



THE LEGACY

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North Florida Area Website: www.northfloridaal-anon.org

CHAIRPERSON: SHELLEY C.

Happy New Year North Florida!

I can't believe we are in our final year of Panel 49. I don't know about you, but I'm just beginning to feel comfortable with my job. As those of you know who have been in service, that's the way it happens. When we know what we are doing, it's time to pass it on. I know for sure that my Higher Power has not put me in this position to have an impact on North Florida Area, but I'm here for all of you to have an impact on me and my personal growth.

In October during our final Fall Assembly we will be electing our new panel. N FL Area panel members are limited to those Al-Anon members who are not also members of AA and have not previously served a full three-year term in the position for which they are now standing. All of our current District Representatives (DRs) and Al-Anon Information Services Liaisons (AISLs) are eligible to stand for Area Secretary and Area Treasurer. In addition, these same DRs are eligible to stand for Delegate, Alternate Delegate and Chairperson. Any member who is not elected to the incoming panel as DR or AISL can stand for one of the Coordinator positions. (Alateen and Alateen Area Process Person, AAPP, of course have additional requirements.) If you have a particular passion, such as Public Outreach, or Literature, or Alateen, you can serve Al-Anon as an Area Coordinator in Panel 52.

You have probably heard when volunteers are asked for that you only have to be willing. For the most part that is true at the area level, however all Area World Service Committee (AWSC) members are expected to attend two AWSC meetings and two Assemblies each year and to be available and accessible to fellow members between meetings. No previous skills are needed, but responsibility and reliability are important to do your job and to help the panel work as a whole.

I hope that many of you are thinking and praying about what your next step in service will be. There will be many conversations throughout this year about elections in your groups, in your district, and at the area level. We are planning informa-

tion sessions in the spring so everyone can get the information they need to make an informed decision. Panel members are completing their job descriptions so they will be available for all GRs to take back to the groups. Also check out the Election Procedures for more information.

Al-Anon was here for me when I was ready to walk into the rooms. I feel very strongly that I have a responsibility to do my part to insure that Al-Anon will be there for the newcomers in the future. That, of course, can take many forms and service at the Area level is one of them. I have learned so much about myself, making mistakes, and achieving successes, as Area Chairperson. I have learned about relationships, how I act and how I react, with the people I have met in the area. I am very grateful for the lessons I have learned and very grateful that I am in service.

Love in Service,
Shelley C.—Panel 49 Area Chair

SECRETARY: LOIS M.

I love the program of Al-Anon and I love this position of North Florida Area Secretary. Do you think you could do this job?

If you want the day to fly by, you would love this position. If you enjoy learning new things and have vision of making something work even better, then you would love this job. If you want to see the bigger picture of how the message of Al-Anon is passed on, then you would love this job. If you want to step out of your comfort zone and get to know yourself better, you belong in this job.

Life can be uncomfortable. Controversy is inevitable. We pray for courage, but what if it feels like you don't have any? It's hard to keep going, even if we know from experience things always work out. We sometimes get the idea that Al-Anon is full of perfect special people who work perfect programs, but it's an unrealistic view. We're just people. That's all we have to be. The inevitability of controversy is not an excuse!

What personal hidden gifts have been blocked by the ravages of alcoholism? The only way I know to discover talents is to do different things until you find them. And

not give up when it becomes difficult, as it may take time to learn something new.

Service work has not only afforded me to find hidden talents and helped quiet my mind. It has helped me with self discipline and work on my weak areas. I am, without a doubt, the most non-detailed person you have ever met. Yet, most of you would think I am the most detailed person you know; to the point of annoyance. But, I say nay-nay. It's because I work at it (the detail part, not the annoying part).

If not this position, consider what your Higher Power is trying to say to you. Is it time to stretch yourself? Dig deep inside. Sit still with yourself. Ask the questions and find out what are your barriers?

Yours in Service,
Lois M.
Panel 49 -North Florida Secretary



TEAM FLORIDA

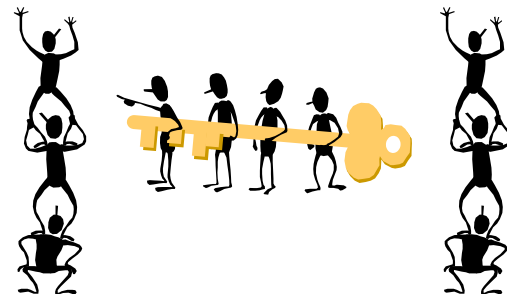
(Together Empowering Al-Anon Members)
May 20-21, 2011

North and South Florida Areas
Partnering with the WSO

It's a new and improved service event that partners with the World Service Office (WSO) to create a unique service event geared to your interests. It will energize your spiritual quest and activate your creativity, all while you enjoy the fellowship of the Al-Anon program.

