



# THE LEGACY

Volume 48/ Issue 2

May-June 2011

North Florida Area Website: [www.northfloridaal-anon.org](http://www.northfloridaal-anon.org)

## CHAIRPERSON: SHELLEY C.

Hello North Florida!

Two exciting Al-Anon weekends! I have just returned from our TEAM (Together Empowering Al-Anon Members) event in Orlando and the weekend before was our North Florida Area Assembly in Ocala. I am full with joy and recovery in service.

It was a pleasure to host three members from World Service Office (WSO) this past weekend. We enjoyed hearing their personal stories as well as the workshops that we shared with WSO and South Florida Area. I gained a new appreciation for how WSO supports groups and members.

At our Spring Assembly we took care of Al-Anon business for our area along with enjoying the fellowship of Group Representatives (GRs) from all 12 Districts. I am happy to say that we will be hosting an Alateen Conference next year for the first time in several years. Because of that, the co-chairs of the event will be visiting the South FL Conference in a couple months to help plan for next year's event. We also voted to send a donation of \$5000 to WSO. I learned at TEAM the ways this money could be used.

We also amended our Election Procedures to say that those who stand for positions at the Area level have the ability to access and the willingness to use electronic communications and media. Email, as well as our district, area and WSO websites, have become such an important way of distributing information. We feel it is important that we all can communicate this way or have an E-buddy available to help.

During the afternoon the GRs divided into groups to meet with one of the 13 officers and coordinators. Your GR brought back to you a report of one of these job descriptions. If you haven't heard this report, ask for it! If you attend more than one meeting each week, you may hear more than one job description. That was the plan anyway! It's so important that these job descriptions get out to our members

since the person sitting next to you in your meeting may be eligible to stand for a position and not know it. Do you enjoy working with numbers? You may be eligible for Area Treasurer. Are you excited by Public Outreach? Do you love our literature? Are you fascinated by websites? Are you inspired by working with Alateen? You may be eligible for a Coordinator position. Talk to your GR or DR to get the information you need to make an informed decision. And it always helps me to pray for guidance from my Higher Power.

I am continually grateful for the opportunity to grow and learn in service and to practice new behaviors among my Al-Anon friends who will love me no matter how many mistakes I continue to make.

Love in Service,

Shelley C.

Panel 49 Area Chair

[chair@northfloridaal-anon.org](mailto:chair@northfloridaal-anon.org)

When emailing please use "Panel 49 NFA" in the subject line

## SECRETARY: LOIS M.

I was talking to someone about why we volunteer for service. Maybe it's because when we complete something, it helps our self esteem. Not in an egotistical way; instead, we look back from where we came and marvel at this person we've become. That we are able to function in reality is a big deal for some of us. Let alone accomplishing a service position for an entire panel!

Recently, I had been "thinking hard", which some call obsessing, over words spoken by a family member which had evoked strong emotions within me. I get to reeling between my ears and it can lead to depression.

However, I had these commitments, which was seriously affecting my "thinking hard" and potential depression time.

It's no small task getting ready for the meetings in Ocala, even preparing ahead, as there are always last minute details. Also, there were home projects to be done, which never ever happen at a convenient time. Why is that?

I realized I would have to start penciling in my "thinking hard" and depression time into my day planner, or it's just not going to happen! Stupid service work; stupid being a responsible, reasonable adult.

Do you have the same things happen to you? No? I'm the only sick one? Well, on the outside chance you can relate to me even a little, perhaps it's time to take the plunge and step up your service work. It will change your life. Start small and grow.

By the way, I am always willing and able to come to your District to lead a workshop, or speak, or something else. All the Officers are willing to do service in your District. All you have to do is ask.

Yours in Service,

Lois M.—P49 North Florida Secretary

## TEAM FLORIDA

(Together Empowering Al-Anon Members)  
May 20-21, 2011

North and South Florida Areas

Partnering with the WSO

It took a lot of planning, creating, worrying, and help from many Al-Anon members, but our TEAM: Florida event was a great success!

We gathered in Orlando at the Wyndham Lake Buena Vista Resort on Friday evening and jumped right in. We had presentations on Sponsorship and Diversity, a Panel Discussion of Service Sponsorship, and we ended the night with a creative and wonderful skit on the Voices of Alateen.

Saturday dawned bright and early (with some of us having breakfast with Pluto and Goofy in the hotel's restaurant) and we went right back to work at 9:00. Personal

SEE PAGES 10—13 FOR NFA JOB DESCRIPTIONS

sharing from Marsha, Sandie and Mary Ann (our participants from the World Service Office) were inspiring and amazingly like our own stories. One of their common hopes was that AI-Anon members could see that "the WSO" is really folks just like all of us.

We had presentations on how the WSO finds Trustees to serve, on the spiritual connection of Giving, and on the difference between the AI-Anon Fellowship and the AI-Anon Organization. Very informative!

After lunch we enjoyed a skit on Knowledge Based Decision Making and how it applies to our lives (this skit is available by email if anyone would like to use it in their District). We finished the day with presentations on Conflict Resolution and Leadership.

Statistically speaking we had over 150 attendees and while most of our participants were from the North and South Florida Areas, we also had members from NW Florida, Alabama, and Kentucky as well as our three WSO members.

Our presentations were informative and inspiring; our fellowship was enjoyable and inclusive. For the first time (in North Florida) we were able to use simultaneous translation into Spanish and this seems to have been a marvelous way for many of our members to feel more a part of the proceedings and the fellowship as a whole.

Our Hospitality Room provided snacks, refreshments, and a place to connect. All in all, we made the most of the time we had together! I look forward to giving a more extensive report at Fall Assembly – but I just wanted to let you all know how wonderful it was, and how grateful I am that I was able to be a part of bringing this event to life.

Love in Service, Cindy J.- North Florida Area  
TEAM: Florida Co-Chair

## AREA DELEGATE: TERRY F.

Hello again to our wonderful North Florida Area. It's been a busy and exciting time for me and for AI-Anon. I visited District 9 the end of March for their *Day of Workshops*, participated on another Regional Committee on Trustees (RCT) for a special Regional Trustee selection process for a possible appointment, chaired another Conference Committee on Trustees (CCT) selection process for a possible special appointment for a Trustee at Large, went to the World Service Conference for nine days in April, and worked on and presented one of our presentations for our first ever TEAM (Together Empowering AI-Anon Members)

event that occurred in May, the weekend after our Spring Assembly.

My World Service Conference experience this year started off with a trip to Stepping Stones, the home of Lois and Bill Wilson. The Panel 49 Delegates flew into New York, stayed overnight in Connecticut, had a fun-filled day in New York on our own, and then on to Stepping Stones. It is a very special place, and I feel very privileged to have been there. I hope you go if you get the chance.

After Stepping Stones, we flew from LaGuardia airport to Virginia Beach for the World Service Conference (WSC). The day before the Conference began, Committees, Thought and Task Forces met to further or complete work done throughout the year. I sat on a Task Force during the year that completed its work to revise the Trustee resume. The Board of Trustees approved the resume revision, and the new form will be used starting this year. I also co-chaired the Conference Committee on Trustees (CCT) meeting which met the day before the WSC as a joint meeting with the Nominating Committee, a sub-committee of the Board of Trustees. We discussed changes to the CCT documents, and the possible appointment process during the week of a Trustee at Large (TAL), as one TAL position was still open.

Later during the day, all 67 Delegates met for a fast paced "Sharing Area Highlights" session to report an Area success and Area challenge in less than two minutes! Then we had our opening Conference dinner where first year Delegates received and were pinned by their Conference mentors with a Conference pin. The dinner closed with the outgoing Chairman of the Executive Committee sharing her story.

The World Service Conference started at 8:00 am the following day with an orientation. We were reminded of the 3 Conference goals: 1.) The spiritual tone of the Conference will prevail by the demonstration of mutual respect and acceptable conduct as its members presume good will, 2.) Conference members will understand the purpose of the Conference and the relationships within the structure, and 3.) Knowing that our Higher Power is present in the expression of our group conscience, Conference members will be able to support and communicate Conference decisions.

We were reminded of the 4 essential elements of Knowledge Based Decision Making (KBDM) to reach an informed group conscience. They include: Open communication between leadership and membership, dialogue before deliberation, all decision makers will have common access to

full information, and we exist in a Culture of Trust.

We went over the "Paths to a Group Conscience" schematic about how decisions are reached which is always on the back of the *Conference Summary*. It shows how discussions begin member to member and group to group, and then go from member to group to trusted servant, and then from trusted servant to trusted servant, and then the group conscience message is carried back.

On the first day, we always vote by consensus regarding non Conference members who will be seated at the Conference. These included an International Representative from Mexico, an International Representative from New Zealand, the Chair of the Executive Committee for Real Property Management (ECRPM), two non-voting WSO staff members and Dr. Vivian Jackson, Research Instructor, National Center for Cultural Competence, Georgetown University Center for Child and Human Development, who was our presenter on Cultural Competence.

