



# SHARINGS

District 3, Greater Jacksonville, Florida

March 2016 – Panel 55

## MEETING NEWS

For the most current meeting information, visit [jaxafg.org](http://jaxafg.org) and click on "Find a Jacksonville Area Meeting."

### ■ SERENITY SEEKERS SPEAKER/POTLUCK LUNCHEON MEETING

Serenity Seekers AFG, which meets at noon, Wednesdays, at New Covenant Ministries, 2360 St. John's Bluff Rd., in Jacksonville, is holding a special Speaker/Potluck Luncheon meeting on Wednesday, March 30. Please bring a dish to share. Everyone is welcome.

### ■ SERENITY SEEKERS NEW BOOK STUDY STARTING NOW!

Serenity Seekers AFG is beginning a new book study using Al-Anon's *Paths to Recovery* to study the Twelve Steps, Traditions, and Concepts. See above for day, time, and location.

### ■ ARLINGTON TUESDAY NITE AFG SPEAKER MEETING, MARCH 29

Join the Arlington Tuesday Nite AFG at 8 pm on March 29 for a speaker meeting. St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 5536 Atlantic Blvd., Jacksonville.



### FROM THE EDITOR to GROUP REPRESENTATIVES:

SHARINGS is a great tool for communicating meeting changes, speaker meetings, potluck meetings, etc. Email your meeting news to [newslettereditor@jaxafg.org](mailto:newslettereditor@jaxafg.org).

## JOIN IN THE FUN!

**DON'T DELAY! SIGN UP TODAY! THE 27<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL NORTH FLORIDA AREA AFG CONVENTION SEPTEMBER 16 – 18, 2016 • DAYTONA BEACH**



**VISIT [WWW.AFGAREA9.ORG/CONVENTION2016](http://WWW.AFGAREA9.ORG/CONVENTION2016) TO LEARN MORE AND TO REGISTER ONLINE.**



**HOTEL ROOMS ARE GOING FAST! CALL NOW TO BOOK!**

## BEACHES AL-ANON PREPARES FOR 2016 CONVENTION BOUTIQUE

You are invited to bring your ideas and supplies to make items for the 2016 Convention Boutique. We meet every other Sunday at Penman Road Meeting Room from 1:30 – 4 pm. The next two meetings are March 20<sup>th</sup> and April 3<sup>rd</sup> and will continue from there. We'll have a sewing machine and will enjoy lots of laughter and sharing as our fingers are kept busy.

If you have craft supplies you don't have time to complete, please bring them. If you have time and no supplies, we share what we have with anyone willing to learn. Just show up.

For more information, see Florence L., Peg E., Lily I., Ann M., Ann C., or Carolyn H. We hope other parts of our district will organize their own craft days. Remember the convention theme, "SEEING CLEARLY NOW."

Did you attend the Fun Day on March 19<sup>th</sup>? Let others know in "Sharings" how much you enjoyed your experience. Email your submission to [newslettereditor@jaxafg.org](mailto:newslettereditor@jaxafg.org).

# Let's Celebrate!



*This year, 2016, marks Al-Anon's 65<sup>th</sup> year of helping friends and families of alcoholics find understanding and support, and celebrations are taking place everywhere! Here are some of the ways the occasion is being marked:*

## **Area Service Workshop, Hosted by District 4 Saturday, March 12, 2016 • Ormond Beach, FL Commemorating Al-Anon's 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!**

Five members of District 3 attended the event, which was a Birthday Bash celebrating Al-Anon's 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

One participant said, "Service can be fun and celebrating Al-Anon's 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is fun! We laughed at skits and enjoyed hearing from area Al-Anon members share their experience, strength, and hope. Especially funny and heart-warming was what surprised them about service. A birthday ceremony included looking at 12 spiritual gifts we find in our literature as we lit 12 candles. The raffle baskets were packaged in Happy Birthday gift wrap and cupcakes made the event even sweeter!"

