because my father is an alcoholic. He drinks often to severe points, and acts like an insensitive nut that has ridiculous and hurtful arguments. I love him and want him to stop. I want my old dad back. I came here to vent and make friends I can relate to. ~ Morgan

The slogan “Let Go and Let God” means to me that I can’t worry about everything and everyone. It means that I need to let things go and forgive and forget, and that I only need to worry about me and things will eventually work out. ~ Anonymous

I use “Let Go and Let God” when I am in a situation that I cannot control, and hand the situation over to my higher power. It allows me to keep my sanity and accept whatever comes out of that situation. ~ Erik

The slogan “Let Go and Let God” means that you let go of your problems, and let God help you. ~ George

I was emotionally involved with this guy. He told me he loved me & I talked to my higher power, asking what I should do about being emotionally involved with someone that rejected me. I had to “Let Go and Let God” of the situation. With the help of my higher power, I am working on trying to let go of that fact, thoughts and feelings. I am letting God take the fact of my emotions & help with what my actions are. If I “Let Go and Let God” then life will be simpler. I can be who I am without anyone judging me. Take life “One Day at a Time” & talk to my higher power who will keep me on the same and right track to being who I am. ~ Ally

The slogan “Let Go and Let God” is very important in my life. When I find myself in a stressful situation I realize that I need to let go and let my higher power help me through the problem. My higher power will always be there for me, even though sometimes they put you in tough predicaments, they always help you persevere. ~ Caleb

My youngest daughter’s alcoholism had driven me to do anything to save her life, or so I thought. When it was suggested to me, at a family meeting, that it would be helpful if my wife and I attended Al-Anon. I was ready to try anything that would teach me how to keep her sober after her first stay at a rehab facility. Imagine my confusion and disappointment when I was told that Al-Anon won’t keep my child sober! I kept coming back because there was something about the way I felt, during and after each meeting, that I liked and wanted more of it. That was thirteen years ago, and I still like the way I feel during and after each meeting. During those thirteen years, I have rotated through every service position within my home group, became (and still am) an Alateen Group Sponsor, and have just completed three years serving the Area as Alateen Coordinator. Though the home group service positions gave me the strength to carry on through some very difficult times in my life, I believe the Alateen group sponsorship has been the greatest gift I have received. During the first year and a half, I sat alone most of the time waiting for teens to show up. They did, one at a time, and after a few meetings, they wouldn’t return. But I was persistent and just kept showing up. The group now numbers eight to ten teens every week, all have service positions, participate in elections, and run their own meeting! I leave that meeting every week feeling like I am walking on air!

~ Bob B.



~It's funny how different things can look through a child's eyes. When I was about six years old, I remember my two older sisters and I would wait in the morning for my dad to pick us up from our mom's house for school. He was an attorney and often worked late, so the morning drives to school were some of my earliest memories of him. He was always good about being there for recitals, family vacations, baseball games, and trips to school; but there were some days when, for reasons I didn't quite understand, he simply wasn't there. One particular instance comes to mind: one morning, after waiting for what felt like forever, my oldest sister told me to go back to sleep, and that we weren't going to school that day. Looking back now I can recognize that look of concern and disappointment so well, but at that moment of time, all that mattered to me was that I didn't have to go to school.

The next morning my dad was waiting in the kitchen in his suit and tie, ready to take us to school. I was blissfully unaware of the tension in the room, and I walked right up to him, asking him why he hadn't been there the previous morning. To this he smiled sheepishly and replied, "I'm sorry honey. I was feeling sick because I ate too much candy the night before and couldn't get out of bed." I answered him saying, "Well Daddy if the candy makes you sick you should just stop eating it!" He looked down and shook his head, laughing and said, "I wish I could, sweetie. I really wish I could." I can remember this conversation like it was yesterday, but it holds an entirely different meaning for me now. I never thought of my dad's drinking as something to worry about when I was growing up. The only things I understood were that he couldn't drink, I couldn't tell anyone about it, and we didn't talk about it. None of these were things I was directly told, but just a lifestyle I had picked up on through the years. No matter how obvious it was at times, it was the family secret.

