



THE LEGACY

Volume-51/ ISSUE 4

Oct-Dec 2014

North Florida Area Website: www.northfloridaAl-Anon.org

CHAIR WENDY R.

Dear Members,

What a wonderful Assembly! It was such an honor to see you all together, treating each other with courtesy, kindness and respect for each other's opinions. Such patience and courtesy are not seen much in today's world. This is what our program teaches us, and it was so evident this past Assembly!

It has been an honor to serve as North Florida Area Chairperson, I have received so much more than I have given, and this is truly the program of Al-Anon in action.

I hope the new Group Representatives enjoyed themselves and are excited about the next three years on Panel 55. Fasten your seat belts!

For all the Group Representatives, Growth Investment Persons, District Representatives, AISL's, Event Chairs, Coordinators, Past Delegates and, of course, my fellow Panel 52 Officers, I cannot thank you enough for your participation this past three years. I love each and every one of you in a very special way and your contribution to Panel 52 was invaluable.

Love & Hugs,

Wendy R.
Panel 52 Chairperson

Heard at Convention:

"Control was my drug of choice."

"Any small service is an opportunity to grow."

"Hocus — Pocus where's my focus?"

DELEGATE TERRY K.

As I looked out at the Assembly, full of new GRs I knew they were wondering what they had gotten themselves into. I quoted our co-founder, Louis W. "You're in for the RIDE OF YOUR LIFE."

I attended my first Assembly in 1987. A fellow by the name of Buck was sitting at the head table. He was the Delegate and he seemed to be having a good time. But I could tell it was a long way from a first year GR to Delegate.

That was the year that Florida split into north and south areas. It wasn't a pretty site. I left after the voting with a bad taste in my mouth. If this was Al-Anon Service I didn't want any part of it. By leaving when I did, I missed the fact that the GRs on both sides of the issue went out to dinner together that evening. In other words, I missed all the fellowship and Al-Anon love. It wasn't until three years later, when I was involved in the first North Florida Convention, that I got a real taste of that love. I've been in service ever since, first for my group, then for my district and finally for the area.

I'd like to thank Panel 52 for giving me the great opportunity to be your Delegate – it's been one of the great honors of my life. It's also been one of the most spiritual.

The World Service Conference happens once a year, usually in the spring. The conference lasts for about four days and by the time you add in travel days and a rest day before the conference start, I spent a total of about three weeks with my fellow

Delegates of panel 52. But over those three weeks I grew to love them.

Each New Delegate gets a Mentor and mine was Norm from New Mexico. I could not have had a better Mentor. Norm had wisdom, integrity and is a whole lot of fun. (At the opening dinner the Mentor "pins" the new Delegate.)

Nothing makes the concepts come alive like being at conference. You know that Concept about the Fellowship turning things over to the trustees? I know those Trustees! And the bit about the trustees turning over the day to day running of WSO to an outfit called "The Executive Committee?" Well, I know a lot of them too! And that concept about Participation being the key to harmony? Well I participated! And each time I went to the mike and said, "I'm Terry Kirkpatrick, Panel 52, Florida, North," I was proud to represent you guys. And I did go to the mike. I went to the mike with my service manual in my hand to show that I was going to ask a question, (you can ask questions until you're satisfied.) or I went to the mike to make a comment. I addressed the general sessions three times and gave a two minute talk to Panel 53 Delegates during their orientation. Here's what it's like:
:

The first day we registered, got our Conference notebook, and staked out an area in the hospitality room for our love gifts. (You don't have much room!)

We ate all our meals together. Following each meal we had a 4-hour general session, or breakout sessions. That included an evening session, after dinner.

During breaks we checked the hospitality room for mail and late love gifts. It was moving to get cards and letters from groups all over the Area, wishing me well. Thank you all.

There was very little free time. If we weren't in a session we were *talking things over with someone else*. I learned that we're doing good as an area. Some areas are having weird (sometimes funny) problems.

We discussed and voted. I could vote yes, no, or abstain. But I knew that I *should* always have enough information to intelligently vote yes or no. The last year I volunteered to be a mentor and was assigned Sandy, from Maine. I hope I was half as good at mentoring Sandy as Norm was mentoring me.

The last night is the final dinner and the outgoing panel is awarded its certificates. Yes, I got mine. People took a lot of pictures of the outgoing Delegates with the Chairperson of the board and the Director of the executive committee. I whispered to Rick, "How long does this go on?" and he said, "Until they get tired."