To download the registration form go to
www.northfloridaal-anon.org

click calendar, under Team Event click
Resources Page, under Event Documents
click Team Florida Flyer



AREA DELEGATE: TERRY F.

Hello again North Florida! I feel so grateful to be part of the worldwide fellowship of Al-Anon that includes Alateen. It's sometimes hard to believe we're moving into our third year of Panel 49. In some ways, it feels like we've just begun!

In my Delegate's report to the Fall Assembly, I included several attachments of interest regarding frequently asked questions, *Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism* Magazine, sharing sheets for writing both in and out of the fellowship, as well as others. Please see your District Representative for copies of these attachments.

Things are getting busy again as we move into year three. For several months, I've been part of a World Service Conference Task Force preparing a document we're hoping to be ready for the 2011 World Service Conference (WSC). I also chaired the Conference Committee on Trustees (CCT), and sat on a Regional Committee on Trustees, (RCT). I submitted to WSO another potential Chosen Agenda Item for the 2011 World Service Conference which your Alternate Delegate and I collaborated on. I will also be attending the Southeast Regional Delegate's Get-Together February 3-5, 2011 in Raleigh, North Carolina. As this is a new location, we are excited and hope for a larger turnout by current and past Southeast Region Delegates.

Florida (South) Visit: In October, our Area Chairman Shelley and I visited the Florida (South) Assembly. We were warmly received, and it was interesting to learn how their Area does business. A few highlights: 1.) Their Assembly meetings and AWSC meetings move each time to different venues and alternating coasts. 2.) They take a quorum after each break before they restart the meeting. As they do business on Sunday morning, if they don't have a quorum, they can't complete the business at that time. 3.) They do their breakout sessions and Red Light Green Light topics on Friday evening and it can get very late. 4.) They pass the basket in lieu of doing a raffle. 5.) They have a Spanish Area Coordinator and translation equipment, reporting that their Spanish membership at the Area level has increased with these resources. 6.) They have their own ppt. projector. Both the projector and the translation equipment are kept by an Area Coordinator. 7.) They keep a complete list of all Alateen meetings by district that gets passed out at Area meetings. 8.) They are excited to be doing the TEAM event with WSO and us, and we were invited to sit in on their TEAM luncheon. The Florida (S) Delegate and Chairperson are hoping to visit one of our Area meetings before the end of the panel.

2011 World Service Conference Details
The 2011 World Service Conference will be

held April 11-15, 2011, again in Norfolk, Virginia at the Wyndham Hotel, where it's been the two previous years. As a Panel 49 Delegate, I will have the opportunity to visit Stepping Stones (the home of Lois and Bill W.), on Sunday the 10th in the morning, before traveling to the Conference site. Thought Forces, Task Forces, and Committees will meet on Monday to continue or finalize work before the Conference begins. The theme of the 2011 Conference is: Expanding our community of hope by embracing:

- Yesterday's foundations
- Today's successes
- Tomorrow's possibilities

Ampliamos nuestra comunidad de esperanza al acoger:

- los cimientos del pasado
- los éxitos del presente
- las posibilidades del futuro

Élargir notre communauté d'espoir en intégrant:

- Les bases d'hier
- Les succès d'aujourd'hui
- Les possibilités de demain

This year, Al-Anon Family Groups celebrates its 60th Anniversary with a banquet dinner to be held on April 16th at the Virginia Convention Center. This event is being held on the day following the Conference. The details are as follows:

Open House: In celebration of 60 years of Al-Anon Family Groups and the beginnings of the Clearing House, the World Service Office (WSO) will host an Open House. There will be a special ceremony at 3 pm commemorating paying off the WSO's mortgage.

When? Saturday, April 16, 2011, 1:00 – 4:00 pm

Where? WSO, 1600 Corporate Landing Parkway, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23454

Banquet: Continuing the celebration, there will be a 60th Anniversary Banquet, which will be a ticketed event with limited seating. Tickets are (\$50 U.S.). You can find the ticket order form on the Members' website at www.Al-Anon.org/members.

