

# Alternate Delegate's Report

AWSC 4-5 Mar, 2011

*Terry K*

Hello North Florida!

It's time for another AWSC and I'm glad to be here, as always. You guys charge my batteries.

I've been working on the "New Group Representative Orientation" guidelines. It should be ready for spring assembly. District Representatives will be glad to hear, you'll have an expanded role in preparing your New G.R.s for their first adventure in Area service.

I also have new numbers on the Forum. I'll get to that in just a bit. Shelley asked that each of us tell a bit about our responsibilities.

I was very fortunate when I took over this position. My predecessors prepared this book for me. It contains everything you need to know. I'll update it before the turnover meeting. Anyone who'd like is welcome to look at it. It's not as intimidating as it might seem.

One of the real pleasures of being the Alternate Delegate is the job of picking out "Red light/Green light" topics. This panel has presented diverse, thought provoking and relevant topics. The hard part is limiting them to three topics for discussion.

Another part of my job is parliamentarian. I was a little worried about it when I started, but with a lot of help from Terry and Shelley I learned to review and help clarify motions. And I can still ask the officers to help me if I have questions. You are not alone.

Probably the hardest part of my job is Forum representative. Not because it's time consuming or difficult, but because subscriptions in North Florida have been a rollercoaster ride. I believe the Forum is as valuable to our recovery as our daily readers. Trying to encourage others to both subscribe and submit articles to the Forum seems like something I shouldn't have to do – its value should be self evident. The next alternate delegate can do something different than I'm doing, just as I did something different than Terry. So you can be creative.

Then there are the buckets! Love those buckets! I can now say that I believe I've mastered the buckets. Truthfully, they're not that hard.

Now, the Forum. There are more articles published from Florida! Check out the board. But also check out the number of Subscriptions. The last numbers I had were from July of last year.

In August the number of subscriptions started dropping and continues to drop. Florida went from 1334, to 1316, to 1198. This tells me that we have to remind our GRs about the value of the Forum and that they are the Forum representative. Encourage the use of the Forum in meetings. Give the Forum to new comers. Point out articles from Florida and encourage folks who share something unusual, witty and/or thought provoking in a meeting, to share it in the Forum.

Two other quick notes: Over the last year I've become aware of what appears to be *almost an assault* on Al-Anon by the introduction of non-Al-Anon phrases and ideas. Most come from treatment centers or mental health professionals. I've talked to people after meetings about the use of these terms and ideas. Eventually I put together a meeting that I called "What Al-Anon is – and isn't." It was (and is) my intent to pass on the program of recovery that I received 29 years ago. It was the hardest meeting I've ever chaired. I'm not the Al-Anon Police. I tried to promote Concepts 4 and 5. To encourage all to share, especially those who disagreed with anything that was said. I used only Al-Anon literature (mostly the ODAT and the Service manual). I tried to discuss the topic in a caring and loving way. I have given this meeting twice and both times I had positive feedback, even from some of those who had seemed to show the most discomfort during the meeting. I would be willing to bring this meeting topic to any district that might feel the need. Just let me know.

Along the same line is the topic of Anonymity. In today's world of social networking and cultural acceptance, anonymity may seem a bit out of place. But there have been two examples of anonymity being broken *in North Florida* in the last few months that trouble me. Maybe we need to dust off the traditions and start stressing Anonymity again.

With that in mind, here is the (not so) trivial question for assembly: "What two traditions speak to anonymity and how do they differ?"

The answer to the Fall Assembly trivia question is: "We know that the Concepts of service are called the best kept secret in Al-anon. When were they adopted?"

"The Conference of 1970 affirmed them as guidelines for our services. ...The 1984 Conference voted that the Twelve concepts are to be accorded the same stature as the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions." --Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual 2010-2013, pg 171.