It's traditional that after the chairperson closes the conference, the outgoing panel entertains the rest of the conference by making fools out of themselves. We made our entry like pageant contestants with ribbons declaring who we represented. All the guys wore Hawaiian shirts. (When panel 52 had its first phone call, I asked what WSC meant by business attire, because in Florida that was an open collar dress shirt and khaki pants. The new Delegate from Hawaii piped up and said in his state business attire was Hawaiian shirts, cutoffs and flip-flops.)

We sang a song to the tune of "the Banana Boat song." Then each of us took turns at the mike making comments about us, our Area, or AI-Anon as a whole. I said, "I'm Terry K. from Tampa Bay, home of the newlywed and the nearly dead and the Viagra capital of the world! And thanks to AI-Anon I haven't had to contemplate killing an alcoholic in over 30 years!"

The next morning we caught the shuttle to the airport and caught our flights back to our homes.

I'll end with the three minute talk I gave to Conference:

God would and could, if He were sought.

I couldn't get my first attempt below 500 words, so I decided to tell you, not what I've done in AI-Anon, but some of what I've learned. Not all of it's from the program but it all applies.

My opening statement is an example of this.

Alcoholism tells the alcoholic that to get better he should drink more alcohol.

I don't like everyone. Why do I expect everyone to like me? (This is very freeing.)

The three "Cs" are true for Alcoholics, too.

AI-Anon is an upside down organization. As we progress in service we become more anonymous. How many people know their delegate's name?

She is angry. Must I be?

A neighbor told my wife getting old was hard because she had trouble getting on her knees to pray. (Now we get on our knees to pray at night.) To me the most important prayer is, "...I give you all of me, the good and the bad, to do with as you will..." I may not be able to do it completely, but I've got to mean it when I say it.

I once asked an Agnostic how she was able to do step three. She said she "just decided not to define God." At first this upset me. We have to define God don't we? Then I realized that defining God was putting a fence around him. God's bigger than my definition.

I say God is a "He" because I grew up that way. I really don't believe God has a gender.

What we do is less important than why we do it.

Helping others is probably the most important thing we do.

I used to pray, "God, make me more like you." Now I pray "God, make me the man you want me to be."

I didn't come into AI-Anon to pray "God, make me an instrument of your peace..." It just turned out that way.

When I looked back on last year's conference, I realized that this gathering contains the best people I've ever met. And the most of them.

More and more, I try to follow the quote on page 183 of the ODAT. "If thou attend to thyself and to God, thou will be little moved by what thou perceive outside of thee."

And Lois was right; this has been one hell of a ride!

Thank you all for what you do...

Terry K, Panel 52 Delegate

ALT. DELEGATE: SHELLEY C.

Hello North Florida!

One of my favorite responsibilities as Alternate Delegate has been leading the Forum Writing Workshops around the Area. I was recently told that several of our members have been published in recent months. I'm so pleased! So if you've wondered if that was___, then maybe it was! There may be more that I just haven't heard about. So I feel this has been a successful workshop to take to our North Florida Districts. And even if you aren't published, I trust your taking the time to put your thoughts and feelings on paper and having the trust to hand it to me, was a growth experience for you. I always somehow find that I learn things about myself when I journal. My Higher Power is certainly there because I don't know how that happens otherwise.

As Panel 52 comes to an end, I am reminded of the vision statement that I was asked to write at the beginning of the panel. I must admit, I haven't looked at it in a while and, when I read it again, I wanted to make some revisions before I let you read it. But I know that is just my perfectionism and I know I'm recovering since I resisted the urge. Here it is:

"I truly believe that my Higher Power put me in this position. My goal is to do His will, to use my talents, my strengths to accomplish whatever He puts in front of me. I felt from the beginning, from the moment of the election, that this is going to be a learning time for me. I hope to have a deeper, stronger understanding of the Traditions and Concepts, and the workings of WSO, and to use that understanding in my position. I want to be a contributing member of the Officer group and of the panel. My vision is that we will have an informed panel that passes information from WSO thru the area to the districts and then to the groups so that the individual Al-Anon member feels connected and supported by the service structure."

I put this on paper, kind of forgot about it for some time, and feel now that somehow I did continue to move in that direction and worked toward achieving those goals. This is one of the many ways that my Higher Power works in my life. I saw very clearly during the last election that my Higher Power was guiding my life and my actions. And I have spent time over the last three years using our new workbook, *Reaching for Personal Freedom*, among other CAL, to learn about our Traditions and Concepts. Although not perfectly, and struggling with my procrastination issues, I have expressed my opinions and suggestions when appropriate in meetings and conference calls. I also share information that I have learned, either at AWSC or the Assembly, at my group meetings, if the GR has not done so first.