My entire life I was aware that my dad was an alcoholic, but it wasn't until my freshman year of high school that I felt the full weight of it. It was Christmas Eve, and I can still vividly recall my mom's scream from my dad's kitchen, and finding her staring, wide eyed at, what I thought, was a glass of water. From then on I would never be able to leave a glass of water in that kitchen without smelling it to be sure that it wasn't vodka. Following my dad's relapse, everything about my lifestyle became a constant fight for stability. I was always vigilant of what he was doing, and it became my job to make sure everything in the house ran smoothly, despite my dad's behavior. Living in that house was like walking on eggshells; for the most part I tried to be quiet and keep to myself so he wouldn't notice me or go off. Having friends over quickly became something I avoided at all costs. While they saw my hilarious dad who had just one too many drinks that night, I saw a drunken stranger stumbling around my home, wearing a mask that resembled a tired, beet red version of my father.

I often felt numb, and wouldn't let myself think about everything that was going on, as though thinking about it would cause me to fall apart. The way I behaved around him was almost mechanical; I didn't think about why I was doing certain things, I just did them. When he passed out at night I immediately took to his hiding places, and poured the alcohol down the sink, and when he left me alone in the car, I would search the interior of the vehicle like a madwoman to find the Gatorade bottles filled with vodka. It didn't occur to me that he was a grown man and would just buy more alcohol, and that all I was doing was pouring money down the drain. When I wasn't trying to be my dad's caretaker, I acted out. Between starting fights at home, leaving the house, drinking, and hanging out with the wrong people, I had secretly hoped I could catch his attention and open his eyes. I was desperate for some control in a seemingly hopeless situation.

My mom started going to Al-Anon meetings to find help and comfort, the same way she did in the past to cope with my dad's drinking. I'd always seen her books and heard her talk about it, but I never understood it. She urged me to go to a group called Alateen for kids who struggled with alcoholic parents, but I firmly insisted I could handle things on my own, and that I didn't need any help. I had begun to struggle with keeping up with schoolwork while playing the part of the babysitter at home, and my grades quickly suffered for it. When a teacher asked me if everything was okay at home, I didn't say anything, but my silence was enough for her to send me to the school counselor for the remainder of that period. I explained everything about my dad's drinking to my counselor, and she strongly suggested that I go to Alateen as well, to which I turned my head and again denied needing help.

Soon after I found the days harder to get through, and I found myself breaking down more and more. Finally one night at my moms' when she was getting ready to go to a meeting, I decided to go with her. Although the meeting felt strange and uncomfortable at first, I quickly found solace in that room, listening to people's stories and how they dealt with the addict in their lives. We all had the same stories, just different details, and knowing that others were going through the same thing as me took my mind off my own problems. For the two hours I was there, every Monday night, the things going on at home couldn't touch me, and I could breathe for a while.

It was in that room, sitting in that circle, that I learned that the only person I could control was myself, and how I handled everything going on around me. Learning to accept that I couldn't control his illness was something that lifted an incredible weight off my shoulders. People were telling me for so long to just let go, and to stop enabling him, and that I needed to detach from the situation. But if I didn't take care of him, who would? My sisters were off at school, and my parents had been divorced ever since I could remember. Detaching from the problem sounded to me like I was abandoning him. It wasn't until later on that I figured out that I needed to let him hit his bottom to really find the push he needed to pick himself back up and get better.

Two years and two relapses later, I was in my junior year of high school, and I began to lose hope that the man who had raised me was coming back. Someone had once explained to me that an alcoholic carries their disease like it's a rabid dog chained to them, following them everywhere they go. I had spent so much time focusing on how the disease had affected my family and I that I had never once stopped to think that my dad didn't want to carry the burden either. It sounds like an obvious thing to say, but when you're living with an alcoholic it's easy to view their actions as selfish desires rather than compulsions they struggle with.

It was a Sunday morning around ten and I was waiting in the living room with a friend for my dad to come downstairs. He had promised to drop my friend off at her house. I don't know why it still took me by surprise when he broke his promises, but it stung every time. We were already three hours late when he finally stumbled out of bed, and by the way he hobbled to the car, I knew better than to let him drive. I had my permit at the time; I only needed his physical presence. He was quiet the entire ride. When I reached my friend's house, I told my dad to wait in the car while I went to apologize to the parents. When I turned to go back to the car, I stopped and watched him for a moment. For the first time since this madness had begun, I didn't see him as a disappointment or an enemy. Instead I saw someone who was broken and needed help, and for the first time I began to feel sympathy for him. I don't know if it was the way he stared at the ground, or the way he trembled when he tried to speak, but for the first time I began to consider that he didn't want this either. He didn't do these things on purpose and perhaps he felt just as lost as I did, if not more.