When? Saturday, April 16, 2011; Reception 6:00 – 6:45 pm; Banquet at 7:00 pm

Where? Virginia Beach Convention Center, 1000 19th Street, Virginia Beach, VA 23451
Please note: The Open House is free of charge; the Banquet is a ticketed event and seating is limited.

CHAIRMAN OF BOARD LETTER

As you may remember, after each of the four Board of Trustees meetings, the Chairman of the Board puts out a letter summarizing details of the Board of Trustees meeting. I will read a little of the November letter:

"In these ever-changing times, attending Al-Anon Family Group meetings can help us find the strength, courage, and serenity to work through our difficulties. We came to Al-Anon to learn to cope with someone else's drinking, and in time discovered that the principles of the Al-Anon program

could be applied to all aspects of our lives, because Al-Anon is a way of life.

The Al-Anon program helped me to become willing to accept change. Do I always like change? No. Can I accept that change is inevitable? Yes. For example, in my early years of attending Al-Anon, the meetings were mainly composed of spouses of alcoholics; it was uncommon to see a man at meetings. There was little attention given to adult children or parents of alcoholics, and gays and lesbians were guarded when it came to discussing their relationships. Meetings had to be held in churches and lasted for one and one half hours. There was minimal flexibility.

Today's Al-Anon members are from various cultural backgrounds, and I use cultural in the broadest sense of the word. So let's ask ourselves: Are we always welcoming to prospective members, regardless of their cultural practices?

Are we tolerant of those seeking help because a family member has multiple addictions, combined with perhaps a mental diagnosis? Do we take time to explain the Al-Anon program and its focus, and offer them the opportunity to decide if Al-Anon is the right place to be?

Do we welcome teenagers to Al-Anon meetings where no Alateen meetings exist? Have we thought of holding meetings in venues other than churches? Have we considered that the duration of meetings might be shorter than one hour in order to be held during lunch breaks?

The above questions are just a portion of the ongoing discussions at Board meetings as we approach the question: "What external changes in the environment will affect Al-Anon in the future?"

With the future of Al-Anon Family Groups in mind, the Board of Trustees met with a consultant to evaluate its current work and to consider what it is doing correctly, what it is doing that it needs to do differently, and what it is not doing that it needs to be doing. The answers will evolve over time as we work to fulfill our primary purpose. As stated by the Sixth World Service Conference, "There is no standing still without retrogression."

Prior to the meeting, the Board took a self-evaluation, which indicated that the Board has a clear understanding of the present work and future direction. The consultant was very complimentary to the Board in its use of the Knowledge-Based Decision-Making (KBDM) process to discuss issues and its focus on Strategic Planning. We further discussed how to integrate the staff into the planning process.

As a follow-up to the August letter, in October, the International Coordination Committee (ICC) welcomed Delegates from the International Al-Anon General Services Meeting (IAGSM) to Virginia Beach. Delegates from the various countries participated in General Sessions and workshops. It was evident from the topics presented and ensuing discussions that Al-Anon

members worldwide share the same insights and concerns. A summary of the event will be forthcoming.

The Associate Director of Communications—Professionals attended several national events hosted by organizations such as Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The staff at the WSO recognizes the importance of being seen by national organizations as a credible Twelve Step recovery program for families. These strides have included having Al-Anon as a participant at some of these events, versus merely as an observer.

At the request of the Board and as part of its Strategic Planning, the Group Services Department is working on four podcasts to assist Group Representatives (GRs) in the understanding of their responsibilities and how to be effective in carrying them out.

So that all Al-Anon members will have an opportunity to review the 2011 issue of *Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism (AFA)*, a free copy will be sent to all groups in the United States and Canada. It is hoped that more groups will participate in this important Public Outreach project.”

A financial update was also given in the Chairman of the Board letter as well as a Policy update from the Policy Committee. “The purpose of the Policy Update sent each quarter with the Chairperson of the Board’s letter is to provide Delegates with information regarding:

- Current discussions by the Policy Committee in response to questions and concerns generated by the fellowship
- Pending motions to be presented to the next World Service Conference (WSC)
- In the case of the 2nd quarter letter, Policy motions passed by the WSC

Two Current Discussions:

The Committee continued with the discussion of social networking sites on the World Wide Web and whether these sites could be used for public outreach in a way that conforms to our Traditions.

Because of the increased importance of the Internet in Al-Anon’s communications within the fellowship and in public outreach, the Policy Committee recognized the position of Area Web Coordinator as a new position in Al-Anon’s service structure, and authorized the World Service Office to provide direct support to that position.”