### Annual Report:

We are given the WSO Annual Report which summarizes what the Board of Trustees including the Policy Committee, the Executive Committee, and WSO Departments and Committees worked on over the year. A few highlights:

### The Forum:

In December, it was approved to change *The Forum* magazine's tag line from "A Meeting in My Pocket" to "Sharing Recovery, Unity, and Service." The new tag line began with the April 2011 issue. The change is to encourage more use of the magazine at meetings and to better reflect its purpose. *The Forum* is intended to share our program with the fellowship, not to be read in isolation—kept private in our pocket. "A meeting in my pocket" could imply that the magazine could be a substitute for an actual meeting, when instead it provides topics for discussion and sharing at AI-Anon meetings. "Sharing Recovery, Unity, and Service," it is hoped, will encourage more members to integrate *The Forum* into their group's activities and use it as a tool to strengthen shared recovery.

### Alateen:

Six Areas have Alateen chat rooms, and at year end there were seven registered weekly meetings. Teen attendance is building slowly. Participating Areas were provided with suggestions on how to incorporate the chat meetings into an overall Alateen outreach plan. The safety of the meetings is maintained by screening of Alateen sharings by the AMIAS (AI-Anon Members Involved in Alateen Service) serving as the

chat meeting Sponsors. No personal information is allowed to be shared. Germany will be the first General Service Office structure to host a chat room.

#### Lone Member/Inmate Correspondence Service

The requests from Lone Members for the Correspondence Service continues to wane, as electronic Al-Anon meetings (Internet and telephone) become more accessible to members who live in remote areas and those that are homebound.

The Inmate Correspondence Service serves inmates who do not have access to an Al-Anon meeting in their facility. Requests from such inmates for an Al-Anon member to share their experience, strength, and hope as a result of working the Al-Anon program through the Inmate Correspondence Service remain steady. Male contacts are always needed for the service.

#### Group Services

The total number of registered groups at the end of 2010 was 25,452: U.S. Al-Anon 13,286, U.S. Alateen 1,031; Canada Al-Anon 1,363, Canada Alateen 80; Overseas Al-Anon 8,999, Overseas Alateen 693. A Korean-speaking group was registered in New York City. To date, it is the only Korean-speaking group in the World Service Conference structure.

#### Membership Outreach

International Conventions—2013 AL-ANON INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION, VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA, JULY 5-7, 2013

Following the Board's approval of the 2013 International Convention theme, "Celebrating Worldwide Unity—Al-Anon Family Groups," a logo was designed for the Convention. The logo will be used for stationery (July 2012 – July 2013), flyers, registration forms, etc. Be sure to save your change, and order or renew your passport in plenty of time!

#### TEAM –Together Empowering Al-Anon Members

Strengths as well as weaknesses were identified in this first year of TEAM Events. One strength noted was the level of enthusiasm and cooperation between the partners. It was exciting for WSO volunteers and staff to be directly involved with Area trusted servants in planning the program for an event. Communication proved to be challenging at times as the Area Host Committees and WSO Task Forces worked together in creating innovative events and forging a new relationship between the links of service. Six TEAM Events are already scheduled for 2011 and one in 2012. Information about TEAM Events can be found three to six months prior to the event on the calen-

dar section of *The Forum* page on the Members' Website and on the TEAM page, also on the Members' website.

#### Translation Highlights

*Discovering Choices* (SB-30 and FB-30) was published in Spanish and French. The 2010 – 2013 *Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual* was also updated in Spanish and French.

#### International

The International Al-Anon General Services Meeting (IAGSM) took place October 6-10, 2010. There were 15 service structures which included the World Service Office. Presentations by the Delegates on topics for the general sessions included: Preparation for Strategic Planning, Sharing Structure Successes or Challenges, Technology, How can we strengthen our Al-Anon and Alateen groups so that we can meet our one purpose of helping families and friends of alcoholics? (discussed using the Knowledge-Based Decision-Making process), The Five Warranties, Abundant Resources in all aspects, Concept Eleven, and How to Deal with Conflict. Workshop topics included: Knowledge-Based Decision-Making, Shared Leadership, Translation, Finance—Track 1, Finance—Track 2, and The Concepts. The Delegates also had an opportunity to visit the WSO. The bid from South Africa was accepted to host the 2012 IAGSM.

### Al-Anon/Alateen Internationally

#### AFRICA

South Africa: The General Service Office (GSO) presented a bid during the 2010 International Al-Anon General Services Meeting (IAGSM) to host the 2012 IAGSM. The bid was accepted. This will be the first time that the meeting will take place in Africa.

#### EUROPE

Austria: The World Service Office (WSO) Board of Trustees approved Austria's request to become a General Service Office (GSO) on a trial basis. Belarus: During the convention in Poland, a contact advised there are 10 groups in Belarus, five of which are registered with WSO. Belgium (Flemish-speaking): Because of the lack of volunteers and in an attempt to facilitate service work on a national level, the service structure reorganized and no longer has Selected Committees. Thought and Task Forces were formed as a way to encourage more members to become involved. Belgium (French-speaking): A new poster was created to inform the general public of Al-Anon Family Groups' existence in Belgium. Commonwealth of Independent States (formerly the Soviet Union): Using the World Service Conference as a model, the service structure continued discussions about the reorganization of their service meeting. Denmark: The service structure

began a re-evaluation, with the purpose of meeting the needs of the membership more effectively. Discussions continued concerning whether to re-open their service office. Currently the GSO is a virtual office. Finland: To improve the finances needed for national services, the conference voted to send appeal letters to the membership twice a year. It was also decided that financial reports would be included regularly in publications. Germany: The Board of Trustees passed a motion that allows the elected position of International Al-Anon General Services Meeting (IAGSM) Delegate to participate on the Board with voice only. Greece: The Al-Anon Information Service (AIS) submitted a Public Outreach article about Al-Anon Family Groups for a newspaper in Athens. Hungary: The groups have voted to form an AIS in 2011. Iceland: The GSO sent two Delegates to the 2010 International Al-Anon General Services Meeting (IAGSM) in Virginia Beach, Virginia. Italy: During the last quarter of 2010, the GSO began plans for a national convention that will take place September 2011. The theme for the convention is: "Sharing, Living, Growing Together." An invitation was extended to the WSO to send a representative, all expenses paid. Lithuania: As a part of a planned visit in August, WSO representatives attended a service meeting in Kaunas. Approximately 25 members were present. Norway: The GSO continues to be open part-time. There are currently 31 active Al-Anon groups. Poland: The 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Al-Anon Family Groups was celebrated in Selpia in September. There were over 1,000 Al-Anon/Alateen and A.A. members in attendance. Poland, Belarus, Germany, Netherlands, Slovakia, Slovenia, Turkey, Ukraine, and the United Kingdom were represented. WSO representatives attended and participated in the program. Portugal: The national conference took place in April. After receiving reprint permission from the WSO, the GSO reprinted *Opening Our Hearts, Transforming Our Losses* (B-29). Serbia: The only group registered with the WSO is located in Belgrade. The contact for this group advised that the members voted to start an additional meeting. Slovakia: WSO representatives met with two Slovakian contacts at the convention in Poland. The WSO was informed there are approximately 15 groups in Slovakia. The WSO has received a registration form for one of the groups. Slovenia: The first AIS for this country registered with the WSO. Sweden: WSO representatives met with members of the Board of Trustees as well as members involved in service during a visit to Stockholm in August. The purpose of the meetings was to reconnect with members

in a face-to-face setting. The GSO has not been able to send a representative to the IAGSM for quite some time. Switzerland (French-speaking): In September, the 20<sup>th</sup> Al-Anon/Alateen Convention was held in Crêt Bérard. The theme for the Convention was "Growing all Together." Switzerland (German-speaking): The *Service Manual* was updated and approved by their conference in June 2010. Turkey: The service structure started preliminary plans to host their first Al-Anon Convention in 2011. UK & Eire: The GSO installed a new phone system. After receiving positive support from conference members, the process of finding a new location for the GSO has begun. Ukraine: Three contacts were made at the convention in Poland. There are approximate 30 groups. WSO has received registrations for two groups.

#### ASIA

Afghanistan: The World Service Office (WSO) registered the first English-speaking meeting here. This is a limited access meeting, located on a United States Air Force base. India: The WSO was advised that the Trial National Service Structure voted that Mumbai will be the location for their General Service Office (GSO). There are currently 28 Delegates and ten Trustees representing the Trial National Service Structure. Iran: A contact from the United States, on behalf of the Al-Anon members in Iran, informed the WSO that a service meeting took place March 4-6. WSO had, with the assistance of the contact, two phone meetings to discuss various service topics with Iranian members. Japan: The GSO continued performing more public outreach projects to raise awareness within the professional community that the GSO is a resource for Al-Anon Family Groups. Korea: The GSO advised that they continue to work on strategies to encourage members to become more involved in service.

