

Having Our Say

The newsletter of SaySo, Strong Able Youth Speaking Out

Volume5, Number 3

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

Officers

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



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Board Member Contact:

Region 1

Steaphon

Sijames28645@yahoo.com

Two openings

Region 2

Jennifer

jpainter@email.unc.edu

Brian - Treasurer

Smokymcpot123@yahoo.com

Melinda - Secretary

Tweety81@bellsouth.net

Region 3

Dayshawn

knowwannaloveme@excite.com

Frank – no email

Thomas

Thomasdavis1985@yahoo.com

Region 4

Peaches – Co-Chair

peaches_sanders@yahoo.com

Vivian

feelmein2004@yahoo.com

Jacqueline

lovejj85@hotmail.com

Region 5

Dionna

dlh1016@mail.ecu.edu

Makeisha

Veronica27557@yahoo.com

Marcus

Passed away – will keep open

Region 6

Jesica – no email

Tiffany - no email

Chaney- Co-Chair

fatty_gyrq12004@hotmail.com

Is SaySo Saturday for everyone? No. It's only for young people ages 14-24 who are or have been in foster care. Adopted youths who were in foster care and later adopted should also attend. College students and older youths who have aged out have lots to say about how foster care helped and hurt their transition to adult life. We all have something to say. This is the time to say it and take some action.

Will I get anything out of SaySo Saturday? That depends on you. Like anything else, what you get depends on what you are willing to put into it. It could be awesome and make a huge difference in your life - or none at all. You decide that. You will get a conference bag, lunch, snacks, and cake -maybe even one of the birthday gifts and probably even a new friend or two.



SaySo, Inc., helps aged out youth!

In December, the SaySo, Inc., Board of Directors established the Steaphon James Foundation in honor of our board member who is aging out of SaySo with a possibly fatal medical condition know as Marfan Syndrome. This foundation was established to help pay the monthly medical expenses required to keep Steaphon alive until he can have open-heart surgery. His Medicaid application was denied and is being appealed. It is anticipated that Steaphon will have surgery within the next few months. If you want to know more about the foundation, Marfan Syndrome or how to help, please contact the SaySo office.

Snowfall reschedules LINK-UP Conference



The SaySo Board Members had to reschedule this life skills conference for youths ages 13-15 years old from January 10 to March 27 due to snow fall in central NC. Board members facilitate the workshops and are the coaches for the O-LINK-pic games. This fun and active conference will be in Wilmington. If you want to attend, contact the SaySo office

SaySo Board Members Hit the National Scene!

Two SaySo Board members are going National!!! **Makeisha** has been elected to Senior Youth Representative to the National Independent Living Association (NILA). There are three other youths on the board with her from Ohio, Florida, and New York. **Melinda** is part of a national group of alumni forming the National Alumni Network (NAN). This will be the only nationally organized group of alumni ever! You go girls!!

You too could be a part of the action...join SaySo today!