Another member added, "The meeting on the ride down and the ride back proved for me to be the highlight of the day and only enhanced the service workshop. On the drive down, we talked about us and our program. We arrived early so we had an in-the-car meeting by reading all three daily readers and sharing on their meaning to us as individuals. No pressure, just straight off-the-cuff discussion. The workshop was great, and on the way back we shared our feelings about what we experienced at that event. There were three of us in the car: a long-timer, a newcomer, and an in-betweeners. We all contributed to the down-and-back meeting. It was a wonderful experience!"

## **District 3 Fun Day: Lunch, Movies, and Popcorn! Saturday, March 19, 2016, Jacksonville, FL**

Participants in our District 3 Fun Day were treated to a special showing of two movies that featured Al-Anon's beginnings 65 years ago. While munching on popcorn, we watched "Lois's Story" and "Lois W. and the Pioneers." It was a grand day of fun and fellowship celebrating a program that has changed so many lives for the better.

## **The World Service Office in Virginia Beach Is Celebrating in April and You're Invited!**

Please join Al-Anon members and their guests in celebration of the extraordinary work started by two ordinary women! In recognition of 65 years of Al-Anon Family Groups and the beginnings of the Clearing House, the World Service Office (WSO) will host an Open House followed by a banquet at the Wyndham Virginia Beach Oceanfront Hotel on Saturday, April 16, 2016.

The Open House, free of charge, will have tours from 1:00 – 3:00 pm at the World Service Office, 1600 Corporate Landing Parkway, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23454. The office will close at 4:00 pm.

The Banquet, a ticketed event, will be from 6:00 – 10:00 pm at the Wyndham Virginia Beach Oceanfront Hotel, 5700 Atlantic Avenue, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23451.

For more information, go to [al-anon.org](http://al-anon.org) and visit the Member's Site, Events and Conventions section.

## **Experience, Strength, and Hope Luncheon at the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual NFA AFG Convention in Daytona Beach, FL September 17, 2016**

A special luncheon banquet, celebrating Al-Anon's 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, will be held at the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual NFA AFG Convention on September 17<sup>th</sup> in Daytona Beach, FL. If you are attending and registering for the convention, you can purchase a ticket for this luncheon for \$35 through the Dining Packages options. Or if you purchase Dining Option B or C, this luncheon is included.

Even if you aren't planning to participate in the weekend convention, you are still welcome to attend this special event by purchasing a ticket for Dining Option A for \$35.\*

\*Purchasing this ticket requires convention registration. Go to [www.afgarea9.org/convention2016](http://www.afgarea9.org/convention2016) for more information.

---

*Interested in taking part in an Al-Anon Writing Workshop? District 9 is hosting an AFG Writing Workshop on Saturday, April 30, in Lake Wales, from 10 am to 3 pm. See your Group Representative for more info and to RSVP.*

## NEWS FROM THE LITERATURE DISTRIBUTION CENTER

**E-Books:** *Courage to Change* is available as an e-book! If you enjoy reading through an electronic device, such as an iPad, Kindle, or Nook, you will be happy to know that the daily reader *Courage to Change* (eB-16) is available from the following electronic media providers, in English, Spanish, and French:

Apple iBooks • Amazon • Barnes & Noble • Kobo

On Apple iBooks, the electronic book is priced at \$13.99 (U.S.), and on Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and Kobo, it is available in two parts, each for \$6.99 (U.S.). Also available as an e-book are *Alateen – Hope for Children of Alcoholics*, *Having Had a Spiritual Awakening*, *How Al-Anon Works*, and *The Forum*.

The Literature Distribution Center (LDC), located on the second floor of the San Marco Clubhouse, 1423 San Marco Blvd., is open on Wednesdays, from 2:30 to 3:30 pm. If you are interested in volunteering to help at the LDC or have questions, please email [LDC@jaxafg.org](mailto:LDC@jaxafg.org).