#### AUSTRALIA/ NEW ZEALAND

Australia: As a part of their ongoing public outreach efforts, the General Service Office (GSO) participated in a one-day seminar with professionals and government personnel in Australia. New Zealand: The GSO is planning to translate three pamphlets into Maori, the language of the "First People" of New Zealand. The pamphlets being considered for translation are: *A Guide for the Family of the Alcoholic*, (P-7), *So You Love an Alcoholic*, (P-14), and *Troubled by Someone's Drinking?* (S-17).

#### NORTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA

Cuba: Communication with the members was re-established by the WSO. To help with their Public Outreach efforts, the WSO supplied the service structure with 30 copies of *How Al-Anon Works for Families and Friends of Alcoholics* in Spanish (SB-22) and

50 copies of the "Crying House" bookmark in Spanish. Dominican Republic: The World Service Office (WSO) established a new contact for the service structure, which updated information on behalf of the Al-Anon Information Service (AIS) located in Santo Domingo. Copies of *Groups at Work* (SP-24) in Spanish were sent with an Al-Anon volunteer. El Salvador: The second Al-Anon/Alateen convention organized by the AIS took place September 25 and 26. The convention was well attended. Guatemala: The service office moved due to financial reasons. Honduras: A long time AIS was closed and a new one registered with the WSO in the city of Juticalpa. There are currently 50 Al-Anon and three Alateen groups. Mexico: The General Service Office (GSO) hosted a Public Outreach symposium for professionals in October. There were 275 people in attendance, including the First Lady of Mexico. The symposium received local and national media coverage. Nicaragua: The contact on behalf of the service structure advised that members discussed the possibility of forming and supporting an AIS. Panama: The contact advised that the AIS is active and continues to serve the members.

#### SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina: The General Service Office (GSO) hosted a Regional Service Seminar (RSS) in October. The Board of Trustees is considering using the World Service Office (WSO) TEAM Event model to replace this service meeting in the future. Bolivia: A representative contacted the WSO for guidance surrounding their discussions about the role of Dual Members doing Al-Anon service work. Brazil: The GSO translated and printed the book *Opening Our Hearts, Transforming Our Losses* (B-29). They advised this book has proven to be a big success. Chile: The Al-Anon Information Service (AIS) moved. Twenty groups continued to support the AIS. Colombia: The GSO reprinted the WSO Public Outreach magazine *Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism 2011* and had it available for their convention in October. Ecuador: A contact who works closely with the service structure requested guidance from the WSO to assist them in their discussions about adapting minimum requirements for Al-Anon Members Involved in Alateen Service (AMIAS). Paraguay: Members continued to support the work and public outreach efforts of the GSO. There are currently 19 Al-Anon and two Alateen groups. Peru: The GSO will host the Ibero-American meeting in October 2011 in Lima. Uruguay: Their conference voted to buy property to house their GSO. The GSO is currently in their new location. Venezuela: The GSO has been active reprinting Al-Anon Conference Ap-

proved Literature. Ten pieces were reprinted.

#### Websites:

The public website has been updated. Log onto [www.al-anon.org](http://www.al-anon.org) and take a look. It's great for newcomers and professionals. It has multiple easy links and audio sharings from members. It also has a link to the Members' site, [www.al-anon.org/members](http://www.al-anon.org/members). On the members' site, you'll find a link to the WSO podcasts, the latest of which is a new podcast on sponsorship. You can share your thoughts on the podcasts by clicking on the comments section. French and Spanish podcasts are coming soon. The Legacy Blogs are still on the site as well, and it was noted that Spanish Blogs were needed. There is also a new blog on the page about "Thinking Abundantly in All Our Affairs." When you go to this blog, you will also see another podcast about this topic as well. WSO plans to also redo the Members site in the coming months. We were also informed that after this summer, *Area Highlights* will only be available electronically on the Members' site. This will help to again reduce WSO printing and mailing costs.

#### Finance Report:

The Audited Finance Report and Finance Committee Report were both passed by the Conference. We were encouraged to share with you that it costs WSO \$238.23 per group per year to service, and that WSO provides an equivalent amount to all groups. The average group contribution per group per year is \$104.04, with 57.98% of the groups contributing to WSO. On pgs. 127-128 of the World Service Handbook in the Al-Anon Service Manual, it lists what is covered in those services to groups, (ie. What the World Service Office does). Twenty separate items are listed so please take a look.

The Finance Committee also invited the idea of a "Spirit of Generosity." We were shown how the spiritual connection is developed by paying our gratitude forward when we give our financial resources to enable Al-Anon Family Groups to reach out to future members, as well as serve our current members.

#### 2018 International Convention Bid Discussion:

It is time once again to prepare bids for the 2018 International Convention, Al-Anon's Sixth. So, that means bids. After the 2012 Conference, bids will be accepted by the International Convention Site Committee from any Area that is interested in having the convention. All Areas are welcome to submit a bid. In the coming months, we will explore whether our Area would like to submit a bid to host this event. The deadline for Delegates to submit bids is Decem-

ber 1, 2011.

#### Chosen Agenda Items:

Two Chosen Agenda Items selected by Conference member vote were also discussed for an hour each during Conference week. One was on trusted servants and technology use, and the other was on Cultural Diversity. The summary of these two topics will be included in the 2011 *Conference Summary* coming out later this year.

#### Cultural Competence:

Continuing the conversation on ways to expand our outreach to diverse populations that was begun last year, we were honored to have Dr. Vivian Jackson, a Research Instructor at the National Center for Cultural Competence at Georgetown University Center for Child and Human Development, with us to discuss cultural competence. Dr. Jackson led us through an exercise that asked us to evaluate our values and the cultural factors that influence diversity among individuals and groups. One of the statements she made that resonated with many was, "We always say, 'they are different;' we never say, 'I am different.'" It was a self-reflective and thought-provoking session, the concepts of which will continue to be discussed.

#### Thought and Task Force Presentations:

Several Thought Forces and one Task Force presentation were given during the week. One of these was "How to Include Dual Members in Service, While Maintaining Our Policies." After Conference, it was noted in the Chairman of the Board's letter that, "Based on the discussion at the Open Policy Meeting at the World Service Conference, a Task Force will be appointed to review the spiritual principles underlying the dual membership policy (pages 78-79 in the "Digest of AI-Anon and Alateen Policies"). The Task Force will present the Committee with a proposed language that maintains the current policy while more effectively communicating the spiritual rationale for the policy to the fellowship." A second Thought Force centered on "Supporting Areas in Dealing with Groups whose Activities Fail to Consider AI-Anon or Alateen as a Whole." Also noted from the Chairman of the Board letter, "based on discussion at the 2011 World Service Conference, a Task Force will be appointed to make recommendations on a "do not refer" policy for those groups that violate AI-Anon's Traditions, as determined by their Area. The recommendations will define criteria for designating groups as "do not refer" in the database used by the WSO's toll-free telephone line operators who respond to newcomers and other members in search of a meeting." There were other Thought Force presentations on alternatives to the current Conference structure, how service contributes to growth, and a Task Force presenta-

tion to create a process to submit items for the World Service Conference agenda. A final Thought Force was to "Identify Information for a Guideline on Memorial Contributions."

#### Property Ownership

After the conclusion of the 15-year trial period of property ownership, this year was the year to vote. There were three possible outcomes: 1. End the trial and keep the building, 2. End the trial and sell the building, 3. Extend the trial for another period of years. With a vote of "substantial unanimity" the Conference voted to end the trial and keep the building. It is our AI-Anon home. Whatever your personal feelings about the vote, I hope you will agree that the process to reach this decision using KBDM allowed all questions to be answered and all opinions heard.

#### 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration:

At 3:00 pm on April 16<sup>th</sup>, the day after the Conference ended, a ceremony was held at which time WSO's paid off mortgage was burned. That evening, 512 people attended AI-Anon's 60 years celebration. It was a special way to honor our recovery.

A final question from the "Spirit of Generosity" theme we were left with, and I will end with for you to consider:

*What spiritual benefits do I receive when I give of my resources?*

Love in service,  
Terry F.  
Delegate, Panel 49

## ALT. DELEGATE: TERRY K.

Hello North Florida! My home group celebrated 28 years of existence last month and for that I'm very grateful. When all else fails having a home group is something to hang on to. A sponsor, a group, an article in a daily reader or The Forum – they're all things I use. But probably the two biggest things that revive me when I'm down and out are a faith in God as I understand him and reaching out to help someone else in the fellowship. Remember, it's the basics that see you through.

