

Having Our Say

The newsletter of SaySo, Strong Able Youth Speaking Out

Volume 4, Number 2

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
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: Melinda M. and
Steaphon J.
Secretary: Chaka C.
Treasurer: Clarence G.
Sergeant-at-arms: De'Von M.



3rd Annual SaySo Saturday

SaySo's annual conference was held this year on March 2 at Guilford Technical Community College in Jamestown. This year, SaySo accommodated 114 youth and adults from across the state, all interested in learning how youth can empower themselves. The SaySo Board of Directors presented workshops ranging in topics from public speaking to understanding LINKS. Participating youth received information on how to start their own local SaySo chapter, were given the opportunity to elect the new SaySo representatives from their region, and celebrated SaySo's 4th Birthday! If you missed all the excitement, please plan to join us next year, and learn how to make a difference in your life, as well as the lives of other youth. Watch for more information in future newsletters.

Below are listed the newly elected SaySo Board for the upcoming year, followed by the region they represent:

Misty W. 1	Amanda R. 3	Faith N. 5
Steaphon J. 1	Nathaniel C. 3	Teresa H. 5
Douglas S. 1	Dayshawn M. 3	Makeisha W. 5
Sarah S. 1	Cassandra C. 4	Robin D. 6
Steven W. 2	Clarence G. 4	Tiffany D. 6
Melinda M. 2	Peaches S. 4	Chaney P. 6
Frank B. 2	Anthony A. 4	

Update

SaySo would like to send out congratulations to De'Von and Makeisha who were elected to the NILA Youth Board, and now have the opportunity to address your interests at a national level. Congratulations to both!

Where to find SaySo Reps

Selected SaySo Board Members, along with Makeisha and De'Von, will attend the national independent living "Growing Pains" Conference, held this year August 7-10 in Kansas City.

The newly elected SaySo Board of Directors will have their orientation meeting May 17-19 in Burlington at the Ramada Inn. Once they are commissioned on May 19th – the new board will begin their one-year term. Look for them at the following events:

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Board Member Contact:

Region 1

Steaphon- Co-chair

steaphonj@hotmail.com

Casey-

Misty-

Missg1982@hotmail.com

Region 2

Erica-

Ericabailey2468@yahoo.com

De'Von- Sergeant-at-Arms

Dajuce4life@yahoo.com

Melinda- Co-chair

mindymedina@aol.com

Lamar-

Region 3

Chaka- Secretary

Chaka_denise@yahoo.com

Tiffany-

rosloyd@earthlink.net

Bernard-

dayshawn@excite.com

Region 4

Clarence- Treasurer

Jennifer-

jpainter44@hotmail.com

Peaches-

Region 5

Teresa-

Tweety_pie_nsc@hotmail.com

Dionna-

Dynamicdee50@hotmail.com

Makeisha-

Veronica27557@yahoo.com

Region 6

Stephaine-

Ladynred68@hotmail.com

Chaney-

fatty-gyrl2004@hotmail.com

Youth Recognition Luncheons for graduating (high school, GED, etc.)

youth: June 4- Morganton, First Baptist Church

June 5- Rocky Mount, NC Wesleyan College

Youth Days 2002 Conferences (please plan to attend):

July 11- Morganton- Western Piedmont Com College

July 15- Jamestown- Guilford Tech Community College

July 18- Pinehurst-Sandhills Community College

July 23- Kinston- Lenoir Community College

In the Works...

As of March 22, 2002 SaySo became **incorporated**, and will now be known as SaySo, Inc. Next up, the Board of Directors will work towards getting SaySo classified as non-profit. Thanks to the **Fenwick Foundation** for paying the legal fees to make this a **REALITY** and to everyone who works so hard to help SaySo reach its goals.

Also coming up, SaySo will take center stage at the First Annual Youth Advocacy Conference. The national conference is being planned for October 4-6 at the Sheraton in RTP, and will feature a variety of speakers giving helpful advice to youth on advocacy, lobbying, and other related topics. For more information, contact Nancy Carter at Independent Living Resources, Inc., 800-820-0001.

Local Chapter Info

SaySo's initial goal was to develop 3 local chapters. Actually, SaySo now has 6 official local chapters! SaySo would like to extend its thanks and appreciation to each of its local chapters – listed in order:

Moore County, recognized March 2001

Mecklenburg County, recognized September 2001

Caldwell County, recognized September 2001

Wake County, recognized March 2002

Cumberland County, recognized March 2002

Guilford County, to be recognized July 2002 at Youth Days

Congratulations to all, and thank you for your hard work and continued support. Any chapter wishing to submit info to the newsletter, please contact the editor at jpainter44@hotmail.com

For more information about these local chapters, starting one in your area, or having a SaySo Representative speak to you, contact Nancy Carter at Independent Living Resources, Inc., 800-820-0001.

SaySo welcomes you to make copies of this newsletter and share it with others you feel it may benefit.

