

Alternate Delegate Report AWSC Mar, 2010

Terry Kirkpatrick

Hello North Florida! I hope you had a great holiday season and survived this cold winter.

It's been an eventful winter. I had the opportunity to work with our Delegate, Terry Follett on a proposed CAI. What's a CAI, I asked? "It's a Chosen Agenda Item," Terry said. "It will be submitted for discussion at the World Service Conference. A lot of Delegates will submit them but only a few will be added to the Agenda." The idea is to bring up a topic that could affect Al-Anon groups and members worldwide. It was challenging to work on an idea that could be that far reaching.

In February Andy and I loaded up the car and headed to Jacksonville for the North Florida Area Service Funshop!! It was a great day and Carolyn, her committee and all the folks in District 3 deserve a big thank you for a job well done.

The featured guest was Mary Lou M, Associate Director of Group Services at WSO. The evening before the Funshop there was a dinner for those of us who could attend. The woman who sat down next to me was introduced as Mary Lu. We discovered a mutual interest in Al-Anon history and spent a bit of time talking about the soon to be released movie, "When love is not enough: The Lois Wilson Story." If you're wondering about Al-Anon's involvement, we're "cooperating with," not endorsing or lending our name to the production. I do understand that the number for Al-Anon world service will be put on the screen at the end of the program.

We also talked about the Power Point presentations for Alateen training. She was involved with the production of the presentations and underscored that we can modify them to suit our needs.

I took a few minutes to read an article from the Forum. As a Forum article it has a copy write so I can't publish it here, but it's about a mother who's children aren't perfectly dressed as she takes them out the door and how that would have worried her in the past. But now, in Al-Anon, she's able to give them more important things like her attention and love. She ends by thanking her Higher Power for allowing her to see the change in her life thanks to Al-Anon.

Does that sound like something you might hear at a meeting? It's from the Forum. The October, 1990 Forum. Forums never go out of date. I've suggested keeping your groups older Forums for newcomers. (We all were told about the Forum at our first meeting, but very seldom were actually given one.) Remember any Forum is a valuable tool for recovery. A few years ago I found a forum from 1982! It contained an article about step two that made it completely clear to me. It had been a gift at the time and it was a gift to find it again. So remember to tell your GR They *ARE* the Forum representative. And get

people to publish, publish, publish!! And Remember we're NORTH FLORIDA, not just Florida.

I have a display board with many NORTH Florida sharings on it. I'd like to get a lot more! I know that several of the Forum sharings from Florida are ours. But without letting WSO know what area you're from, I can't add you to my list.

Now for the Answer to the question: "In the story of AA and Al-Anon, there are two Ann's. Who were they, and what was their part in our history?"

Ann Smith was Dr. Bob's wife. She was very active in the early Akron AA fellowship. Ann S. died before the advent of Al-Anon, but she is held in high regard for the work she did with both AAs and the families of AAs.

Ann B. was a friend of Lois and a member of a Family Group. She and Lois contacted the original family groups and handled the communications between those early groups. The two women moved the Al-Anon clearinghouse from Stepping Stones to the "old 24th street clubhouse," in New York City.

Now, the question for today (This is a tough one): Our seventh tradition says that we are self-supporting through our own voluntary contributions. What was the date of the first contribution?

Thanks for your attention and thanks for all you do for Al-Anon.

Terry Kirkpatrick

North Florida Alternate Delegate.