Turning to The Forum, I'm sorry to say that subscriptions are once again on the way down. In July of 2010 the world wide subscription for The Forum was 23,270 and Florida had 1,334 subscriptions. In Aug, worldwide subscriptions were still climbing

to 23,323 but Florida subscriptions had peaked and were headed back down at 1,316. At the Area World Service Committee meeting in spring the numbers were, worldwide AI-Anon 22,234 and Florida 1,198. For this Assembly I have to report that worldwide, AI-Anon is at 21,949 and Florida is at 1,183. While these numbers are nowhere near the numbers we had at the start of panel 49 they do show a continuing loss of support for The Forum.

I believe that The Forum is a great tool for people who need help, no matter how long they've been in AI-Anon. Think of it like this. How many of you own one, or more, of the daily readers? How many of you have found parts of the daily reader valuable in your recovery? How many of you have quoted, or heard quoted, a passage from the daily reader in a meeting? I'm sure all of us have. I know I have a large number of pages "dog eared" in my readers.

But a daily reader is static. What you read on Feb 5, 2000 is the same as you'll read Feb 5, 2012. The Forum isn't that way. The same people who wrote the daily reader are the people who write for The Forum. That's you and me! Every month you get a new dose of AI-Anon wisdom for less than \$1. And did you know that once a year, The Forum includes an *index of articles from the last year by month and page*? I didn't when I took over this position. (You learn a lot up here!)

Supporting The Forum isn't just through subscriptions, but also through contribution of articles and photos. Have you submitted an article or photograph to The forum? How about a funny saying or even a question for reflection? Let's keep The Forum going at both ends!

You all know I'm a big one on history. I believe that our history gives us depth, while our fellowship gives us width. With that in mind my trivia question for AWSC was, "What two traditions speak to anonymity and how do they differ?"

There isn't a simple "name the page and paragraph" answer. Obviously Traditions 11 and 12 are the two traditions that deal the most directly with anonymity.

In 50 words or less: Tradition Eleven deals with anonymity outside the fellowship, the meetings, the sharing with a sponsor and the like. Nothing ever said in a meeting or person to person should ever be directly quoted, nor should any member be named.

Tradition 12 deals with anonymity inside the fellowship. We are a fellowship of equals. I've got a lot of time in AI-Anon, but in the rooms of AI-Anon, the newcomer, who's there for his or her first meeting is my equal. I cannot let matters of politics, religion or social status divert me

from placing principals above personality. One of the biggest disservices we perform is to place a member in a special category because of their social, economic or political status. We're all in Al-Anon for the same reason, no matter how important or unimportant we feel we are. We used to have lots of meetings on anonymity, but I don't remember many lately.

I think I've run over my 50 words, so I'll close with this brain teaser (and it's an obscure one:) We're getting ready to vote for a new panel. We should know the responsibilities of each of our officers and coordinators – so, what is the major job of the World Service Delegate's Alternate?

Thank you,

Terry K.—Alternate Delegate P-49

## ALATEEN: ELSA C.

Let me share with you what our Area has been accomplishing since the Fall Assembly. Bobbi, our No. Fl Alateen Area Process Person and I have been busy conducting and observing AMIAS trainings in the different districts. We now have authorized local trainers in Districts 4, 5, 7, 11 & 12. Last night, Marilu M from District 9 successfully conducted the training and is now the District 9 AMIAS trainer. Woo-Hoo! Another District has an AMIAS trainer certified!

On March 19, 2011, I participated in a conference call conducted by the WSO with Alateen Coordinators from around the country. It was amazing to see through modern technology how we all were connected and able to share our experience, strength and hope about dealing with Alateen meetings and AMIAS's.

Our concerns were similar; not enough AMIAS and too few Alateens present at meetings. We agreed that we need to find more ways to get the word out to teens and get them into the rooms. We also agreed that using public outreach to hook the teens is not the right method. To be able to reach other teens in need, we need to have strong Alateens in recovery. The Eleventh Tradition tells us to use attraction, rather than promotion, to spread the message. The question was, "How are we going to make the meetings interesting and motivate teens to attend?" The E-communities web site has a blog for Alateen Coordinators to share what is going on in their areas. They are also planning to add a site for AMIAS to share their experience, strength and hope about their meetings. This way, we can find out what works for others.

Other areas around the country have chat rooms. There was concern that they did not have enough teens in recovery to participate in the chat rooms with other teens. It has been more about a teen talking "one on one" with the AMIAS. Mary Lou from WSO, advised to avoid such situations. The chat rooms are for teens; AMIAS are only there to monitor the meeting.

In our AWSC meeting held March 5<sup>th</sup>, I requested the Group Representatives and Alateen Chairs to take the chat room idea to their districts. We needed to spread the word and see if there was enough support within the districts to request a chat room. I hope today we are able to make a decision and get enough AMIAS support to request development of a chat room for North Florida Area Alateen.

As Mary Lou from WSO explained to us at the phone conference:

Chat meetings take place "live" at a designated time, and are pretty much like a "face to face" meeting. A chairperson posts the meeting opening and shares on a topic. Members take turns sharing. There are two certified AMIAS from the host Area present to provide safety and guidance. The chat meeting AMIAS/Sponsors screen the sharings, so nothing inappropriate can appear in the chat room. The Alateens must register with a valid e-mail address to participate. Only their "screen names" appears in the room and individuals in the chat room cannot reach each other privately. They can only talk into the chat room.

This will allow for a safe environment because it is screened by the Alateen Sponsors.

If we decide to host a chat room, then I will be provided with additional information about the rooms. Training will then be scheduled with the participating Area AMIAS/Sponsors. Teens can access all rooms from all Areas.

Another concern expressed by the different Area Alateen Coordinators was anonymity at the meetings. We agreed that AMIAS need to follow confidentiality and anonymity at all times. Again, the Eleventh Tradition reminds us that it is important to use special care to protect the Alateens anonymity. We cannot share what the teens are sharing in the meetings, with others outside the meetings.

I am very excited and happy about the Alateen outreach presentation. It is a 10 minute CD program titled "How Alateen Helps" and is the easiest to use. I was excited to present this section to you. I hope we can develop creative ideas to get the

message to those in need. It is my opinion, we are anonymous, but the program is not.

I have more exciting news: The 2011 Florida Alateen Conference sponsored by the South FL Area will be in Lake Placid Florida. This is only two hours from Orlando. It will be held July 14-16, 2011. The conference will be divided into two groups of Alateens; One group for ages 6-12 and another for ages 13-19.

I have made copies of the flyers and registration forms. The price cost is \$130. This includes six meals and two nights lodging in cabin/dormitories for Friday and Saturday nights.

If you are interested in taking teens you might want to do some fundraising. One way South Florida is raising funds is to take the Alateens to chair an Al-Anon meeting. At the end of the meeting, they will pass the basket for donations to help teens attend the conference. They also do bake sales and car washes on meetings premises. While the meeting is going on, the teens are outside washing cars. After the meeting they sell baked goods. They also do yard sales. In this way they learn about tradition seven, "Every group ought to be fully self-supporting declining outside contributions." Our own Charon from District 9 is planning to take Alateen members to the Conference. They range in age from 7-14 years.

Lastly our Alateen Round -up was a success! Thank you Cristina, from District 4 for sponsoring the activity! It was held at Anastasia Park in St Augustine on May 7 from 9AM-5PM. I met the Alateens and presented a brief workshop entitled, "What is friendship all about?" The activities also included an Alateen speaker. There were plenty of games, swimming, fun and food.

This is all for now. I hope I did not overlook any news. However, if I did, I apologize. It is progress not perfection. Stay tuned. There is more to come. Together we can make a difference!

Your grateful and trusted servant,

Elsa C.

## GROUP RECORDS: TERRY ANNE A.

Hello North Florida!

We currently have 375 Active Groups in the 12 Districts making up our North Florida Area according to our Online Group Records access page, as of the end of February. We also have 21 Active Groups with a NO MAIL status. This means that a piece of mail was returned to WSO by the Post Office from the Current Mailing Address for an Active Group. We now have the power

to fix that quickly.

I am very excited to report that I now have access to WSO's database and I can actually make the changes needed myself! This is very exciting news. Now if someone has a question about their group's listing I have the ability to look it up let them know what it is listed as and they can direct me in making any necessary adjustments. I can actually update an address and change the status from NO Mail to Active again. This is a huge difference from even our last Assembly. I won't claim perfection, but we sure made great progress. As with anything new we are changing policies and procedures to accommodate the changes for their best use. I attended a conference call on the 19<sup>th</sup> of March to discuss all the new changes in this arm of service. Let me know if you'd like a copy of the summary.

I can check any group's information for accuracy. I printed the reports per District and handed them out at March AWSC.

