

District 8 Fall Assembly Report

As I consider all of the growth that we have experienced, as a district, as a panel, and as an individual member in AI-Anon, I am humbled. Most of us began with only a vague notion of how to move forward and what our jobs would entail. We had structure in place, we had guidelines and we had a tremendous amount of love for our program. Now the harvest is reaped and we begin to sow the ground for spring. We plant seeds, we nurture and nourish and we do our very best to leave the district just a little bit better off for our participation.

It is absolutely clear that we have grown, most of us in ways that may have surprised us. What I see personally is how my definition of love has expanded, how it includes all members of AI-Anon, and how my love and respect for myself has grown. I feel clearer, more grounded, then when I began. I have formed bonds with other members of my district that are very deep. We have played and worked together, we have stretched and groaned together, we have shared and recovered together.

In terms of the tangible, I am proud to acknowledge some of our accomplishments. Our elections were held during the September monthly meeting and many posts have been filled. We will meet again in October for an abbreviated district meeting to hold elections again to see if the remaining positions have volunteers. We will also prepare the budget for 2018. In November, we will hold our Turnover meeting (a potluck lunch scheduled for after the district meeting.) In December, we will celebrate together with a Holiday gathering after the district meeting; food, fellowship and fun. We will enjoy a presentation with our Area Archivist. This provides a perfect ending to this panel with respect for the longevity and richness of the past of AI-Anon.

We have seen so much recovery in action! Financially, we have recovered our footing and will be leaving the next panel in good stead with ample reserve. In almost every area that we are spending, we have been able to recoup significant savings through the efforts of our team finding efficiency and better vendors to work with.

In terms of public outreach, our commitment to our community shines through.

- Our webmaster has made some major changes to our website; refreshing the home page, incorporating more interactive components, and expanding the use of intuitive navigation. A click on the Meetings tab brings up a chronological list for the current day, arranged by start time with the name and address for each group. There's a designated tab for en Español, and the Events section has all the details on meetings, picnics and parties!! The webpage address is: tampabayalanon.org
- Been available to new and visiting AI-Anon members by maintained our answering service with dedicated volunteers.
- Spread the AI-non message through our Where and When and our monthly newsletter, The Serenity Messenger. In addition to keeping our members informed, the Serenity Messenger

has also served to make everyone aware when one of our small groups need support or when there is a new group that has been formed.

- Done several mailings to professionals throughout Hillsborough County
 - Participated in six separate Back to School events and Health Fairs, as well as an open house at a school for Nursing. In addition, we participated in the NOPE (Narcotics Overdose Prevention and Education) annual vigil. This is a National day of observance commemorating those lost due to drug overdose, and Al-Anon was invited to attend the local event.
 - Provided Al-Anon meetings and literature to many of the AA events in our area
 - Shared the message with Al-Anon calendars
 - Supported our teens! We now have 17 AMAIS and 2 Alateen meetings within District 8.
- Ongoing contributions to “Change for Change” in which funds are set aside specifically for literature, meeting support and attendance at events for Alateen members.
- Provided groups with the resources to reach out to new members through our dedicated literature chair
 - Helped groups stay relevant and enthused through the efforts of our Speaker chair

Together, we have made a difference for Al-Anon in Hillsborough County. Thank you, Thank you, Thank you, Higher Power, for this remarkable journey.

Diane M, District Representative
Michelle S, AISL