

Having Our Say

The newsletter of SaySo, Strong Able Youth Speaking Out

Volume 3, Number 2

About SaySo

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
c/o ILR, Inc.
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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: Melinda M. and Steaphon J.
Secretary: Chaka C.
Treasurer: Clarence G.
Sergeant-at-arms: De'Von M.

Orientation Weekend

On May 18 – 19, the newly elected Board of Directors had their Orientation Weekend. Board members spent the weekend getting to know each other, learning SaySo's history, and working to spread SaySo's message. As an end result, the Board named three pressing tasks to accomplish during the next year. Board members would like to see SaySo achieve non-profit status, followed by more media exposure and the increase of local chapters.

Elections were also held, and below are your new SaySo officers:

Melinda and Steaphon- Co-chairs

Chaka- Secretary

Clarence- Treasurer

De'Von- Sergeant-at-Arms

To speak to your Regional Representative, please refer to the contact information.

Get LINKed into Youth Days!

The Department of Health and Human Services is sponsoring an exciting conference for adolescents, group care providers, and social workers. This event will focus on helping prepare adolescents for the time when they will live on their own. If you've never attended Youth Days before, you are missing an excellent opportunity to learn about living on your own, great prizes, and the chance to meet and speak to your local SaySo representative. Each conference is free. For registration, call 800- 820-0001.

July 19- Western Piedmont CC- Morganton

July 24- Guilford Technical CC- Jamestown

July 26- Richmond CC- Hamlet/Rockingham

July 31- Lenoir CC- Kinston

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Board Member Contact:

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De'Von- Sergeant-at-Arms

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Region 3

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Growing Pains Conference

Daniel Memorial Institute presents its 14th Annual Growing Pains Conference in Orlando, Florida. Several Sayso Board Members will be attending to present a SaySo workshop. Growing Pains 2001 will address a variety of problems facing youth who are struggling to become adults and live independently. For more information, contact Wendy Manasco at 904-296-1055 x1013.

Youth Leadership Conference

SaySo presents its First Annual Youth Leadership Conference. The conference will take place September 28 – 29 at the State Capital Clarion Hotel in downtown Raleigh. Friday, September 28 will include a “Get Acquainted” Dinner, followed by a talent show from 7-11. Bring your poetry, artwork, music to dance to, or any other talent you would like to showcase. Saturday’s events begin with breakfast at 8:00 am, followed by the Leadership Seminar conducted by Patrick Patrong at 9:00 am. Patrong is a nationally renowned speaker known for his leadership and “magic” in the IL field. Come see what he has to offer for us! Lunch will be provided, and the day will conclude at 4:30 pm. Space is limited to 50 youth participants. Registration deadline is August 31. Priority registration will be offered to Board members and local chapter members. Only SaySo members are eligible to attend. To Register and for more information, please contact Jennie DeVoe at 800-820-0001.