The entire Chairman of the Board letter including updates, and past letters can be found on the members’ website by clicking the Inside the WSO link.

What Else is on the WSO Members’ site:
How many of you have visited the mem-

bers’ website? There are many resources if you’ve never visited or haven’t visited in a while.

Besides the Chairman of the Board letter, all three Legacy Blogs are open for reading and comments. One of the G.R. Podcasts appears to be ready and is on the Home page. You can access current and past Conference Summaries through the Publications link. There’s information and the order form available for Al-Anon’s 60th Birthday celebration. There’s a fact sheet for putting on a TEAM event, which we are! The new Service Manual is also on the site with both interactivity and no interactivity.

Also, under the Submit a Personal Sharing link, there are four opportunities to share on humor: in *The Forum*, the new book titled *Tracing Our Growth*, other *Forum* sharings, and WSO is also looking for sharings for *Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism (AFA)*. WSO has posted a PDF to Delegates regarding the *Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism* sharing sheet with the hope of encouraging members to submit their sharings and reach out to those who are still suffering. WSO would like as many sharing sheets as possible to be distributed among the fellowship. Members may also submit a sharing via the Members’ Web site.

Literature: On the same sharing theme, see your District Representative for a flier regarding writing about Al-Anon outside the fellowship for any professional writers we may have, or aspiring writers. The flier helps with how to write and keep your anonymity.

There will be a second printing of *Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism*. “Carry the message...*Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism 2011*, our annual public outreach magazine, is Twelfth Step work that every Al-Anon member can do. It’s simple: just leave at least one copy behind. Just one step at a time, one person at a time... and then let go. Deadline to order: February 9, 2011, 5 pm ET. For more information, contact your Area Public Outreach Coordinator. Thank you for encouraging everyone in your Area to participate!”

Property Ownership Discussion: Lois said once, “There is no difference between good business practice and good spiritual practice”. As you may remember, the 15-year trial of owning our World Service Office will end in 2011. At that time, the Conference having looked at all the information obtained during the trial will vote to end the trial and keep the property, end the trial and sell the property, or continue the trial for another period of time. If you have any lingering questions regarding this upcoming vote, please let me know. If I don’t know the answer, I’ll find out for you.

TEAM (Together Empowering Al-Anon Members): I am excited to announce that several TEAM events have been scheduled to date, including ours with Florida South! And some have already been successfully held. You’ll be hearing more from Cindy J.

our Florida North Co-Chair, on ours regarding the details and how to participate. The response by Areas to this new event has been fairly positive, even with some bumps in the planning process. Communication is key!!!!

Diversity: Have you taken the information regarding cultural diversity and diversity in general back to your districts and groups? Since as we discovered at the Spring Assembly, and observed again at the Fall Assembly, many of us do not fit into the 56-year old Caucasian female category noted in the 2009 Membership Survey. Hopefully, you are staying conscious of this fact in your “public outreach” and “outreach to professionals” projects. We may need to ask “Where do diverse cultures go for support and information?” And we may need to look at diverse thinking regarding spirituality.

In the 2010 Conference Summary, on pgs. 42-43, is the presentation of Cultural Competence given at this year’s World Service Conference. Pg. 43 highlights some other diverse groups. Perhaps you and your district members have identified others. In our meetings, these may include members of non-Christian faiths, or with no faith belief systems, other ethnicities, younger members, older members, etc. What do we do with the awareness that we gain in recognizing this diversity? How are you reaching out to these diverse people both in and out of our fellowship? Please let me know. If you haven’t as yet sought to reach out, please let me know how you and your district plan to do so over the next few months. Send me an email and let me know how it’s going, successes and barriers.

As you heard in the Chairman of the Board letter, Diversity is high on the list of topics to again be discussed at the 2011 World Service Conference. As we live in a diverse country, and as we are a worldwide fellowship, discussions of diversity and inclusion will continue.

Questions for Reflection:

Does the membership of our Al-Anon groups reflect the diversity of our communities?

Does my home group reflect the diversity of my community? How can my home group better reflect the diversity of my community? Does my district reflect the diversity of my community? How can my district better reflect the diversity of my community? Do the members of my Area reflect the diversity of my state or province? How can my Area better reflect the diversity of my community? How am I affected by the diversity of other members in the program? Am I willing to be open minded and flexible?

At Assembly, I also included the Diversity Workshop format shared in the spring from this year’s Conference with my report given to District Representatives as an attachment. I know at least one district has used it. Please ask to use it in your districts to generate thoughtful discussion. “Let it be-

gin with us.”

