

Alternate Delegate's Report
October Assembly 2008



“I’d rather be on the rollercoaster of recovery than the merry-go-round of denial”, (August 2008 *Forum*, pg.25). Hello North Florida assembly members, old and new!!!! It’s hard to believe we’re at our last assembly meeting for panel 46. Sometimes it feels like we just got started! Congratulations for your hard work and willingness to serve. Do you feel like you know what you’re doing yet? Good! Just in time to pass it on. Are you still having fun??? I hope so. I feel truly blessed to work with you all.

As I reported at the June assembly, the first ever *Forum* Coordinator conference call occurred on June 14, 2008. I was able to take part in the call and heard lots of creative ideas. The two “Hot Topics” discussed were “How do we increase the use of *The Forum* in our groups and in our personal lives?” and “How do we encourage more members to subscribe to *The Forum*?” There were 40 areas that participated, as well as Bob Schneider, Director of Communications, and Julie Miller, Communications Manager-Member Content, both from WSO.

The Forum department has changed the process of how it shares information with *Forum* Coordinators. Rather than sending by mail, or e-mailing new information, WSO has created a “file exchange” where information is placed and when new things are posted, an e-mail is sent to all *Forum* coordinators directing them to log on with their user name and password in order to retrieve the information. This new method of sharing information seems to be working well as information shared is very timely.

As I have reported in past reports, the October 2007 *Forum* has a great article on the use of Concept 10 both within AI-Anon and at home. **It highlights responsibility, accountability, and clear communication regarding what a job entails. It also states that if there is no confusion about roles, and we know what a job entails, then we should only take a service job if we’re willing to do what the job does entail.** The August 2008 *Forum* shares new from this year’s World Service Conference regarding the questions of “Are we adequately preparing our future trusted servants for their service positions?” and “What resources might be relevant to the preparation of future trusted servants?” (pgs. 22-23) Great suggestions and feedback were given and with all of our elections the information is timely. Please read these ideas and share them with others. The September 2008 *Forum*, also has a great article regarding Concept 9 and leadership

leading to spiritual growth (pgs.32-33). This article is also very pertinent at this time on our current journeys through service.

A reminder that if you want to contribute to *The Forum*, sharings can be submitted on-line, by e-mail, faxed, or snail mailed. Writing guidelines are available in the August *Forum* as well. Sharings are needed on humor, the three legacies and how you apply them to your lives, Alateen, CAL Corner, and the "My Story" section. The *Forum* department is also asking for sharings from men, members from Canada and other countries, in order to "reflect the diversity of our fellowship". *The Forum* also wrote a sincere thank you to all the members who put what was in their hearts on paper and shared so honestly with the fellowship.

Many creative ideas were shared in the conference call regarding increasing the use of *The Forum* in our meetings, districts, areas, and in our personal lives. The AWSC members will find an attached list of many of the ideas Area Forum Coordinators have used. Share them in your districts and GR's please make sure your D.R. passes them on to you. And try some of them. A major theme that came from the conference call, is that we that know of the benefits of *The Forum*, need to make noise. If folks don't know what's in *The Forum*, they aren't going to use it or encourage others to use it. "*The Forum* has the potential to be a powerful tool to strengthen Al-Anon unity among members in the U.S. and Canada. To achieve this potential, it needs to become better integrated into our meetings and better recognized as an important tool for individual recovery," and "*The Forum* is also WSO's only opportunity to communicate with members at the group level every month (Conference Call Summary).

Let's talk a little bit about subscriptions. I learned during the conference call that of the approximately 16,000 groups, there are approximately 13,750 groups in the US, Canada, Puerto Rico, and Bermuda receiving a free copy of *The Forum*, mailed to the current CMA. There is no way to tell if the CMAs are actually taking *The Forum* to their group. There are around 20,000 individual subscriptions, down 4000 from last year. I also learned that each month 1334 individual *Forum* subscriptions end and 1000 subscriptions are renewed. The reasons given for not renewing include: no time to read it, the feeling that the articles are felt to be "the same old same old", and relying on the free group copy. A reminder was given that the group copy is not meant to replace individual subscriptions.

Have you remembered about this year's *Forum* subscription contest? Until the October 2008 assembly, each district can encourage members in their districts to subscribe or get other members to subscribe or renew subscriptions to *The Forum*. This addition of subscription renewals also being included in the contest is in light of the above reported knowledge regarding subscriptions being down. The D.R. will still be the communication link with me as with the previous contest, and I will again keep a tally until October 2008. And yes....there will be another prize. Good luck and do have fun! There are some subscription forms in the *Forum* display if you or your sponsee have not yet subscribed or renewed. You all have until 2:00pm today to get your numbers into your D.R. so he/she can get them to me. I'll announce the winner before we close today. Good luck!!!!

As we all continue growing through the rest of this last year of Panel 46, please continue to ask the questions and share your successes and concerns. Thank you so very much for the honor of being able to serve with you.

Love in service,
Terry Follett
Alternate Delegate
Panel 46

Attachment:

Using your Forum

Hot Topic # 1: How do we increase the use of The Forum in our groups and in our personal lives?

Hot Topic # 2: How do we encourage more members to subscribe to The Forum?

- 1.) Include a past issue in newcomer packets
- 2.) Take subscription forms to meetings and district meetings
- 3.) Encourage Alateens to submit their sharings
- 4.) Have Forum workshops at Regional Service Seminars, assemblies, district meetings
- 5.) Donate subscriptions
- 6.) Use Forums in newcomer meetings
- 7.) Include self-addressed, stamped envelopes with subscription forms
- 8.) Use the Forum the first meeting of each month
- 9.) Have Forum writing contests and subscription contests
- 10.) Use the Forum for Legacy meetings
- 11.) Pass a can with paper and pencil for members to put his/her name and number. When enough \$\$\$\$ raised, pull name out to give that member a Forum subscription
- 12.) Use Forum for the “leave hope” project in April and along with the Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism magazine for September Recovery month
- 13.) Forum coordinators and district chairpersons visit and promote the Forum and have writing workshops
- 14.) Members involved in service share in our reports how we used The Forum in our meetings
- 15.) Have it be the centerpiece of the meeting twice a month
- 16.) Remind GR’s they are the group’s Forum Representative
- 17.) Do a fun skit to encourage greater use
- 18.) Give a gift subscription
- 19.) Use the Forum in Public Outreach projects
- 20.) Repeat, repeat, repeat
- 21.) Educate, educate, educate
- 22.) Do workshop centered on answering the questions-the 2 “hot topics”
- 23.) Do a flier to promote writing for *The Forum*