

Area outlook

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SUMMER 2008

When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, let the hand of Al-Anon and Alateen always be there, and let it begin with me.

Chairperson

We had a wonderful Spring Assembly in Ontario, Oregon with a great turnout of group representatives.

There were no voting issues at the Spring Assembly. We continued the discussion on splitting our Area Assemblies from Alcoholics Anonymous. Since this was a new service term, we recapped our prior points of concern and focused on the direction of our future assemblies.

From the members present during the Assembly, an Ad Hoc committee was formed to gather information to present at the Fall Assembly in Boise.

The Area also has an Ad Hoc committee working on "Area Assembly Guidelines" to give assistance and consistency to the host districts holding Area Assemblies. We will continue to give updates and reports to the assemblies during the development of these guidelines.

Our G.R. Exchange was a smashing success; this session was led by our Alternate Delegate Laura F. who gave out not only in-

formative verbal information, but also a great handout! This handout



for G.R.s will be made available on our Idaho Area website <http://www.al-anon-idaho.org>

We also had the "D.R. Exchange" is for past and present District Representatives. This is so D.R.s can share their experience, strength and hope with other D.R.s on any current concerns and issues in their districts. After seeing the wonderful response to the G.R. information sheet, I will work on putting together an informational handout for our D.R.s.

The AWSC had picked three "Hot Topics" for breakout sessions for the Spring Assembly. Those "Hot

Topics" were "Outreach" spearheaded by Lisa C. and Wanda L.; "Service Participation" conducted by Danielle E. and Laura F.; and "Group Health" led by Robbin B. and Rob. These breakout sessions simulated our thoughts and ideas to bring back to our groups and districts.

From the members present during the Assembly, the Group Rep.'s chose the three breakout sessions for the Fall Assembly.

Those "Hot Topics" are;

1. Fundraising
2. How to Keep Newcomers
3. Alateen Workshop

Look forward to seeing everyone at the Fall Assembly in Boise on October 10-12. Fall Assembly flyers are on our wonderful Idaho Area website <http://www.al-anon-idaho.org/> then click on "Events" on the left hand side and then click on "flyer."

Love in Service;
Cecilia S.



"Have you visited our public website recently? There is now a Podcast of an Introduction to Al-Anon and first Beginner's Meeting! The scope of potential members this public outreach vehicle can reach is beyond my imagination!"

The public website and members website are treasured bookmarks on my computer, where I can access information and find answers to many of my questions!"

*Check it out at: <http://al-anonfamilygroups.org/Podcasts/FirstSteps/>
I'm listening to it right now...it's like being at a meeting. It's so good*



Alternate Delegate

Hello from your Alternate Delegate!

Congratulations to everyone who has been elected to serve as a Group Representative for this term! We had a great turnout of GRs at the Spring Assembly in Ontario. Thank you to everyone who attended the GR Exchange on Friday evening of the Assembly. Chairing the GR Exchange at each Assembly is one of my duties as alternate delegate. The GR Exchange was started several years ago to 1) provide infor-

mation to GRs about voting issues coming up at the Area business meeting and 2) allow time for GRs to discuss issues and share ideas. Now I'm looking for ideas from you about topics for future exchanges. Some ideas I've heard about so far are:
 Knowledge-based decision-making
 Group funds (distribution of funds, checking account, paying for GR to attend Assemblies)
 Group inventories
 Conducting group business meetings

If you have a specific topic you'd like to discuss at the next GR Exchange (Fall Assembly in Boise) please let me know or ask your DR to bring your idea to the Area World Service Committee meeting in August.

Have a great summer and I look forward to seeing you all at the Fall Assembly!

Love in Service,

Laura Farrington
 Alternate Delegate
 Rebola@aol.com

Website Coordinator

Events

Districts continue to provide flyers and other information for their events. Each are posted on the website and removed the day after the event is concluded.

Newsletter Distribution

There are 83 members signed up to receive the electronic newsletter.

Anyone can request to be added to the distribution list

by emailing webinquiry@al-anon-idaho.org. You can also click on "Send your email address" at this webpage: www.al-anon-idaho.org/Newsletter/index.htm.

Alateen Sponsorship

The webpages and forms referring to Alateen sponsorship were updated to include the new Area Alateen Process Person. Encourage potential Alateen sponsors to visit this page to understand the procedures.

Meetings

District 3's meeting schedule by town has been removed from the website. The meeting schedule by day of the week remains because it is current. District 7's meeting schedule is included with District 3.

At the bottom of each web meeting page is a link to the Records Coordinator for you to send an email if you have changes to the web meeting schedule.

Respectfully submitted,
 Toni R.
 Website Coordinator
www.al-anon-idaho.org

Literature Coordinator



Hello J My name is Heidi W. and I am your new Literature/ Forum Coordinator. I was not quite sure on my duties and I was winging it there for a while, but how else am I going to get my feet wet if I don't just jump

in and do it!