In Closing: As we move into our last year of Panel 49, we will continue to focus on leadership at all service levels, as well as using our Legacies at all levels of service.

I look forward to continuing to learn, laugh, and grow with you during the next year. If you have questions let me know. Remember too, you can invite me to visit you. However you celebrate, I wish you all a peaceful season and a Happy New Year!

Love in service,
Terry F.- Delegate-Panel 49

GROUP RECORDS: TERRY A.

Hello North Florida! We currently have 384 Active Groups in the 12 Districts making up our North Florida Area according to our Online Group Records access page. We also have 24 Active Groups with a NO MAIL status. This means that some 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. If your group is not getting your mail, please let your District Group Records Chair know and at the same time confirm the CMA. The Group Records Chair is then armed with all they need to contact me and get it corrected. I do use the group's ID# to look them up. Please always refer to that number so there is no confusion about which group is in question.

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 AWSC meeting. I won't claim perfection, but we sure have made great progress. What Growth!

I would love to hear from all of the District Group Records Chairs to check against your districts current records.

Humbled with gratitude,
Terry A.—Group Records Coordinator

LITERATURE: NANCY G.

Hello Everyone! Have you read any good books lately?

The latest and greatest news from literature is that P24/27 is out! Do you know

what P24/27 is? It's our new Service Manual!

The CAL Sample chapter on the web through the end of this month is "The Challenge of Communicating With an Alcoholic Spouse" from The Dilemma of the Alcoholic Marriage (B-4). For January through March, 2011, the topic will be "What does Being Powerless Really Mean?" from Paths to Recovery (B-24).

Don't forget CAL Corner in the Forum. It's a great source of information for a topic for a literature meeting. Did you catch the one in Oct. celebrating the 55th Anniversary of our 1st book? Do you know what our first book was? Al-Anon Family Groups – Classic Edition (B-5).

There is a new Powerpoint presentation developed by an Area in Pennsylvania, "Twelve Questions from Conference Approved Literature (CAL): Do You Know You're CAL" It's a quiz (with answers).

I think everyone has forgotten that I offered a challenge for the best Powerpoint presentation about CAL. I have not received any entries. So, let's try again. I will give a nice prize to whoever submits the best Powerpoint presentation about CAL in 2011. If you work as a committee, I'll figure out a prize (or prizes) appropriate for a committee. The deadline is two weeks before Fall Assembly, 2011. I know we have lots of Powerpointers out there. Let's see your stuff! World Service Office would like to have more Powerpoint presentations so, with your permission, entries will be sent on to them.

World Service Office (WSO) would also like to have skits, workshops and, of course, literature sharings. I know I've seen lots of great skits in various places. Would you write them down and share, please? WSO currently has two skits and seven workshops Both skits are on Discovering Choices (B-30). The list of workshops is on the table in the back of the room. I know we can do better than 2 skits and 7 workshops just in our Area. Come on! Share! I can email any of the skits, workshops or Powerpoint presentations to you.

Speaking of sharing . . . Legacy Workbook Sharings Are Needed: There are three Legacy blogs found on the WSO Members' Web site (www.al-anon.org/members). All three are open for posting, and all postings will be considered for use in the new Legacy workbook in development.

The WSO recently invited members listed in our skills database as having writing skills to participate in the Legacy blogs. This was done to particularly encourage use of the blogs, however, any member is encouraged to post on the blogs. Please contribute and encourage other members in your District to contribute too.

Tracing Our Growth (working title) is the book that will explore the recovery lessons we've learned in the last 60 years. It has faced some challenges but they're still hoping to have it ready for the World Service

Conference (WSC) in April. If they do get it ready in time to release at the Conference, it will be available for purchase after that.

I mentioned the Legacy blogs on the WSO website earlier. Sharings from those blogs will be put into a workbook. WSO hopes to have the workbook ready for release at the 2013 International Convention in Vancouver, British Columbia.

The WSO is now shipping the Spanish version of Discovering Choices.

There has been a concerted effort this year to focus attention on As We Understood (B-11) to celebrate its 25th Anniversary which was in July. Apparently, it's working. Sales are up 6% from last year. Sales of From Survival to Recovery (B-21) are up a big 21%. Just keep reading, just keep reading . . .

Remember to read. Remember to share. Remember to send in your sharings. After all, our literature is not just for us and about us; it's written by us.

Nancy G.
North Florida Area Literature Coordinator

DISTRICT 1 REP: GEORGE G.