It's been a little over three years since I had this epiphany, and I'm proud to say that my dad has now been over three years sober. The road to his sobriety was a difficult one for everyone involved, filled with many obstacles and demons faced. Things did get worse before they got better. His health took a turn for the worse during one particularly grey week in October, in which he had plunged so deeply into his addiction that I feared he might never find himself again. After a long stay in the hospital, the doctors concluded that had he not been brought to the hospital when he was, his chances of still being with us were not likely. I didn't visit him during his stay there; I couldn't bear to see him in such a condition without falling apart. Once he was released, he went immediately to rehab where he stayed for about two months. The man who came out was one I didn't recognize; he was not the actively drinking version I had grown accustomed to, and not quite the version of himself before his addiction initially took over. I can easily pick out the moment I knew my dad was truly sober and himself again. When I was growing up my dad usually cooked big meals for us every night we were with him, but throughout his drinking he never cooked. We usually picked up food on the way home from school or I would make something for myself. One school night my junior year of high school I was in our living room watching TV, and he came in with two plates of roast turkey and garlic mashed potatoes; my favorite meal. He set one plate in front of me, and we sat together watching TV while eating dinner. We never spoke throughout the meal, just laughed at the comedy of what we were watching and enjoyed each other's company.

A week before my twentieth birthday I attended my last Alateen meeting. Sitting in that circle, I thought of all the events that had led there, and how grateful I was that each one took place. It sounds crazy to say that I'm grateful for my dad's illness, but if it wasn't for everything that happened, I know there's no way I'd be where I am today. I wouldn't have the relationship I have with my dad now, and be able to call him one of my best friends. I wouldn't have found the support and friends that I found through Alateen. I wouldn't have learned the lessons that I did, or have become the person that I am now. Stepping out of that church basement into the parking lot, I met up with my dad across the street as he was leaving his own meeting and saying goodbye to his friends. I could see the change in him too; how much happier and healthier he is now, and how he's finally found the place where he needed to be. I think back to that day when my mom found my dad's glass in the kitchen, and while my sisters and her tore the house apart looking for his stash, I stood against the wall watching, frozen. I had thought to myself that there was no way I would be able to handle what was coming next, or find the strength to get through it. Now I know better. I'd be lying if I said there aren't times when I worry that he'll take another drink and everything will fall apart again, but then I realize that I can't let myself think like that. I can't worry about situations that are out of my control, or about what's going to happen tomorrow, or a year from now. All I can do is to take each day as it comes; one day at a time. ~ Jackie

Alateen Corner:

Spring has arrived and there are lots of anniversaries! If you want an Alateen speaker at your celebration, your proper protocol is to talk to an Alateen Group Sponsor in your district. Please do not ask a teen to speak yourself. The sponsor knows if a teen is ready and able to speak and will be able to ask without the teen feeling any pressure. If the sponsor doesn't have an Alateen to speak, it is possible that another group can provide one for you. Groups that meet in the morning have a better chance of getting an Alateen speaker if they hold their Anniversary when there is a school vacation. Sometimes, older teens are home from college in early or mid-May and can provide you with their wonderful recovery! The Connecticut Area Alateen sponsors would like to try and get an Alateen to every group that requests it in order to give our teens an opportunity to share their Program. We need more Alateen meetings and more sponsors. If you'd like more information, contact your District Representative. You can also access the "Alateen Sponsors Handbook" on our Members page- just click on the link "Alateen Forms".

~ Dave T.



Alateen has CAL too!!
C onference
A pproved
L iterature

I have been involved in Public Outreach for the past four years. It is truly inspiring to see the efforts in each district participating in this worthwhile service commitment. Many of the district public outreach members have been contacting their local schools by sending a packet of Alateen literature to the school social worker or guidance counselor and then following up with a phone call. Packets can include schedules, Information for Educators (S-64), Fact Sheet for Professionals (S-35ES), and other Alateen pamphlets. One of my favorite pamphlets is "Has Your Life Been Affected by Someone Else's Drinking?" (S-20). This is just 1 page and it asks 20 questions to help a teen to know if Alateen might help them. There are also letters that can be downloaded from the Al-Anon website (alanon.org) that are aimed at specific professionals, including teachers and counselors.