Did you know, the Area Group Records Coordinator serves as the nuts and bolts of the communication connection between the member, group, district, area and the World Service Office?

With Deep Gratitude in Service,  
Terry Anne A.

## LITERATURE: NANCY G.

The BIG NEWS from Literature this time is, of course, our new books! The brand new *Many Voices, One Journey* (B-31) is now available. This book is the story of the growth and recovery of the fellowship and its members over the past 60 years, as shared by those who lived it and those who continue to live it. World Service Office (WSO) is not marketing this as a "history book." It is very much a book about recovery. The book has "bite-sized" topics and questions appropriate for group discussion that can connect the reader to what has just been read. The book is 426 pages and sells for \$16.00.

There is a B-31 page on the Members' Web site at ([www.al-anon.org/b31.html](http://www.al-anon.org/b31.html)), with additional information, an exclusive excerpt from the book and comments from other members. Please share your comments about the book on the website and in your meetings. Help spread awareness of this great new anniversary book among members.

WSO is going to provide a workshop prototype, but please feel free to create your own, too. AND THEN SEND IT TO ME SO I CAN FORWARD IT TO WSO OR SEND

IT TO WSO AND CC ME. I encourage you to write and present workshops, skits, or use another creative way (or you could invite me to come to your workshop) to spread the word about this book. (Perhaps you might like to create a Power Point presentation . . . Remember my contest . . .)

The other really BIG NEWS is the new paperback version of *How Al-Anon Works* (B32). It's the same book as the hardback edition but it's in paperback for a wonderfully low price of \$5.00. When ordering, please note the publication number (B-32) is different from the hardcover edition (B-22) to prevent confusion.

At \$5.00, this edition is ideal for sharing widely with newcomers or having multiple copies available for group study. AA gives a copy of the AA Big Book to newcomers. One of the ideas with this edition of *How Al-Anon Works* is that perhaps some Al-Anon groups might be able to do something similar for our newcomers.

Personally, I use this book with my sponsors and this price may make it possible for me to give it as a gift.

AND STILL MORE NEWS! There are two new skits about literature available – *What's In, What's Out* from Arizona and *Amazing Al-Anon Literature* from Saskatchewan. I've sent them to our Web-diva to post on the Area website. If you can't get them off the website, email or call me and I'll send them to you. If you have a literature skit, please share it with me so I can get it out to our Area and can share it with other Coordinators on e-Communities!

Just since I reported to the Assembly, there is another new workshop. It's on P-78 *When I Got Busy, I Got Better*. The workshop is "Facing the Ghosts of Our Past." I have not yet downloaded it but I will attempt to do so soon and will send it on to our web master for posting.

Through June, the Sample Chapter on both the Public Outreach site, [www.al-anon.org](http://www.al-anon.org) and the Members' site, [www.al-anon.org/members](http://www.al-anon.org/members) is from *Al-Anon's Twelve Steps & Twelve Traditions* (B-8), and the topic is "Asking for Help. You'll also find a list of where to find this topic in other CAL. The Sample Chapter on the Members' site also includes an opportunity for members to write on this topic, as well as quotations, meeting topics, and discussion questions pertaining to the quarter's book.

May's "CAL Corner" in *The Forum* is *Al-Anon's Twelve Steps & Twelve Traditions* (B-8). In June, the featured book will be *...In All Our Affairs* (B-15).

We are being encouraged to submit sharings about *Courage to Be Me* (B-23) and the pamphlets *The Al-Anon Focus* (P-45), *Alcoholism, the Family Disease* (P-4), and *The Twelve Steps and Traditions* (P-17). This was

in the information I received about CAL Corner. Do you suppose it's a preview of coming attractions? Please remember to contribute. It's the only way any of our literature happens.

Forty Literature Coordinators from all over North America participated in the Literature Coordinators' conference calls in April and several important pieces of information were shared:

Ways to keep the cost of literature down

Encourage your group to use your Literature Distribution Center (LDC) in your District. We are very fortunate in North Florida – every District has an LDC. The LDCs charge less in postage and handling than the WSO. Also many of our LDC's are then able to give additional support to the District. Using your local LDC for your literature needs is a simple way to contribute to your District.

Also be sure to look at the order form. For example, if you order the B-18, a combination of the *ODAT* and *Courage to Change*, the cost is \$20. If purchased separately, they cost \$22. And now it will be important to be sure whether you want to order B-22 or B-32. Do you remember what they are?

If we have people for whom English is not their first language, how can we get our literature in other languages?

There are Spanish and French order forms available from World Service Office (WSO). Al-Anon literature has been translated into 40 languages. The WSO carries a small amount of literature in languages other than English, Spanish, and French. But, sometimes you need to get the literature in other languages from the General Service Offices. That request can go through the Member Services Department at World Service Office. If you have a problem knowing what to do or how to go about it, your local literature person may be able to help or I can.

Are there any good book studies available?

Suggestions included doing a study on *Opening Our Hearts* (B-29) and just using the questions at the end of each chapter; using *Paths to Recovery* (B-24) as a Step study for beginners; using other pieces of literature by picking a selection, reading it, and then discussing it at the meeting.

One question I hear fairly frequently is why isn't our literature available yet on electronic books? The Literature Coordinators recently received a communication from WSO addressing this question.

"WSO is currently studying all options for publishing electronic literature. Factors to consider in addition to staff resources and financial considerations include whether this could severely curtail sales of Literature Distribution Centers, copyright issues, and keeping within our Traditions of self-support and non-affiliation. (For example, some providers of e-book readers require 70 percent of all profits as a condition.) Nevertheless, we are receiving an increased number of requests for e-books, and are interested in finding an appropriate solution."

LAST CALL . . . Remember, I'm sponsoring a North Florida Area contest for a Power Point presentation on literature. Submissions are due by Sun. Oct. 16<sup>th</sup>. If I don't get any submissions, I figure I get to keep the prize and I'm still not going to tell you what that prize is.

The Legacy (steps, traditions and concepts – not our newsletter) blogs on the website are still accepting comments. Please go blog. This is our contribution to our new workbook on the Legacies. When is it coming out? We aren't sure yet. It may just be waiting for your blog.

And, once again, you are needed! Last month, the World Service Conference approved a motion from the Literature Committee for conceptual approval of a piece on intimacy, including sexual intimacy, in alcoholic relationships. A sharing sheet for this project will be posted in the near future. Please be sure to use this sharing sheet when it's posted.

Always remember . . . Our literature is not just for us, and about us, it's written by us. The rest of us need your experience, strength and hope.

Nancy G.  
NFA Literature Coordinator – Panel 49

## PUBLIC OUTREACH: KATHY H.

The newest Public Outreach Tool *Al-Anon and Alateen's Role in Family Recovery* is now available AV-31 and the price is \$5.00. It is a multi-purpose video on DVD and it is awesome!

The video is a Public Outreach Tool for members to show to three primary audiences:

- Adults who might be affected by someone else's drinking
- Teens who might be affected by someone else's drinking

- Professionals who might be in a position to refer patients, clients, customers and students to Al-Anon and Alateen meetings

How Can You Help? Support your district and join a public outreach committee to devise a plan to determine the best use of this tool in your area. Ask your GR to share what they experienced watching it at assembly.

*Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism 2012* (AFA 2011) Order blanks are available on line or from your GR...Deadline to order is *July 6, 2011* for September delivery. Just in time to participate in events Celebrating Recovery. *Order now and you don't have to worry about the deadline.*

- The purpose of AFA is to attract new comers to Al-Anon. Not to convince professionals of the merits of Al-Anon. Having professionals share in the publication adds a credibility of purpose that the public respects.

- The ultimate GOAL of the biannual campaign: Every Member and Every Group Participate

[www.al-anon.alateen.org/members](http://www.al-anon.alateen.org/members)

*Hands Across North Florida Is a Groups in Service opportunity* to share PO activities that groups and members are participating in. If you are doing an activity that involves your 12<sup>th</sup> Step be sure to have your GR bring in a hand for the North Florida banners!

Participation in NFA Events The Assembly has approved a budget line item for the area to participate in a Public Outreach project(s). There are opportunities throughout the state that would benefit from our area participation. Last year we had a presence at the National AARP Convention that was well received. The GR's identified three areas to focus PO efforts throughout this panel. The areas are reaching out to;

- First responders    2) Families of children in coordinated day care    3) Health Fairs

If you have an idea for an area outreach project, pass it on to your GR to be presented at assembly.

Handful of Hugs,

Kathy

Did you know that is suggested that when reciting the Al-Anon Declaration it is suggested to look out and address the members? Why do you think this is so? Declaration: The act of declaring; announcement. A formal statement; proclamation. Something that is announced or proclaimed. (i.e. not a prayer)

## DISTRICT 11 REP: LLEW E.

District 11, which is Brevard County on the east coast along the Atlantic Ocean, has a neon green 2011 District calendar. We will be looking forward to Group Elections between now and mid-September, as our District elections are scheduled for September 17<sup>th</sup>. Our Gratitude Dinner will be hosted by our two Suntree Groups – the Monday night and Friday night groups are banding together to host the dinner in November on their "home turf". The date will be determined in September, but I understand that the plans are well underway so all is well on this front.