District 1 held a day of workshops on Nov. 13, that was a great success. Around 50 were in attendance. Legacy Editor, Toni C., Area Secretary, Lois M., were presenters, along with Shelley C., our Area Chairperson. It was very informative and rewarding and much fun for all. Lois shared on the traditions including an emphasis on Al-Anon's history and how the traditions came into being. For a district with so many new members and so few long-timers it is very helpful to have a voice from outside the district come share with us about why we do things the way we do. Toni did a wonderful job sharing on how she works the steps. I heard many positive comments afterwards and feel like it brought our district closer together in unity.

We already have someone willing to chair a gratitude dinner next spring and we are looking forward to that.

District 1 has more group representatives than we have had in quite some time. Many of us are new to service so it has been a time of learning and challenges for all of us as we seek to be of service and grow in our recovery together.

Several members of District 1 have been published in The Forum this year including Cindy J., our AISL, in November. On a similar note, I have found it helpful to keep an ear out in meetings for members that have an interesting or funny story to tell in meetings. Afterwards I seek them out and encourage them to write them down and

send them in. Perhaps we'll see some more sharings from District 1 in The Forum in 2011.

With love in service,
George G.

**DISTRICT 8 REP:
CINDY R.**

Hi Ya'll,
It is really amazing how two years have flown by. I am so happy to say that District 8 is really GREAT! The district meetings each month are productive and everyone seems to be communicating really well. District 8 currently has 38 meetings, included are 2 Spanish speaking meetings, and 1 Beginners meeting. GR's and their Alternates are doing a great job representing the groups! Some months there are 27 or 28 GR's or their alternates attending.

Last month, in November, we had the budget meeting for 2011 and thanks to our dedicated and efficient district Treasurer in about 1 and 1/2 hours we ate lunch, balanced the budget, and have a budget to present to the district on Dec 18th. I really thought that was a record. We have a new AISL, Charon L, which left the web chair open but will be filled soon, I am sure. We also have a new Alateen Chairperson, Ruby. I want to thank them for their willingness and the willingness of the entire District, Chairpersons, and Officers. I am so grateful!

Events were great, including the Day of Workshops and the Gratitude Dinner. I have never seen so many do so much and not get paid for it. I think that shows how grateful and thankful we all are for the Al-Anon Family Groups. The district voted on a new event that was added to our district calendar. We are calling it a quarterly crafting workshop. It will have a chairperson and the event will gather members to craft items, for raffle baskets and special fund raisers, etc. etc.... It is something we are trying out and seeing how it goes; more to come in the future.

We also had extra money in the budget and the district purchased a 2010 World Service Conference Summary for each of our groups in District 8 to create some awareness about communication between World Service, Area, Districts, and Groups. I hope to receive positive feedback on how that went. I will report as I hear back from the GR's.

I am looking forward to the New Year and what exciting news and recovery will spring out of the creativity of this beautiful body of beings.

Serenity and Love to all,
Cindy R.—Great 8 DR

**DISTRICT 9 REP:
MARILU G.**

Our Alateen program is sprouting. We have a new meeting established on Monday nights where there is also an Al-Anon meeting. We take this as a sign of hope and await further inspiration from our Higher Power as to our next step.

On November 13, we had a Gratitude Dinner, and a Holiday Party on December 11. We have a Day of Workshops planned for Saturday, March 26, 2011, at St. Stephen's Church, SR540A in Lakeland, FL. The pre-registration is from 9 a.m. to 9:45 with a Continental Breakfast. At all of the events we have seen evidence of cooperation and dedication of volunteers with new people often stepping up to fill various roles.

Our groups continue to grow both in numbers and in spirituality. Members use the tools of the program such as, a Group Conscience to solve their problems. A spirit of cooperation and acceptance abounds both on the group level and at district meetings. Although our Al-Anon Information Service Liaison had to resign due to illness in the family and our Web Master has been overwhelmed with service and work commitments, we have volunteers considering assuming these jobs. There is ebb and flow but our service positions are usually filled.

Marilu McG.

District 9 Representative

**DISTRICT 10 REP:
DARLA S.**

Hello Fellow Al-Anon Members,

This has been a busy year for us in District 10. We have had great participation from our members. Our Public Outreach Committee participated in a couple of Health Fairs, and have contacted Spanish Language Public TV, UCF, and WMFE FM Radio. Our members along with Al-Anon members from other districts participated in the AARP 50+ Convention held in Orlando in October. It was a great learning opportunity for us to be involved in working with

a large organization. Members agreed that it was a positive experience for them, and enjoyed the opportunity to share about our Al-Anon recovery program.

