

2018 WSC Chosen Agenda Item Breakout Sessions

#2

CAI:

How can we increase our membership? To reach potential new members, we must raise public awareness.

It's important to reach out because many years ago when Al-Anon was recommended to me, I had never heard of it and didn't know what it was. Public outreach can be done in many different ways to bring that awareness of our fellowship.

CAI:

Is it time to continue discussing the wording of Tradition Eleven, to be mindful of the ever-changing methods of public communication and social media/networking?

Tradition Eleven has been previously discussed which resulted in the Public Outreach section of our "Digest of Al-Anon and Alateen Polices" being amended (in 2013) to reflect the inclusion of existing additional public media systems. However, would it be prudent to conclude the communication world is constantly evolving? Continuing to have a conversation would confirm with the membership the desire to stay current and relevant with the message that Al-Anon is not standing still.

CAI:

Placing WSO Al-Anon public service announcements on national TV shows such as Dr. Phil, Dr. Oz, etc.

Increase public awareness of Al-Anon and its mission. Announcements mentioned by Dr. Phil would likely have a wider impact than local announcements as well as be cost effective. Announcements placed by the WSO would be in addition to those placed by groups, Districts and Areas.

CAI:

What process was used in deciding to use live actors in Public Outreach Media?
Concern regarding anonymity preached, but not practiced at the public level.

Are newcomers aware of our policy of anonymity at the public level when they first attend? What if they see the same actor in a compromising situation? Is it really so important to go with full faces knowing some of our possible membership may be scared away?

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#9

CAI:

How do the small groups/meetings in rural America fit into the Board's Vision and Mission?

What is the Al-Anon vision for rural America 5, 10, fifteen years down the road? What is the outreach strategy for supporting groups/meetings in locations far from large populations? How are the Areas supporting or reaching out to rural populations? How can we learn and apply our experience in this area for the benefit of emerging structures and also learn from the successes of emerging structures which have members in rural areas?

CAI:

Finding ways to increase and support rural/small town participation in Al-Anon and all levels of Al-Anon service.

Al-Anon membership and service participation beyond the group level is low in these areas. Lack of resources, vast distances between communities, concerns regarding maintaining anonymity and strong social stigmas prevent many from seeking help. Areas with large minority and non-English-speaking populations face additional cultural and language challenges. We are not reaching them.

CAI:

Groups in small communities have challenges feeling connected to their District, consequently, they may be hesitant to take service positions in the District

Distance between groups, especially in outlying communities seems to create a barrier for some members to participate in service roles. Declining participation in service positions creates gaps and unfilled positions. What methods are being used to encourage individuals to step into service, so that individuals are able to grow and experience the "Joy of Service"?

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#11

CAI:

"Former" A.A. member

We have many A.A. members joining Al-Anon, which is a good problem. However, some who "used to" participate in A.A., but no longer considers them self to be an alcoholic, want to stand for GR. What would be the protocol for handling this situation?

CAI:

Revise the *Service Manual* to cover Al-Anon members who were A.A. members who aren't currently attending A.A. and wish to hold Al-Anon service positions above the group level.

These previously active A.A. members state they no longer need A.A., they weren't really alcoholics, or they stay sober with Al-Anon and Al-Anon is now their primary program. They bring views from the A.A. service structure, not understanding/maintaining the separation between the service structures of Al-Anon and A.A. These members are known to have been A.A. members, they bring the A.A. perspective to Al-Anon service beyond the group level and their service creates controversy.