As a result of these efforts we have a few new Alateen meetings in schools and have also had members invited to speak to students.

Another way of introducing our wonderful program to teens and those professionals who work with them is to attend health fairs. It is amazing to me how many people have not heard about Al-Anon and Alateen. These events are a great opportunity to spread our message of hope. ~ Pat R.

Q. Now that I am in Alateen, how has my change in attitude been attractive to others? (Alateen Talk)

A. Now that I'm an Alateen my change in attitude has been attractive to others because I'm more positive and kind. I don't look down on myself. I feel more confident and I know I have people supporting me. ~ Anonymous

Q. How can I refrain from mixing personal information with Alateen information when I post my profile over the internet/social media? (Alateen Talk)

A. By keeping anonymity, I protect the alcoholic. This further helps me separate the person from the disease. When I speak about the alcoholic, I think of the person who is suffering from an illness, and not someone who personally tries to hurt me. I keep my Alateen information separate from my personal information in the media as it is important for me in my separation from alcoholism. ~ Katherine

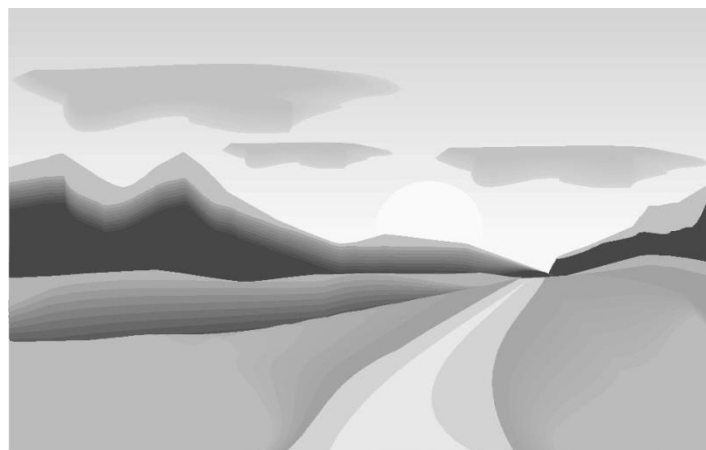
I grew up in a household being the third of four kids and the only girl. I guess you could say growing up I was a genuinely happy kid with a great family. Although it was a very happy childhood it was VERY confusing at times. My parents were constantly fighting and my older brothers seemed angry all the time. My mom wasn't sleeping in her bed and most of all my dad started acting really strange and seemed angry over time at little things all of the time.

I didn't know at that time that my mom was in the process of divorcing my dad after about 16 years of marriage and I didn't know why. I kept thinking to myself, "Why is this happening?" "Is it me?" "Is it one of my brothers?" I had no clue. After my mom left my dad he slowly got more strange, especially after my now stepdad showed up in the picture. My dad was all of a sudden telling my brothers and me "He's a creep!" "You don't have to listen to him." For the longest time I thought he was just really being stubborn. Eventually my brothers couldn't stand seeing him anymore, he just did and said things that would upset them and he wouldn't stop no matter what any of us said. So that left me being the only person out of all his kids that wanted to see or talk to him. He would get me upset all the time with his stubbornness and antics but I kept seeing him because I felt bad for him. We had always had such a great relationship and I didn't want to leave him. As the years went on he kept getting worse and worse. I didn't know it at the time but my dad was and still is to this day a raging alcoholic. I had no idea that all his stubbornness and antics were his "isms". I didn't find out until I was about 16, almost 17 when my mom told me after picking me up from work one night. She started the conversation by saying, "Emma I want to tell you about the conversation I had with Mama the other day". My mom then starting telling me how my dad was an alcoholic, and how my dad's mom and my mom agreed that it wasn't safe for me to get in the car with him. After we pulled in the driveway that night we kept talking about it. About 5-10 minutes later I just broke down and starting crying. I missed the dad who I once saw as "Mr. Perfect", the one who would always be by my side and do no harm. My mom said "You know Emma there is a group called Alateen that helps kids your age with what you are going through". My brothers Ben and Sam had gone before and my mom thought it would be a good idea for my brother Matt and I to go.

A couple of weeks later me and my little brother stepped into our first Alateen meeting. Once I stepped in the room I didn't know any one and then a girl that has been on my bus since middle school walked in the room and I later discovered a girl in my grade that I go to school with that goes to the same meeting. After that meeting I felt like they accepted me right away and most of all I felt loved by kids my age I had never met. I had never felt more understood by a group of strangers. I started going every week. My brother decided it wasn't for him so I go myself now.