We recently had our annual fall Gratitude Dinner. We had an AA speaker, an Al-Anon speaker, and two Alateen speakers. We had an Alateen speaker who had only a few months in the program and one who had about a year. They both shared how Alateen has helped them, and on experiencing some awareness moments. It was good to see Alateen recovery in action.

We have a fairly new Alateen District Chairperson, Susan, who is learning and understanding how the different levels of service and positions connect. She recently held a meeting for our AMIAS, Al-Anon Members Involved In Alateen Service. The meeting allowed AMIAS a chance to connect with each other about their experiences sponsoring groups, and or working with Alateens.

At our last district meeting:

- formed a committee to develop a plan of action as to how to proceed with a AMIAS Trainer at the district level.
- formed a committee for a special outreach project for our district to focus on victims of abuse.
- formed a committee to review our District 10 Policy and Procedures.

The Spanish Intergroup is very active in connecting with the Spanish groups in several different districts. We do not have a Spanish Intergroup Representative in our district at this time, and we are hopeful that someone will volunteer soon.

We recently had a committee review the opening and closing of the district meeting, and come up with guidelines for the district. The GR's had time well before the meeting to use their Al-Anon Service Manuals and other CAL (Conference Approved Literature) to use Knowledge Based Decision Making before the meeting. Time was allowed for discussion at the meeting, and the GR's voted and approved the guidelines.

We have recently been contacted by the Clemont Area as they are interested in starting an Al-Anon Group. It is so great to be able to see new groups forming to share in the recovery that the Al-Anon program offers.

The 2011 Convention Committee has already set up their meeting dates for next year. Members are stepping forward to participate in the convention, and it is exciting to see things in motion. I look forward to par-

icipating on a committee soon.

Thank you to our District 10 members for the willingness to step forward in service.

Thank you for a great year in sharing your recovery at meetings, and your dedication to the wonderful Al-Anon and Alateen program.

Hugs,
Darla S.- Your District 10 Representative

DISTRICT 11 REP: LLEW E.

District 11, also known as Brevard County, has been busy:

- THE BILLBOARD IS UP!! Carole, our AIS/Voice of Public Outreach, was very diligent going back and forth between the World Service Office and the billboard folks to get the artwork and the contract just right and it worked!! If you are driving North on Interstate 95, just before you reach the exit/overpass to Highway 50, the billboard with the new bookmark artwork is up. In fact, a very nice member from District 4 approached me at Assembly to say she had seen it.
- Our Gratitude Dinner was great – they usually are. Great Food. Great Fellowship. Great Speakers. It was hosted by one of our newest groups. Some members had never attended a Gratitude Dinner, but you certainly were not able to tell. I am looking forward to next year's already!
- District 11 has established a year-long calendar so that it will be easier to keep track of upcoming events in the District and the North Florida area. One of those events will be elections in the District for the new panel of officers and chairs. Hard to believe that two years have gone by so quickly. I guess we have been having fun. At least, I like to think so. This calendar also shows us the schedule for District meetings, Assemblies, Lois' Birthday so that we can specifically "Remember to Forget," and anything else that pertains to Al-Anon during the year. It is printed on a really bright colored paper so that it might be hard to lose.
- The first weekend in February, 2011, will find several of the Brevard County Al-Anons attending the Space Coast Round-Up with

Al-Anon participation. This is hosted by the Brevard County Intergroup of AA. Al-Anon has been invited to participate in this event for several years, not only by having workshops, but also being allowed to display and sell Al-Anon literature during the event. So, if you are close to Cocoa Beach February 4th or 5th (during Al-Anon activities), we would love to see you at the Continental Palms Hotel (formerly the Cocoa Beach Holiday Inn.)

District 11 shared responsibility for the Hospitality room at the Fall/Winter Assembly in December and will be hosting the 2012 Convention. Concept 4 will be coming out to play quite often in the upcoming months; it's possible that Tradition 12 might make an appearance here and there also.

Llew E.—District 11 Representative

AARP @ 50 ORLANDO CONVENTION

Seven Al-Anon Family Group members from Districts 6 and 10 staffed the AFG booth and display at the AARP event on September 30, October 1st, and 2nd, 2010. All seven of us were more than grateful to be able to attend this event telling so many people who we are, where we are, and what we are about.