*Effective March 2016, the World Service Office is discontinuing free copies of The Forum for each group for a trial period of one year to save money. If your group would like to continue receiving this valued Al-Anon magazine, consider having your group treasury pay for the subscription, which is only \$11/yr. (12 issues). If your group doesn't subscribe, you are welcome to purchase your own individual subscription to make sure you don't miss a single issue.*



Fernandina Beach's S.O.S. AFG celebrated Lois W.'s March 4th birthday with a Birthday Party, complete with cake, snacks, fun, and fellowship. A speaker also shared her inspiring story, helping mark the occasion.

### Personal Sharings

*I wasted a lot of time thinking and worrying over things that I could not change. Identifying and accepting those people, places, and things that I could not control or change was a slow process, but necessary for my own peace and serenity. Acceptance and surrender go hand-in-hand as I move towards God's will and slowly let go of my own ego. If I'm struggling today, then I'm probably into self-will rather than acceptance, and the key for me is always surrender.*

~ Anonymous

### Fun Day, December 2015

*Our District 3 December Fun Day 2015 was non-stop fun, fellowship, and deliciousness! As always, the fellowship was just what the doctor ordered, and with more than 50 members in attendance, there were lots of warm hugs and fellowship to go around.*

*The fun came in many forms, with raffles, three workshops, and a speaker. Proceeds from the sales of tickets for the raffle baskets went to District 3, while proceeds from the ticket sales of the beautiful handmade clock went to the 2016 Convention. Three workshops our district presented at the 2015 Convention were shared, and our District Representative Gage was our speaker. We appreciated Gage's willingness to share her story; we feel as though we know her so much better now.*

*The deliciousness! Where do I start? There was ham, chicken, soups, vegetables, salads, and desserts! Fun Day was hosted by Circle of Hope AFG, New Beginnings AFG, and Just in Time AFG, and as always, many others pitched in to make this Fun Day a success. Participation is the key to harmony.*

~ Roxanne A.



Have you seen this around town? The digital billboard, part of an Area Public Outreach Project, lets passers-by in Jacksonville know that, through Al-Anon, there is help and hope for families and friends of alcoholics. Look for it through April 4<sup>th</sup>!

# NORTH FLORIDA SPRING ASSEMBLY

**Friday, May 20 – Sunday, May 22, 2016**  
Altamonte Springs, Florida

District Representatives, AISLs (Al-Anon Information Service Liaisons), and Group Representatives attend. Groups are encouraged to send a Group Representative or a Group Contact. All Al-Anon members are welcome to attend.

## RESERVATION INFORMATION:

To make reservations, call the Hilton at 407-830-1985, Group name NFA AFG, or go online to: [http://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/A/ALTAHHF-NFA516-20160519/index.jhtml?WT.mc\\_id=POG](http://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/A/ALTAHHF-NFA516-20160519/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG) The special rate is available through April 29.

## TELEPHONE ANSWERING SERVICE

The Telephone Answering Service (TAS) is composed of volunteers who take telephone calls and answer messages from people seeking information about the Al-Anon program, as well as where and when to find a meeting.

Our volunteers share their experience, strength, and hope with families who are suffering from the disease of alcoholism. This service is available 24/7.

The TAS welcomes its newest volunteer, Jim, to the team. There are still some shifts available for those willing to serve. This is an opportunity to enhance your recovery with Twelfth Step work in the Al-Anon program. Training is provided.

If you would like to help or need more information, please contact Tom H. at [TAS@jaxafg.org](mailto:TAS@jaxafg.org).

# DISTRICT 3 CALENDAR

Sunday, March 20, 2016, 2 – 4 pm.....	2016 NFA AFG Convention Planning
Sunday, April 17, 2016, 2 – 4 pm	Committee Meeting*
Sunday, May 15, 2016, 2 – 4 pm	1835 Smith St., Orange Park
Saturday, April 9, 2016 .....	District Business Meeting*
Friday, May 20 – Sunday, May 22, 2016.....	North Florida Area Spring Assembly* Altamonte Springs (see note at left)
Saturday, June 11, 2016.....	District Business Meeting*

**Please note:** District Business Meetings and Workshops are held at Arlington United Methodist Church at 1400 University Blvd. North, Jacksonville, FL 32211, in Wesley Hall. District Business Meetings begin at 9:30 am with doors opening at 9 am. Meetings end at noon. Start times for events such as Workshops and Fun Days may vary. Please check fliers or [jaxafg.org](http://jaxafg.org) for event times.