Reading through the Al-Anon Service Manual is a great way to start any new project. Basically my duties are to be a liaison between WSO and Area; Area and the Districts. To share Literature and to encourage The Forum Magazine.

WOW! My kind of duties! I love the new CAL that is out there and I carry The Forum in my bag with me everywhere I go. The best part is that I get to

encourage other people to do the same.

Here is a list of some of the new Literature: Opening Our Heart: Transforming Our Losses

Will prove useful for thought-provoking individual reading as well as stimulating group discussions. It shares the experiences of hundreds of members as we explore how Al-Anon principles have helped us to acknowledge, understand, and accept the losses we have experienced as a result of someone else's alcoholism. The book covers a wide range of topics including death, financial ruin, abandoned dreams, and vanished self-esteem. With the help of Al-Anon Family Groups we can begin to heal and to live life more fully. Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism 2009 Discovering Choices

Treasurer

Forms on Website

I worked closely with the Website Coordinator to post forms on the website to help members and groups.

Idaho Area Expense Form

This form is used to record expenses incurred by area officers, DRs, coordinators, and Alateen sponsors requesting reimbursement. The form is completed, receipts are attached, and then the form is mailed to the Treasurer. I created both a pdf and Excel version of this form so you could download the pdf to

fill in manually or the Excel to complete on your computer. Please use the new forms that include state and zip code.

Treasurer Contact Information

This handout documents how and where to send Area donations.

Group Contribution Form

This is a new form that was inspired by information Ruth B received from other Areas. It is a way to identify a donation to ensure a group can be credited with the donation. The form should be used to send donations to WSO, Area, District, or the Literature Center. Sometimes a group will

mail a check and it is very difficult for the receiving entity to identify the group. This form identifies the group with Area, District, and group numbers.

Groups are encouraged to fill in the top of the form with their group's information, then make copies each time a donation is made. This way the group's treasurer does not have to fill in the form each time.

If a group needs their group number, they can look at the meeting schedules on the website. Each schedule has the group's number.

Change the district mailing address for your district before making copies.

Documentation

I created a document called Treasurer Information. It includes a chart of accounts to explain each expense and income account, a list of treasurer activities, and details of the initial setup when a new Treasurer is elected.

Bean Countingly Yours, Toni R. Area Treasurer

District 6 Report May, 2008

District 6 news is as follows: Our "Spring Fling Chili Cookoff" on April 26 was a raving success and we hope to make it a yearly tradition as a spring celebration/fundraiser. We had two speakers (a husband and wife from Al-Anon and AA) who shared their experience, strength and hope in their stories. We raised some money for the district through generous donations and proceeds from a raffle. Thanks to all who participated and made this event so enjoyable and worthwhile! We

District 6

continue to have a speaker brunch on the third Sunday of every month (excluding June and December) at Aussie Eats in the Guesthouse Inn on Lindsey Blvd. We have speakers lined up till November! This brunch follows the district meeting. It's great to be a part of the Al-anon family worldwide and to feel at home in any meeting no matter where we are in the world. Our local groups all

have dedicated core members who keep coming back. Our groups are strong and no matter what, we all know that just by showing up to a meeting we will hear or learn something that will help us in our journey toward recovery. Progress not perfection! How grateful we are for the tools of the program and our friends in Al-Anon! Best wishes, Jody C.

Delegate

BUILD BRIDGES..... ENER- GIZING OUR SPIRITUAL QUEST



Build bridges... Ener-
gizing our spiritual
quest

Once again, thank you very much for electing me to be your delegate for this three year term. It is not only an honor but a privilege to represent Idaho Al-anon at the World Service Conference.

This year's conference was held in Stamford Connecticut. It began on Saturday, April 12th 2008 and concluded on Thursday, April 17th.

There was also an open board meeting on Friday, April 18th which I attended. Each day brought new challenges, new topics, more confidence, and new friendships.

Thank you so much to the individuals, districts, and groups that sent cards and love gifts to me throughout the week. The hospitality room was certainly a popular place. Each day new items arrived and breaks were often spent browsing through the room. I brought several items back with me to share with you.

This year's theme "Build Bridges - Energizing our Spiritual Quest" was used in every area of the conference. Each day it became clearer that bridges were being built and we were certainly on a spiritual quest! We were always reminded that we are the bridge of information to the area we represent as well as carrying the message from our area to the WSC.

We had a representative from Germany, Mexico, and the Southern tip of South Africa. Each shared experience, strength and hope about Al-Anon in their countries.

There were 9 voting motions.

Motion 1: To seat 5 people at the conference with voice, but no vote

and 1 person with no vote and no voice. - Motion carried.

Motion 2: To approve the 2007 Audited Financial Report – Motion carried.

Motion 3: To approve the Finance Committee Report. – Motion carried.

Motion 4: To approve the Operational Report and Strategic Plan Update. - Motion carried.

