

AFG Area 9 – Florida North Guidelines

Service Structure

AFG, Inc. vs. AFG the Fellowship

At the 2012 World Service Conference, the Chairperson of the Board and a Trustee demonstrated the difference between AI-Anon, the organization, which Lois incorporated as AI-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc. in 1954; and AI-Anon Family Groups, the fellowship (Similar to our Area Assembly and NFA AFG, Inc.).¹

AI-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc., the Corporation

- Exists in the eyes of the law-the Board of Trustees is legally responsible for AFG, Inc.
- Has tax-exempt status
- Is the legal arm-protects our logo, our copyrights, our trademarks (name)
- Conducts the business of AI-Anon
- Has a governance document, the By-Laws of the corporation, which is amended by the Board of Trustees
- Recognizes the World Service Conference as the ultimate traditional authority

AI-Anon Family Groups, the fellowship

- Doesn't exist in the eyes of the law
- Doesn't have tax exempt status
- Is the traditional arm – provides meetings and service structure
- Provides support for individual members
- Has a governance document, the World Service Conference Charter, which is amended by the World Service Conference
- Recognizes the Board of Trustees as the chief service arm of the Conference

Applying this structure at the Area level

NFA AFG, Inc., the Corporation:

- Exists in the eyes of the law – the Board of Directors are legally responsible for NFA AFG, Inc.
- Has tax-exempt status
- Is the legal arm – able to sign contracts, and act on behalf of members
- Conducts the business of the North Florida Area of AI-Anon
- Has a Governance Document (Bylaws)
- Recognizes the Area 9 – Florida North Assembly as the ultimate traditional authority in Area business

¹ Adapted from Page 12 - World Service Conference Summary 2012

Area 9 – Florida North Assembly, the fellowship:

- Doesn't exist in the eyes of the law
- Doesn't have tax exempt status (nor do the Districts or Groups unless each individually organizes as such)
- Is the traditional arm – provides meetings and service structure (Officers, Coordinators, Events, Delegates)
- Provides support for members, Groups and Districts in the particular geographic location
- Has governance documents – Area Guidelines and Assembly Motions as passed by the Assembly
- Recognizes the authority of the Officers to act in accordance with the laws of the State of Florida

It may be helpful to familiarize ourselves with these similarities and differences, especially as we move into concentrated efforts to clarify Area Guidelines and Policies.