The AFG display table was located in the Government and Non-Profit Section of the huge North Hall of the Orange County Convention Center. We were opposite the display for Nar-Anon Family Groups, and AA had a booth two aisles away. Both of these groups were funded by their National organizations.

We made a packet of several pieces of CAL and handed them out asking folks to read what we were about. Most of the 800 to 900 packets we distributed were willingly accepted. We asked that if they read it and found it was not for them, would they pass it on to their doctors, lawyers, minister, or just leave it behind in an office.

We had many Al-Anon members greet us literally with open arms. Some told us their story; we listened and helped as best we could without giving advice.

Questions included:

"And what are you about?"

"Can I help my sister? Is there a book I could send her?"

From a Mom who had talked to the AA members who sent her to us wondering, "What happens now?"

From a brother who has been close to his brother for years, but now the drinking has come between them said, "How can I get some help?"

Then of course, there were a few nervous snickers and snide remarks, but one of the most unusual comments came from Willy, the lady who had a husband who is a drinker, is diabetic, and can't perform sexually, who said, "What could ya'll do for Willy?"

There was a gal who sat down a moment, realized what and who we were and said "I've been to Al-Anon. After I heard all the stories at meetings of troubled lives, I realized I need to get on with my life and move on. I had a choice!"

A Grandmother whose 21 year old granddaughter has said, "I don't have a Mom anymore."

The volunteers agree that it would be good to put groups like AA, Nar-Anon, and AFG closer together. I do not see this as diluting our program, but as presenting a greater picture of who and what we are to the GAP (Great American Public).

It would be good for WSO to know that they might be the ones to fund this event. Next year the AARP annual Convention will be held in Hollywood, California.

It should be noted that all of the CAL books displayed were not perused at all, but titles were often said aloud. We did not sell literature. An attached inventory of items not used has been given to North Florida Area as they paid for the literature.

Thank you, North Florida AFG. Although not nearly all of the overall attendance of 22,000 people in three days stopped, at least nigh on 1,000 did! The volunteers (all seven of us) are grateful to have had this opportunity.

District 10 Volunteer Coordinator,

Bernie M., Orlando, FL

**North Florida AFG—Area World Service Committee (AWSC) and Area Assembly
Panel 49—2011 Hotel Information and Assignments**

Dates	Event	Location	Room	Assignment	District
Mar 4 - 5	Spring AWSC	Hilton Ocala 3600 Southwest 36th Ave. Ocala, FL 34474 I-75 Exit 350 877 602 4023 352 854 1400	\$99 Cutoff Feb 11	Hospitality Spiritual Meeting Sat Sgt. at Arms	District 12 District 8 District 3
May 13-15 *Dist 4 Traditions: 9 & 10 *Dist 10 Concepts 9 & 10	Spring Assembly	Hilton Ocala 3600 Southwest 36th Ave. Ocala, FL 34474 I-75 Exit 350 877 602 4023 352 854 1400	\$99 Cutoff April 22	Hospitality Fun Shop Fri Light Side Sat Raffle Sat Registration Fri/Sat GR Orientation Sat Red/Grn Light Sun Spiritual Mtg Sun Sgt at Arms	District 1 & 2 District 5 & 7 District 10 District 9 District 11 & 12 District District 6 District 4 District 8
Aug 5 - 6	Fall AWSC	Hilton Ocala 3600 Southwest 36th Ave. Ocala, FL 34474 I-75 Exit 350 877 602 4023 352 854 1400	\$99 Cutoff July 15	Hospitality Spiritual Meeting Sat Sgt. at Arms	District 4 District 6 District 12
Oct 21-23 OR Oct 28-30 *Dist 6 Traditions <u>11 & 12</u> *Dist 8 Concepts 11 & 12	Fall Assembly	Hilton Ocala 3600 Southwest 36th Ave. Ocala, FL 34474 I-75 Exit 350 877 602 4023 352 854 1400	\$99 Cutoff Sept 30	Hospitality Fun Shop Fri Light Side Sat Raffle Sat Registration Fri/Sat GR Orientation Sat Red/Grn Light Sun Spiritual Mtg Sun Sgt at Arms	District 5 & 6 District 9 & 12 District 2 District 11 District 1 & 7 District District 4 District 8 District 3

Remember to get a confirmation number when you make a reservation. When rooming with someone include both names on the reservation. Reservations must be made 21 days in advance of the event to honor contract terms. Make sure you inform the hotel you are with North Florida AFG to get the room rate and a reservation for blocked dates. Tax exempt rooms apply only to payments made by the North Florida Area Treasurer.

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