

# Having Our Say

*The newsletter of SaySo, Strong Able Youth Speaking Out*

Volume 5, Number 1

## About SaySo, Inc.

SaySo is a statewide association of youth aged 14 to 24 who are or have been in North Carolina's out-of-home care system. This includes all types of substitute care, including foster care, group homes, and mental health placements.

Our mission is to work to improve the substitute care system by educating the community, speaking out about needed changes, and providing support to youth who are or have been in substitute care.

## Become a Member!

If you are interested in joining **SaySo**, let us know! E-mail or write us with the following information: your name, age, and address (including e-mail), region and the kind of out-of-home placement you are or have been in.

## Contact Information

SaySo, Inc.  
c/o ILR, Inc.  
411 Andrews Rd., Ste. 230  
Durham NC 27705  
Phone: 800/820-0001  
Fax: 919/384-0338  
Web Site: <http://sayso-nc.tripod.com>  
Email: [sayso@ilrinc.com](mailto:sayso@ilrinc.com)

## Officers

Co-chairs: Chaney P. and Peaches S.  
Secretary: Cassandra C.  
Treasurer: Brian M.  
Sergeant-at-arms: Frank L.



**Hello SaySo Members!!** It's been a long time since we've had a newsletter so this one is full of stuff. We are now a non-profit organization!! Read on for more news and contacts. We promise to provide regular newsletters throughout the year!

## Introducing the SaySo, Inc. Board Members (2003-2004)

**Below is a list of the all the board members-, where they are from and something about their personality that will help SaySo.**

Sylvester - Onslow County, very energetic, and outspoken.  
Jesica - Onslow County, Hard worker, out spoken.  
Cassandra - Cumberland County, willing to help at all times, and funny.  
Thomas - Guilford County, very helpful, and fun to be around.  
Tiffany- New Hanover County, very strong willed, good heart.  
Dionna - Pitt County, good personality, humor, and outspoken.  
Steaphon - Caldwell County, positive attitude, and his heart is in the right place.  
Vivian - Wake County, calm, very out spoken, funny  
Jacqueline - Roberson County, wants to make a difference, draws well.  
Frank - Forsyth County, caring, good listening  
Dayshawn - Guilford County, diverse ideas, rap songs,  
Melinda - Cleveland County, Leadership, maintains order  
Brian - Mecklenburg County, very stable, funny  
Marcus - Wilson, we are keeping this position open in his memory (2003-2004).  
Jennifer - Gaston County, encouraging, and good on the job attitude.  
Chaney - Onslow County, funny, intelligent kind hearted  
Peaches - Sampson County, never quits, very dedicated  
Makeisha - Nash County, calm, very sweet.  
Nancy - Executive Director, with a kind heart and loves the youth

Speak out to us on how we should reach our goals.  
Email: [sayso@ilrinc.com](mailto:sayso@ilrinc.com)

## Three Goals For This Board:

1. Build Financial Base
2. Expand Support for Members: expanded services
3. Expand Media Exposure

## Local Chapter Update

If you are not a member of your local chapter and would like to be, contact the following adult supporters:

Mecklenburg County-  
Jessie Epps  
(704)-336-7441  
[eppsij@co.mecklenburg.nc.us](mailto:eppsij@co.mecklenburg.nc.us)

Moore County  
Andi Korte  
(910) 947-2436 ext. 3351  
[Akorte@moore.nc.us](mailto:Akorte@moore.nc.us)

Guilford County  
Belinda Smith  
(336)-641-3688  
[BSMITH4@co.guilford.nc.us](mailto:BSMITH4@co.guilford.nc.us)

Wake County  
Quentin Cooper  
(919) 212-7099  
[qcooper@co.wake.nc.us](mailto:qcooper@co.wake.nc.us)

Caldwell County  
Susan Keller  
(828)-426-8280  
[skeller@co.caldwell.nc.us](mailto:skeller@co.caldwell.nc.us)

Cumberland County  
Tracey Taylor-Colson  
(910) 429-1826  
[poopud@yahoo.com](mailto:poopud@yahoo.com)

**Join the fun  
- call now!!**



# Having Our Say

*The newsletter of SaySo, Strong Able Youth Speaking Out*

## Board Member Contact:

### Region 1

Steaphon  
[Sijames28645@yahoo.com](mailto:Sijames28645@yahoo.com)