Our Where and Whens have had a few changes: one new Al-Anon group and one new Alateen group; however, I was informed that we will be losing one of our Titusville Al-Anon groups. No one ever likes to see that happen, but sometimes it just does.

I'm still getting reports from members that they have spotted the billboard out along I-95 that our Public Outreach chair worked with the World Service Office for quite a while to get the artwork and wording just right so it could be put up. It uses the new "confused" road sign and gives the WSO phone number and the local website address. After that, it is in H.P.'s hands.

Respectfully submitted,

Llew E.—Dist 11 Rep

## DISTRICT 12 REP: WENDY R.

District 12 remains strong carrying the message with 47 active and healthy meetings. There is the potential and planning for a Men's meeting in Sarasota and a new meeting on Route 301 in Parrish. The Parrish meeting is exciting since there are no meetings in that area and the residential growth there is enormous.

Wendy, DR hosted 7 members at an Alateen training session which included 3 new AMIAS. It was great to be able to provide the training to current AMIAS who needed to re-certify and new AMIAS without having the members having to travel out of the area. The training went well for a first timer; we will get better at it the more training we do!

Archives, Group Liaison, Group Records, Helpline, Literature, Speaker List, Webmaster and Where & When functions are all going well.

Our newsletter, Serenity Speaks, published two pages of a few of the current panel's service experience with each incumbent sharing his or her service experience during Panel 49 in an effort to encourage members to become involved in service during the next Panel.

Our LDC Chairperson continues to do an outstanding job with a total equity of over \$4,000. She offers sales and marketing gimmicks to increase sales. Good job!! The LDC is serving the District well.

Our Institution Committee is extraordinarily busy serving four facilities. We bring meetings into the Sarasota County Jail weekly now which, at times, stretches our volunteer pool but we are making it. We have had some issues of boundaries involving a volunteer or two, but our Institution Chairperson nipped that in the bud and ran a meeting for volunteers on Tradition 6, 10 and 12, reviewing our role in bringing meetings to Institutional Facilities.

Public Outreach continues to languish somewhat but we have been fortunate to be involved in four Community Events, the latest being the Sarasota Film Festival's Recovery Event at the Van Wezel Performing Arts Center on April 10. We shared a booth with AA and the volunteers reported a successful event. In addition, we have been invited to partake in a Health Fair on June 25 at the United Methodist Church in Parrish, FL and we are looking forward to that function.

Submitted Respectively in Service,  
Wendy R.—Dist 12 Rep

**2011  
CONVENTION  
CHAIR:  
ROBIN P.**

Working on the North Florida Area Al-Anon convention been an incredible and humbling experience for me; I highly recommend this position. As I reported last December, District 10 is working together to host this year's convention in Orlando. This is a North Florida Area event, hosted by District 10. We are busy preparing, but we can't do this alone so here is your list of things to do:

- Register in advance. You may do so via snail-mail or online via Pay-Pal. You can register now for convention and later for banquet if you like.
- Make your hotel registration soon please so rooms are blocked.

- Go to the District 10 web-site and you'll see tab for convention and a tab for Al-Anon's Got Talent. From the Registration tab you can register online for convention and also reserve your hotel room. Very convenient.
- If you have a Workshop folder please review the contents and follow through. (See details below)
- Make and bring items to be sold in the Boutique.
- Volunteer for Hospitality if you want to work with some awesome members who are already having a blast. Each district has been assigned items to bring.
- It's not too early to start putting together raffle baskets and if you haven't already volunteered to help somewhere else at convention. The Raffle Room is fun service..
- We need your Talent. That's right we need groups or individuals to get together and put on a show for us. Al-Anon's Got Talent. Sign up on our web-site..
- Pass the word throughout your district – start making your carpool plans.

In case you have questions about anything and can't remember who to email, just email [nfa2011convention@gmail.com](mailto:nfa2011convention@gmail.com) – your email will be forwarded to the right person. Also, our web-site address is [www.alanon-orlando.com/2011convention.html](http://www.alanon-orlando.com/2011convention.html)

ALATEEN (ages 11 – 17) Workshops will be held on Saturday. Alateens must submit a signed behavioral contract, a notarized permission form and notarized medical form at time of registration. The Alateen registration fee is \$10.00.

BANQUET / ENTERTAINMENT: On Saturday evening there will be a celebration banquet (\$35) and speaker followed by Al-Anon's Got Talent show. You have several choices about your banquet arrangements. You may purchase single tickets and tables will be seated first come first serve. Alternatively, we are offering preferred banquet seating. This option allows a single person to reserve a table for 10 people.

HOSPITALITY: Monetary and edible donations are always appreciated. Each district has been assigned food items to bring.  
\*\*\* Homemade items are welcome too.\*\*\*

HOTEL: The resort lay-out is online. We will be in the Tower conference rooms and the Lakes Conference Center.

LITERATURE: The Reading Room will have a door prize containing every current piece of literature in celebration of 50 years of C-A-L (Conference Approved Literature).

PROGRAM: At the Area World Service Conf. in March the Program committee assigned each district with 1 or 2 workshops. So far we have had two responses. There were letters to the DRs inside each folder with self-address envelopes provided in order to return to the Program Committee the chairperson who took the workshop. If you are a GR that has a workshop folder please review and report back to Elaine or Ann. Their email addresses are in your Workshop folders. Additionally, the Program committee is looking for more Longtimer's (over 20 years) to participate in the Longtimer panel. If you are an active member of Al-Anon with 20 or more years just email Grace at [nfa2011convention@gmail.com](mailto:nfa2011convention@gmail.com) with your name, number of years, and your preferred contact info. See Flyer entitled Program Announcements. Don't forget our Friday night Pajama Meeting. Stuffed animals are allowed.

REGISTRATION: We have 188 registrations so far. About 15 are AA. You can register online using your credit card via PayPal. At that time you can purchase travel mugs and wristbands which will be delivered to you at the convention. The registration fee is now \$30 and will be \$35 at the door.

SERENITY: We will have a Serenity Room and various meditation meetings.

Sincerely yours in Service,  
Robin P. - 2011 Convention Chair

**2011 North Florida Al-Anon Convention**  
**Sept 23-25**  
**DoubleTree Hotel**  
**10100 International Dr**  
**Orlando, FL 32821**  
**1-407-370-6236**  
**\$109 per night**  
**Group code: NFL**

# NORTH FLORIDA AREA JOB DESCRIPTIONS

## NF Area Chairperson Job Description

A Chairman should have leadership and organizational ability, serving rather than dictating. It is essential to be able to plan an agenda and conduct meetings in an orderly manner. Communication and cooperation with others are key elements of good chairmanship. (2010-2011 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual, page 150)

There are three main areas of responsibility for the North Florida Area Chairperson:

1. Conduct four area meetings per year, two Area World Service Committee (AWSC) meetings and two Area Assemblies.
2. Coordinate and be the point of contact with our host hotel.
3. Answer any questions or issues that take place in the area between meetings.

To plan and conduct the four area meetings it is necessary to:

- Assign specific responsibilities to the districts, such as hospitality, registration, Sgt-at-arms, and others.
- Create a seating chart for AWSC and Assembly.
- Create an agenda for each meeting.
- Hold an officers' meeting prior to each meeting.

To coordinate with the hotel it is necessary to:

- Schedule the four meetings for the following year, possibly a year in advance. The chairperson signs contracts representing the area.
- Decide the room setup for the meeting and hospitality rooms and order coffee and drinks. For the AWSC meeting, food for the working lunch needs to be ordered if the group stays in the hotel.
- Along with the Area Treasurer, reconcile the final hotel bill.

As a point of contact for the area it is necessary to be available either by phone or email to answer questions or issues that arise.

On a personal note, this position of service has taught me so much about myself. My

procrastination issues are still a work in progress. I am learning to be honest with myself and others, admitting when I am wrong or when I don't know. I am learning how to be responsible, but not controlling. I am learning how to work with others, to listen and speak up when necessary. I am so grateful to have been given this opportunity and know my Higher Power will lead me to my next step in service.

## NF Area Secretary Job Description

North Florida Area World Service Committee (AWSC)

Duties and Responsibilities:

1. Attends the AWSC meetings twice a year, usually March and August, over the three-year term of each North Florida Area Panel.
2. Takes the minutes of each AWSC meeting, which consists of reports from the Area Chairperson, Delegate, Alternate Delegate, Treasurer, Area Coordinators and Area Event Chairs, as well as, any reports from District Representatives. Prepares a draft of the minutes for each Officer to review, before sending out to the Area Coordinators and District Representatives.
3. Keeps a Roll Call of Panel Attendees. Maintains and updates the current Procedure Binder for North Florida Area.

