

Alternate Delegate Report Spring Assembly, 2011

Terry K

Hello North Florida! I'm sorry I can't be present at this assembly, but God had other plans. Even if I start to feel better, I'm just so far behind the curve to participate in any meaningful way.

Personally there's not much to report. 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.

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 world wide subscriptions were still climbing to 23,323 but Florida subscriptions had peaked and were headed back down at 1,316. At the Aria World Service Committee meeting for spring the numbers were, world wide Al-Anon 22,234 and Florida 1,198. For this Assembly I have to report that world wide, Al-Anon is at 21,949 and Florida is at 1,183. While these numbers are no where 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 Al-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 Al-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. As GRs you are the Forum representative at the group level. Take this information back to your groups. Ask them to become involved with the Forum. Ask *them* if they have any ideas on how to improve the Forum. Get their ideas. You can send them to me I'll try to include them in my support of the Forum.

Turning to other matters, one of the things I'll really miss about this assembly is the first presentation of the new "New Group Representative Orientation." The committee worked hard to come up with a document that was both concise and complete. While brainstorming, it became clear that there are two parts of new GR Orientation. First, the things a new GR needs to know to get here. Secondly, the things a new GR needs to

know to not only survive but flourish during the assembly. I won't say we nailed it, because "we aren't perfect." But I do hope it does what it's supposed to do. Please feel free to contact me about anything in this document that you think could be improved.

Finally, 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 Al-Anon, but in the rooms of Al-Anon, the newcomer, who's there for his or her first meeting is my equal. I can not 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. You can take this back to your groups, we used to have lots of meeting on Anonymity, but I don't remember many lately.

I think I've run over my 50 words, so I'll close with this Assembly's 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?

I miss you all very much and hope to see you at the fall assembly.

Thank you and God bless.