\*All Al-Anon members are invited to this event.



Babysitting services are available at all District Business Meetings and Fun Day events.

## DISTRICT 3 TRUSTED SERVANTS

<b>PANEL 55</b> JANUARY 1, 2015 – DECEMBER 31, 2017	Gage M. .... District Representative .....	<a href="mailto:dr@jaxafg.org">dr@jaxafg.org</a>
	VACANT .....	Alternate District Rep. .... <a href="mailto:adr@jaxafg.org">adr@jaxafg.org</a>
	Mark F. .... AISL .....	<a href="mailto:aisl@jaxafg.org">aisl@jaxafg.org</a>
	VACANT .....	Alternate AISL..... <a href="mailto:altaisl@jaxafg.org">altaisl@jaxafg.org</a>
	Susan H. .... District Treasurer .....	<a href="mailto:treasurer@jaxafg.org">treasurer@jaxafg.org</a>
	Curt S. .... Secretary .....	<a href="mailto:secretary@jaxafg.org">secretary@jaxafg.org</a>
	Beth H. .... Alateen .....	<a href="mailto:alateen@jaxafg.org">alateen@jaxafg.org</a>
	Charlene S. .... Alateen Trainer.....	<a href="mailto:alateen@jaxafg.org">alateen@jaxafg.org</a>
	VACANT .....	AA Liaison/Spanish Liaison ..... <a href="mailto:aal@jaxafg.org">aal@jaxafg.org</a>
	Carolyn H. .... Historian .....	<a href="mailto:historian@jaxafg.org">historian@jaxafg.org</a>
	Carolyn I. .... Archives.....	<a href="mailto:archives@jaxafg.org">archives@jaxafg.org</a>
	VACANT .....	Area Raffle..... <a href="mailto:raffle@jaxafg.org">raffle@jaxafg.org</a>
	Toni C. .... Group Records.....	<a href="mailto:records@jaxafg.org">records@jaxafg.org</a>
	Roxanne A. .... LDC/Literature .....	<a href="mailto:ldc@jaxafg.org">ldc@jaxafg.org</a>
	Charlene S. .... New Group Rep. Greeter .....	<a href="mailto:greeter@jaxafg.org">greeter@jaxafg.org</a>
	Risa G. .... Newsletter Editor .....	<a href="mailto:newslettereditor@jaxafg.org">newslettereditor@jaxafg.org</a>
	David G. .... Speaker Keeper.....	<a href="mailto:speakerkeeper@jaxafg.org">speakerkeeper@jaxafg.org</a>
	Tom H. .... Telephone Answering Svc. ....	<a href="mailto:tas@jaxafg.org">tas@jaxafg.org</a>
	Freddie S. .... Webmaster .....	<a href="mailto:webmaster@jaxafg.org">webmaster@jaxafg.org</a>
	Kathy M. .... Where & When .....	<a href="mailto:ww@jaxafg.org">ww@jaxafg.org</a>
Lily E. .... Institutions .....	<a href="mailto:institutions1@jaxafg.org">institutions1@jaxafg.org</a>	
VACANT .....	Public Information/Media ..... <a href="mailto:pi@jaxafg.org">pi@jaxafg.org</a>	
Dany A. .... Co-op w/Prof. Community .....	<a href="mailto:cpc@jaxafg.org">cpc@jaxafg.org</a>	

Interested in serving in one of the vacant positions on Panel 55 or simply wish to learn more about the positions available? Contact the District Representative at [dr@jaxafg.org](mailto:dr@jaxafg.org).