North Florida Area Assembly  
Duties and Responsibilities:

1. Attends the Area Assemblies twice a year, usually in June and October, over the three-year term of each North Florida Area Panel.
2. Takes the minutes of each Assembly Meeting, which consists of reports from the Area Chairperson, Delegate, Alternate Delegate, Treasurer, Area Coordinators and Area Event Chairs, as well as any reports from District Representatives. Prepares a draft of the minutes for each Officer to review, before sending out to the Area Coordinators and District Representatives.
3. Takes an Official count of all Voting and Non-Voting attendees.

General:

1. Updates the Convention and Motion Succession Records (keeps a record of all motions).
2. Works with the Panel Officers on any matters of importance, maintaining confidentiality.
3. Takes on any other responsibility required by the Area Chairperson.

4. Updates and distributes the North Florida Current Mailing Address (CMA) list to the North Florida Panel.

North Florida Position Requirements:

- Not a member of AA.
- Has not served a full three-year term in the position for which you are standing.
- Served as DR for a full three-year term and have been inactive on the N FL AWSC for no more than three years.
- DR's who have served a full three-year term and who are current voting members of the N FL AWSC.
- Outgoing and former N FL AISL's who have completed a full three-year term and who are outgoing or past GR's and have been inactive on the N FL AWSC for no more than three years.

## NF Area Delegate Job Description

1. Attend two Area World Service Committee (AWSC) meetings per year, a total of six in three years and give a written report at each. While at the AWSC, chair the Friday night Al-Anon Information Service Liaison (AISL) and Area Coordinator meeting
2. Attend two Area Assemblies per year, a total of six in three years and give a written report at each. Attend Officers' meetings and meetings between the Area Coordinators and Officers. Chair Action Committees, Thought and/or Task Forces as required or participate on these committees and Thought/Task Forces as assigned.
3. Communicate with Area Officers between Area meetings regarding Area concerns that arise.
4. Work with the Alternate Delegate when possible to submit an agenda item for the World Service Conference (WSC) agenda
5. Participate on Area Thought/Task Forces between Area meetings.
6. Have a working knowledge in the use of computer technology to access, utilize, and share information from the WSO website called ecommunities, email and attachments, navigating other Al-Anon websites, and power point presentations.
7. Visit districts and district events in the Area when invited
8. Attend the South East Regional Delegates' Get-Together (SERDGT) once a year and give a written report at the SERDGT.
9. Throughout each of the three years, participate in WSC Committees, Thought and Task Forces on various

projects assigned by the Chairman of the Board.

- 10. Attend and participate on WSC Committees, Thought and Task Forces to continue or finalize work done throughout the year, the day prior to the World Service Conference (WSC).
- 11. Attend and participate in the week long World Service Conference (WSC) once a year and bring back to the Area information and decisions made at each Conference.
- 12. Be a resource and support to members throughout the Area who contact the Delegate regarding questions and concerns he or she may have in his/her groups, districts, in the Area, and with Al-Anon as a whole.
- 13. Study and understand the Concepts of service, the Conference structure, and Conference decisions.
- 14. Be a liaison between the Area and the World Service Conference (WSC) and WSO.
- 15. Gain understanding of Al-Anon as a whole and awareness of the needs of the worldwide fellowship.
- 16. Educate the membership of the importance of finding qualified members to apply to be on the Board of Trustees, and encourage members to submit resumes for the Board of Trustees.

North Florida Area Alateen Coordinator Job Description

You might not be aware of all the responsibilities and duties of North Florida Area Alateen Coordinator. Let me share with you the requirements taken from the Al-Anon Service Manual 2010-2013, page 68:

The Alateen Area Coordinator provides up-to-date information from WSO to the groups within the Area. In order to perform these duties as an Area Alateen Coordinator, you must be certified as an Al-Anon Member Involved in Alateen Service (AMIAS) in the Area you serve.

These are the only requirements in our service manual. There are additional qualities that are useful as the North Florida Area Alateen Coordinator. They include:

- Being a strong communicator
- Being comfortable with computers – specifically:
  1. PowerPoint
  2. The e-communities website
  3. Email communications
- Create multiple quarterly reports
- Pass along Alateen information from the North Florida Area, as well as the WSO.

- Working closely with the Area Alateen Process Person (AAPP)
- Be willing to travel to the twelve districts in the North Florida Area in order to supervise and conduct AMIAS trainings.

Area Alateen Process Person (AAPP) Coordinator Job Description

- Member must be “willing” to serve the program of Al-Anon/Alateen.
- Have knowledge of our North Florida Area Safety and Behavioral Requirements
- Communicate on a regular basis with the Area Alateen Coordinator.
- Member will attend Area World Service Committee (ASWC) meetings; held twice a year; as well as Area Assembly held twice a year.
- Member should have computer access/or other means of maintaining the Area listing of Al-anon Members Involved In Alateen Service (AMIAS) in addition to our Area Alateen groups.
- Have access to computer to view and print, when necessary, information forwarded from World Service Office via the E-community site for Area Alateen Process Person.
- Member needs to be “willing” to travel our North Florida Area to assist or facilitate our North Florida Area Safety and Behavioral training/orientation sessions.
- The Area Alateen Process Person (AAPP) will need to establish with Districts, a “process” for knowledge and information of who will be; “receiving,” and “sending,” District records. This includes Al-Anon Member Involved In Alateen (AMIAS), Status Change form, and the Alateen Registration/Group Records Change Form (G-3). Communication between Area and Districts is a necessity.
- Receive from all Districts, listing of members who have/had attended the North Florida Area required training/orientation sessions in their District(s) and denote information on data sheets. Districts are required to submit this information in a timely manner to Area.
- Submit Al-Anon Member Involved In Alateen Service form, and Alateen Group Registration/Change Form (G-3) to World Service Office. When records are returned from World Service Office copies are to be forwarded to the applicable District trusted servant receiving records. Original copies are main-

tained in Area’s file. Verify prior to forwarding records to World Service Office, records are legible and complete.

- Participate in Conference Calls generated by World Service Office for all Alateen Process Person’s worldwide. Complete and return World Service Office Annual Recertification Listing on an Annual basis.
- Make distribution to all Districts on a regular basis, data sheets, noting member’s status according to Area records. (The listing includes name, WSO ID#, personal information, along with last training/orientation session attended.) Listing of District Alateen groups should also be given to Districts at this time.
- Maintain a filing system for all Area records. All records are confidential and should be treated as such. Obsolete or old records should be shredded rather than thrown away.

NF Area Group Records Coordinator Job Description

Job Duties:

- Keep Group Records updated with WSO and Area databases
- Enter new Group Records for Submission to WSO
- Coordinate Registration @ Assembly
- Provide a tally of Registered Attendees by District

Requirements:

- Willingness
- Strong computer skills
- Internet access,
- Excel
- Flexibility
- Strong organizational skills

Names are put in a hat and drawn of the willing people to stand for this position. The second drawn is an alternate.

You get a laptop, a printer and all the records you’ll need with this service position. This department at the WSO has made huge changes in the last 3 years. There is great opportunity for change and growth.

I spend about 10 hours a month on the computer for this position. Sometimes there is a heavy load and I’ll spend a bit more. Information seems to flow in all directions and a lot of cross checking occurs. There is now a group chat style ability between the different Areas, a very valuable asset.

NF Area Literature CoordinatorJob Description

The job of Literature Coordinator for North Florida primarily involves being an information conduit. Information is received from World Service Office (WSO) via emails, conference calls, postings on the Literature Coordinators' ecommunities, once in a great while in a letter or flyer and, most recently, on discussion boards with other Literature Coordinators. Conference calls are currently held twice per year in March and September.

Information received from WSO and other coordinators is transmitted to the North Florida Area – Group Representatives (GR's), the Area World Service Committee (AWSC) and/or the district literature or Literature Distribution Center (LDC) Chairs. This information is usually disseminated primarily in reports to the AWSC, to the Assembly and in the Legacy (our Area newsletter). Often the Area Literature Coordinator sets up a display about the literature at Assembly or AWSC. The Literature Coordinator in North Florida does not sell literature. Each district in North Florida has an LDC and the Area does not want to be in competition with them.

The information conduit flows both ways. The Literature Coordinator may also receive information, questions or literature contributions from the Area which he/she then answers or refers to WSO.

The job of Literature Coordinator also entails becoming familiar with the literature and promoting interest in it. Sometimes this is done by accepting invitations to go to Districts. The coordinator may provide or participate in a literature workshop, speak on some facet of the literature or tell his/her literature story of recovery. Displays may also be taken to the districts if they are willing. Additional suggestions for ways to promote the literature come from WSO from time to time.