Two openings

### Region 2

Jennifer  
[jpainter44@hotmail.com](mailto:jpainter44@hotmail.com)  
Brian - Treasurer  
[Smokymcpot123@yahoo.com](mailto:Smokymcpot123@yahoo.com)  
Melinda  
[Tweety81@bellsouth.net](mailto:Tweety81@bellsouth.net)

### Region 3

Dayshawn  
[dayshawn@excite.com](mailto:dayshawn@excite.com)  
Frank  
[frankstretch@hotmail.com](mailto:frankstretch@hotmail.com)  
Thomas  
[Thomasdavis1985@yahoo.com](mailto:Thomasdavis1985@yahoo.com)

### Region 4

Peaches – Co-Chair  
[peaches\\_sanders@yahoo.com](mailto:peaches_sanders@yahoo.com)  
Vivian  
[twist162004@yahoo.com](mailto:twist162004@yahoo.com)  
Jacqueline  
[lovejj85@hotmail.com](mailto:lovejj85@hotmail.com)  
Cassandra – Secretary  
[ccc501@yahoo.com](mailto:ccc501@yahoo.com)

### Region 5

Dionna  
[dlh1016@mail.ecu.edu](mailto:dlh1016@mail.ecu.edu)  
Makeisha  
[Veronicka27557@yahoo.com](mailto:Veronicka27557@yahoo.com)  
Marcus  
Passed away – will keep open

### Region 6

Jesica –  
Tiffany -  
Sylvester -  
Chaney- Co-Chair  
[fatty\\_gyrql2004@hotmail.com](mailto:fatty_gyrql2004@hotmail.com)

## Upcoming Chapter Local Chapters

- NCCU – contact Peaches at [peaches\\_sanders@yahoo.com](mailto:peaches_sanders@yahoo.com)
  - Roberson County – contact Pamela Locklear [Pamela.locklear@dss.co.roberson.nc.us](mailto:Pamela.locklear@dss.co.roberson.nc.us)
  - Appalachian State University – contact Faith Newsome [faithakhop@hotmail.com](mailto:faithakhop@hotmail.com)
- Good Luck starting Local Chapters in your area.**

## Upcoming Events 2003-2004

**LINK-Up** – Life skills conference for 13-15 year old youths. January 2004  
**Advocacy in Action** – Youth leadership conference. July 20-22, 2004  
**SaySo Saturday**- Annual conference for all SaySo members March 6, 2004  
**Gal Conference**-Watch SaySo members improve relationships between GAL and teens.  
October 25, 2003

**Hope to see you at the upcoming events this year!!!! Stay tuned for more information on upcoming events and ways to get involved.**

## SUBMIT, SUBMIT, AND SUBMIT!!

Looking for people to submit their stories to our SaySo Book. We are looking for poems, stories, or any thing that you find interesting to put in this book. We need the stories **ASAP**. Thank you so much for you help this far. You will have to submit these things to: Say So, Inc., 411 Andrews Rd., Ste. 230, Durham, NC 27705  
Email: [sayso@ilrinc.com](mailto:sayso@ilrinc.com)

**Thanks a lot. Lets see your stories in the SaySo book to let other youth know that they are not the only ones out there and that there are others just like them.**

## Conferences and Events:

**SaySo Orientation:** June 6-8, 2003 was held in Burlington, where the old and new board members got together for training and fellowship. We also had a chance to meet George Duval, and alumni from Kentucky who plans to speak at Advocacy in Action.

**SaySo Rally:** July 31, 2003 was held in Greensboro, at the Youth Folk Center where the teens learned valuable skills to take back to the community.

**LINK-Up Youth Conference:** August 1, 2003 was held in Greensboro, N.C. at the Youth Folk Center where teens learned about decision making skills, taking pride in your appearance, and reducing AIDS & HIV Infections.

**Growing Pains Conference:** August 13-16, 2003 was held in Orlando, Florida where Vivian, Chaney, Makeisha, and Melinda attended. **Melinda won the National Youth of the Year Award.** This is the second year that a SaySo member won this award!! Awesome!

## Partnership Update (did you know we partner with these groups?)

**Guardian Ad Litem (GAL)** is trying to improve services for teens. We have two of our SaySo board members on this committee, Melinda and Thomas.

**Advocates for Children Services** supported a petition because the governor and his advisory committee had not met to make recommendation to improve youth services in mental health and juvenile justice. The committee is finally meeting after two years. Also, developing a foster youth handbook.

**North Carolina Foster Parent Association (NCFPA)**- SaySo adhoc Board meaning a SaySo board member could attend all of their meetings.

**Look for more in our next newsletter on partnerships and educational vouchers for youths in care!**

