

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

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

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
eppsjj@co.mecklenburg.nc.us

Moore County
Andi Korte
(910) 947-2436 ext. 3351
AKorte@moore.nc.us

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

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

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

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

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



Having Our Say

The newsletter of SaySo, Strong Able Youth Speaking Out

Upcoming Chapter Local Chapters

Board Member Contact:

Region 1

Steaphon

Sijames28645@yahoo.com

Two openings

Region 2

Jennifer

jpainter44@hotmail.com

Brian - Treasurer

Smokymcpot123@yahoo.com

Melinda

Tweety81@bellsouth.net

Region 3

Dayshawn

dayshawn@excite.com

Frank

frankstretch@hotmail.com

Thomas

Thomasdavis1985@yahoo.com

Region 4

Peaches – Co-Chair

peaches_sanders@yahoo.com

Vivian

twist162004@yahoo.com

Jacqueline

lovejj85@hotmail.com

Cassandra – Secretary

ccc501@yahoo.com

Region 5

Dionna

dlh1016@mail.ecu.edu

Makeisha

Veronicka27557@yahoo.com

Marcus

Passed away – will keep open

Region 6

Jesica –

Tiffany -

Sylvester -

Chaney- Co-Chair

fatty_gyrql2004@hotmail.com

- NCCU – contact Peaches at peaches_sanders@yahoo.com

- Roberson County – contact Pamela Locklear Pamela.locklear@dss.co.roberson.nc.us

- Appalachian State University – contact Faith Newsome 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 your 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

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!