More ideas for ways to serve in this position can be found in G-6 the *Guideline for Area Literature Coordinators*. G-6 (along with all the other guidelines) is available on the WSO members' website.

N F Area Newsletter EditorCoordinator Job Description

*Area Newsletter Editor: provides up-to-date information to the groups within the Area from the AWSC.* (2010-2013 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual, page 68)

North Florida Position Requirements:

- Not a member of AA (Alcoholics Anonymous).
- Has not served a full three-year term in the position for which you are standing.

Responsibilities:

- Attends the AWSC meetings twice a year and gives a written report at each over the three-year term of each North Florida Area Panel.
- Attends the Area Assemblies twice a year and gives a written report at each over the three-year term of each North Florida Area Panel.
- Four issues of *The Legacy* are currently published every year. A deadline is announced at Assembly in the newsletter editors written report and at the AWSC for the NFA Officers, Coordinators, and 12 District Representatives to submit Legacy reports via email two weeks after the area business meeting. The reports are currently copied and pasted in newsletter format in Microsoft Office Publisher 2007 after being edited by correcting grammar, punctuation, and spelling, and keeping the basic content intact.
- After placing the newsletter in PDF (Portable Document Format), one copy of the newsletter is printed. Myself and a trusted servant proof-read the newsletter. Corrections are made before submitting to the printer or emailing in a PDF to the NFA Officers, Coordinators, District Representatives and AISLs who pass on to their district group representatives. Personal information is deleted and sent to the NFA webmaster to proof read for personal information before placing on the area website. My district webmaster proof reads the web copy for personal information before I send in email to the twelve

District Representatives to pass on to their district webmasters for district websites.

- The newsletter can be transferred to a thumb drive and taken to the printer or sent via email in a PDF. In the last few years, *The Legacy* has been printed in a total of 12 pages. Currently, there are 20 newsletters printed every issue, which are then folded and placed in manila envelopes, addressed, add postage and mailed. One of the printed copies of *The Legacy* is placed in a notebook sleeve and placed into the newsletter archive notebook.
- The postal addresses and subscriptions are in a Microsoft Office Excel file which is easily updated and lets you know when a subscription is due to expire. Subscribers are contacted via email, phone or mail when subscriptions are due to run out.

NF Area Public OutreachCoordinator Job Description

*Dear Friends,*

*Should you be contemplating your place in the area's public outreach efforts, I can share it is the most rewarding experience I have ever had in and out of the journey of recovery. If the task appears bigger than life I can assure you it is not. There are guidelines and guides (loving members) at your side every step of the way. One more thing, and most important, there is an inspiration that comes magically just when you need it. There are no words to describe it other than a 'spiritual awakening (influence)' and trust me it is awesome! Sometimes I am typing a message to your trusted servants to relay to you and I type without looking at the keys (not a skill I possess) and when it's ready to send I say 'where did that come from?' If you hear the call or if someone "asked you to stand" I'll see you in Ocala and I'll be with you every step of the way.*

- Review WSO guidelines G38, G9, G10, G14 and G29 as well as the Service Manual

- Attends AWSC, Area Assemblies, Area Workshops and Turn Over Meetings
- Articulates this information with enthusiasm in verbal and written reports for each of these meetings
- Maintains a keen knowledge of Public Outreach opportunities available through WSO, the WSO web site, Area Highlights and throughout the North Florida Area
- Submits reports to the Legacy
- Facilitates task force committees at AWSC and Assembly
- Communicates the outcome of the task force committees at AWSC and Assembly
- Reports budget needs to the Treasurer
- Visits districts when invited to share Public Outreach news and activities
- Have the ability to access electronic communication and media
- Has e-mail access and forwards e-mail from WSO to the districts in a timely manner
- Participates in WSO conference calls and relays information to the districts and panel
- Maintains the Public Outreach Archives

**Eligibility:**

All positions at the North Florida Area level are limited to Al-Anon members:

1. Who are not members of Alcoholics Anonymous
2. Who have not previously served a full three-year term in the position for which they are now standing

Public Outreach Coordinator Eligible candidates are:

- Those who are not voting members of the in-coming North Florida Area World Service Committee.



2013 Al-Anon International Convention  
July 5-7, 2013

World Service Office Information

AFG Inc.

1600 Corporate Landing Prkwy  
Virginia Beach, VA 23454-5617

[www.al-anon.org/members](http://www.al-anon.org/members)

**Group meeting information only:**

1-888-4Al-Anon

**Group Record Inquiries only:**

(757)563-1600

**Forum Subscriptions info:**

(757)563-1600

FAX: (757) 563-1655

Hours: Mon-Fri 8 a.m.-6 p.m. EST

Email: [wso@al-anon.org](mailto:wso@al-anon.org)

Al-Anon Acronyms

- AFA—Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism
- AFG—Al-Anon Family Groups
- AISL—Al-Anon Information Service Liaison
- AMIAS—Al-Anon Member Involved in Alateen Service
- AWSC—Area World Service Committee
- CAL—Conference Approved Literature
- CMA—Current Mailing Address
- CPC—Cooperating w/the Professional Community
- DR—District Representative
- GIP—Growth Investment Person
- GR—Group Representative
- HP—Higher Power
- KBDM—Knowledge Based Decision Making
- LDC—Literature Distribution Center
- NFA—North Florida Area
- PI—Public Information
- PO—Public Outreach
- PSA—Public Service Announcement
- WSO—World Service Office

Sharings Needed!

There are currently several opportunities for sharing. Your experience strength and hope is needed.

- The Legacy blogs online – sharings from these blogs will be used for the new legacies workbook.
- A new pamphlet on intimacy – including, but not limited to, sexual intimacy – in alcoholic relationships (A sharing sheet will be posted on the website soon.)
- CAL Corner in *The Forum*
- The sample chapter project on the website

Go to:

[www.al-anon.org/members](http://www.al-anon.org/members)

Don't Forget Our Contest!

The North Florida Area Literature Coordinator is sponsoring a contest for the best PowerPoint Presentation on the literature. There will also be a prize. The deadline is midnight, October 16, 2011. Submissions may be emailed to:

[literaturecord@northfloridaalanon.org](mailto:literaturecord@northfloridaalanon.org)

If you want to snail mail a disk to me, you can get it from your DR or AISL from the CMA.

Did you know you can register for the 2011 North Florida Al-Anon Convention online? Payment can be made through PayPal or by using your credit card. [www.alanon-orlando.com/2011convention.html](http://www.alanon-orlando.com/2011convention.html)

# CURRENT MAILING ADDRESSES

Delegate Officer Terry F.—Dist 11  
 delegate@northfloridaal-anon.org

Alternate Delegate Officer Terry K.—Dist 7  
 Altdelegate@northfloridaal-anon.org

Chairperson Officer Shelley C.—Dist 8  
 chair@northfloridaal-anon.org

Secretary Officer Lois M.—Dist 10  
 secretary@northfloridaal-anon.org

Treasurer Officer Brian B.—Dist 2  
 North Florida Assembly  
Contributions Only PO Box 308  
 Ocala, FL 34478-0308  
 treasurer@northfloridaal-anon.org

Alateen Coordinator Elsa C.—Dist 2  
 Alateencoord@northfloridaal-anon.org

Alateen Area Process Person/ (AAPP) Bobbi M.—Dist 11  
 aapp@northfloridaal-anon.org

Archives Coordinator Glynda P.—Dist 9  
 archives@northfloridaal-anon.org

Group Records Coordinator Terry A.—Dist 8  
 PO Box 311614  
 Tampa, FL 33680-3614  
 Grouprecordscoord@northfloridaal-anon.org

Literature/ LDC Coordinator Nancy G.—Dist 11  
 literaturecord@northfloridaal-anon.org

Newsletter Editor Coordinator Toni C.—Dist 3  
 legacy@northfloridaal-anon.org

Public Outreach Coordinator Kathy H.—Dist 12  
 Publicoutreachcoord@northfloridaal-anon.org

Webmaster Coordinator Sharon E.—Dist 8  
 PO Box 83  
 Riverview, FL 33568

webmaster@northfloridaal-anon.org

Dist 1 Rep George G.

Dist 2 Alt Rep Iris P.

Dist 3 Rep Arlene W.

Dist 4 Rep Doug M.

Dist 5 Rep Myrna W.

Dist 6 Rep Carol P.

Dist 7 Rep Kimberly P.

Dist 8 Rep Cindy R.

Dist 9 Rep Marilu McG.

Dist 10 Rep Darla S.  
 POBox 422767  
 Kissimmee, FL 34742-2767

Dist 11 Rep Llew E.

Dist 12 Rep Wendy R.