Motion 5: That the 2008 World Service Conference give conceptual approval to develop a piece of literature on Al-Anon's first 60 years. Motion carried.

Motion 6: To amend the text regarding anonymity on pages 83-84 of the 2006-2009 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual, Digest of Al-Anon and Alateen Policies to include the internet. - Motion carried.

Motion 7: To move the paragraph titled "Introductory Meetings" from 78 to 80 in the 2006-2009 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual, Digest of Al-anon/Alateen Policies. – Motion carried.

Motion 8: To amend the text on page 78 of the 2006-2009 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual, Digest of Al-Anon and Alateen Policies regarding limited access groups. Motion carried.

Motion 9: To amend the text on page 85 of the 2006-2009 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual Digest of Al-Anon and Alateen policies, Finances, Contributions to

WSO – Individual, Bequests – Motion carried.

There were 93 voting members at the conference making 62 the 2/3 number needed to make a change. By using the KBDM (Knowledge Based Decision Making) process, each item was discussed thoroughly before a motion was made. By far the most discussion came with Motion #9 regarding bequests. It did however carry with 70 yes and 23 no.

The changes that were made regarding the text in our service manual will soon be made available on line so we can print them and put them in our books. We learned about what is called "The Big Question Item". This concept is to ask big questions to generate big conversations. This year's question was; What might be the impact of further division or consolidation of the Areas: a. on the WSC, b. finances, c. innovative approaches to the links of service, d. growth and diversity in the fellowship? A lengthy discussion followed with input from many.

The Finance committee did a presentation on the Quarterly appeal letter. We want to make sure that members know this is a personal donation from them not from the group. Personal donations are our messenger in places where we cannot be. The first appeal letter was sent out in 1951.

It was also noted that in 1961 only 55 percent of registered groups contributed to the World Service Headquarters. The percentage of groups contributing in 2007 was 56.45 percent. The current cost to WSO per group is \$228.33.

Delegate (cont'd)

We had a lengthy discussion on anonymity within the fellowship, anonymity with the general public, anonymity and professionals and anonymity and the media to include the internet as well as all forms of evolving public media.

The new book *Discovering Choices* will be released at the International convention in Pittsburgh, PA. in July.

We had additional discussions on Creating and maintaining healthy groups, Using KBDM for group conscience in the areas, and How the Al-Anon / Alateen message can reach families of active A.A. members and attract those family members to our Al-Anon/ Alateen meetings.

We viewed the new PSA as well as listened to the new pod cast that will

be on the member's website.

We had the opportunity to visit Stepping Stones during conference week. This truly was a spiritual experience. We had lunch outside and I believe it looked very much like a picnic that Lois and Bill hosted. It was exciting to speak with a number of people who knew Lois. This was a joy of a lifetime. Thank you again for allowing me to be your delegate.....

Alateen Coordinator

Did you know that Alateen meetings have started in Jr. High Schools in our Area? A school counselor in Boise requested an in-school meeting last year and the idea is catching on! Now, in-school meetings are thriving. The meeting times rotate...this week First Period, next week Second Period, etc. The best part is that the teens are requesting Alateen meetings when they transfer to a new school, and school counselors are responding. We currently have Alateen meetings in 3 schools as the year ends, and 3 more schools want to start meetings next fall. Amazing! If anyone has questions about in-school meetings, please contact me at ruthineagle@qwest.net. Help me get our Alateen

Sponsor Re-certification & Meeting Updates completed by June 15!

Here's what I need:

1. Background Checks: Alateen sponsors **MUST** have finger-printed background checks completed to be re-certified. If you have not done this, go to our Idaho Al-Anon website at www.idaho-al-anon.org, and click on "Area/ Members," then on "Alateen Sponsorship" to get full instructions on our Idaho Area background check instructions.

2. Updated information on all Alateen Sponsors: I need current contact info for all Alateen sponsors, including address, phone numbers, email addresses.

3. Updated Alateen meeting information: WSO sent an update sheet to all Current Mailing Addresses (CMAs) for Idaho Alateen meetings. These need to be completed & sent back with updated info, including location, time, day, contact names & numbers. WSO needs all records no later than July 1st. Please send me corrections by June 15th.

SHARINGS NEEDED! The WSO has an ongoing need for Alateen sharing for Alateen Talk and The Forum. You can submit sharing on the WSO website: <http://www.al-anon.alateen.org/members/forumss.php>. Do you have an Alateen member with a story to tell? Send it in today!

Love in Service,
Ruth B.
Idaho Area Alateen Coordinator/
Area Process Person



Don't forget the next Area World Service Committee meeting is on Saturday, August 23 in Boise at Kopper Kitchen.

September 19-21, 2008—Mary Pearl 12th Step Workshop, Coeur d'Alene

October 10-12, 2008—Fall Assembly, Doubletree Riverside, Boise



Newsletter Editor

Here is the summer addition for the newsletter. Sorry this took me a month longer than I had planned. Please keep those articles coming.

Danielle E