Ever since I started in September I have already changed so much. I've grown braver, more self-confident and stronger. Alateen made it easier as I was going through the process of not seeing or talking to my dad. I couldn't be happier since I found such a supportive, fun and loving group of teens. I'm thankful every day for my mom suggesting Alateen. Without them I don't know where I would be.

My dad recently decided to start AA. Ever since then I have been taking it One Day At A Time in starting to have a relationship with my dad again. Alateen has helped me with this process by showing me support every week. ~ Emma



How To Become an Alateen Sponsor

We are always in need of Alateen Sponsors in order to be able to offer Alateen meetings. The following is taken from the *Connecticut Alateen Sponsors Guidelines and Handbook* (11/6/2010) available on the www.ctalanon.org members' website under Alateen forms.



**CONNECTICUT
AL-ANON / ALATEEN
For families & friends of alcoholics**



These requirements are presented in addition to the WSO Alateen Minimum Safety and Behavioral Requirements as approved by the Board of Trustees in December 2003 and affirmed by the 2004 World Service Conference.

WHO WILL AREA 7 RECOGNIZE AS A SPONSOR / ADULT INVOLVED IN ALATEEN SERVICE?

A responsible adult member of Al-Anon who attends Al-Anon regularly and who shares his or her recovery experience gained through working the 12 Steps, 12 Traditions and 12 Concepts of Al-Anon/Alateen. He or she helps the Alateens to focus on the Al-Anon program. It is in sharing recovery that we provide hope for the future. An adult involved in Alateen service refers to an Al-Anon member who has the care and responsibility for Alateens and has direct contact with Alateens while being of service to Alateen. This includes, but is not limited to, sponsors, chaperones and temporary sponsors.

1. An Alateen primary sponsor must have Al-Anon as his/her principal program.
2. Be a minimum age of 25.
3. Currently attends Al-Anon meetings and continues to be an active Al-Anon member for three years excluding time spent in Alateen.
4. A participating member of an Al-Anon Home Group.

CERTIFICATION PROCESS FOR SPONSOR /AL-ANON MEMBER INVOLVED IN ALATEEN SERVICE

- 1.) The candidate should first read the Connecticut Alateen Sponsors Guidelines and Handbook to help fully understand the commitment of an area 7 Alateen Sponsor. Dual members should also refer to pages 33 & 34 of the World Service Manual.
- 2.) The candidate will contact District Representative and area Alateen Coordinator to let them know of their desire to sponsor a group.
- 3.) The candidate will give District Representative her/his full name and mailing address so the District Representative can give the information to the area secretary, who will mail the candidate a background check form.
- 4.) The candidate will submit a completed background check form to the area secretary.
- 5.) After receiving a "passing" for the background check, the candidate will provide the District Representative the necessary two references to verify intentions of becoming an Alateen Sponsor. These references should be able to attest to the candidate's participation in the program.
- 6.) The candidate will then attend a district meeting to announce their intention to become an Alateen Sponsor to the Group Representatives (GRs).
- 7.) The GRs will then take the candidate's information back to their groups for discussion. The GRs will then bring back any information to the following district meeting for discussion and a vote of confidence.
- 8.) If the candidate attends meetings in a district other than the district that the candidate wants to become a sponsor in, a vote of confidence must be received from the candidate's home district (district that the candidate is currently attending meetings in) prior to receiving a vote of confidence from the district that the candidate is going to become a sponsor in.
- 9.) After receiving the district vote(s) of confidence, the District Representative will call the area Alateen Coordinator to have the sponsor candidate put on the Area Sponsors' meeting agenda. The sponsor candidate should be prepared to summarize their qualifications.
- 10.) At the second Area Sponsor's meeting, a vote will be taken by the current sponsors whether the candidate will be approved to become an Alateen Sponsor. It is recommended that the District Representative accompany the sponsor candidate to at least one or both of the meetings.
- 11.) Attend at least six Alateen meetings of the group one wishes to sponsor.
- 12.) Receive a vote of confidence from the Alateen Group members after at least six meetings have been attended by the new sponsor candidate.
- 13.) If sponsor candidate is starting a new group, a vote of confidence will taken by the Alateens after six months.