I feel I have carried out my vision statement to the best of my ability over this panel. I actually had never written a vision statement, but now that I see its

value and power in my life, it is something I hope I will continue, as I continue to serve the fellowship of Al-Anon in whatever capacity God's will takes me.

Love in Service,
Shelley C.
Alternate Delegate Panel 52 N FL
Communicate Recovery

**SECRETARY
LLEW E.**

Hello North Florida Al-Anon/Alateen members.

Panel 52 is closing down and Panel 55 will be starting up. I want to thank the voting members from the Fall Assembly for giving me the opportunity to come back and be voted in to actually start a full three year commitment as your North Florida Area Secretary. Being voted in mid-term was an honor with your display of trust; being allowed to come back is an even greater honor. Thank you again for your trust in this P-word practicing person. Now if I can just figure out the correct pronunciation of the other Panel 55 member's names...

Llew E.
NFA Secretary, Panel 52

**TREASURER
CINDY J.**

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Treasurer for the last three years. I have learned so much, and will continue to benefit from the love and support you have all given me as I tried to bring simplicity and transparency to the finances of our Area.

There were a couple of things I wish I could have done – such as print out reports for the Districts and get a little more comfortable with some of the technical details. There are also some things I'm very glad we did – the budget roundtables;

unanimity in the passage of our budget for three years in a row; Area-wide communication about all things money; and, of course, the presence of chocolate!

I am grateful to have the chance to come back for Panel 55 as your Chairperson, and look forward to working with each of you over the next three years.

Cindy J., Panel 52 Treasurer

**GROUP
RECORDS
TONI C.**

Hello North Florida!

I recently assembled a notebook for the Panel 55 Group Records Coordinator with some of the exciting information pertaining to working in the WSO data base updating the North Florida Area group records.

What does the vital role of the Area Group Records Coordinator consist of at the Area level? The Area Group Records Coordinator is the "keeper" of Al-Anon group information. (*Al-Anon Guidelines Area Group Records Coordinator G-36*)

I feel that I have done the best that I have been able with this position, and I am so very grateful to have had the opportunity to serve the North Florida Area this Panel. My Higher Power never ceases to amaze me on this road to recovery especially while doing service work.

Love in service,
Toni C., Panel 52 Group Records

Heard at Convention:

"If I say, "no", to service, I won't continue to grow."

"Today I can look in the mirror and see not only the problem but also the solution."

"I can't do the twelfth step unless I do the other two sides of the triangle."

NEWSLETTER "THE LEGACY": JANET O.

Thank you, again, North Florida Area for the opportunity to serve as your Newsletter Coordinator for Panel 52.

It has been a wonderful experience, and I know that I have grown tremendously in the program.

This issue of *The Legacy* contains some of the answers given to the Red Light/Green Light questions presented at the Fall Assembly. (Pages 12-14)

Also, the next Panel's AWSC/Assembly dates are noted; however, the district assignments were not available for this printing. (Page 15)

Welcome Panel 55!

Remember: "Service is the Secret".

Hugs to All,

Janet O., Panel 52
"The Legacy"



ARCHIVES CHAM B.

SERVICE THROUGH ARCHIVES
FLORIDA NORTH AFG we are closing
Panel 52.

AL-ANON/ALATEEN ARCHIVES VI-
SION: BY LOIS W., October 12, 1986

"We have an archives in part to provide a record of our development for future historians...but also because, as time passes and our Fellowship continues to grow and expand, we find ourselves further and further away from the events of our past... we must be assured that the facts will always be available to guard against a misunderstanding of what has taken place." (Reprint permission Al-Anon WSO)

FAQ about Al-Anon's history: Please read the *New Archives Guideline 30...* 2013.

When did the A.A. Family Groups begin using the name Al-Anon?

In May of 1951, Anne B. and Lois W. wrote a letter to the original 87 A.A. Family Groups (including some Lone Members). One of the questions asked, "Do you approve of the name A.A. Family Group? If not, what do you suggest?" By March of 1952, the members selected the name Al-Anon Family Groups.

What does the name Al-Anon mean?

The word "Al-Anon" is simply a derivative of Alcoholics Anonymous, combining the first syllables of each word.

Which day in May of 1951 did Al-Anon begin?

The first letter is dated "May 1951", and the entire month is traditionally recognized as Al-Anon's anniversary.

When and in which state did Alateen groups begin?

Alateen groups were started in September of 1957, in Pasadena, California.

When and where was the first World Service Conference (WSC) held?

The first World Service Conference was held on April 20-23, 1961 in New York City, NY at the George Washington Hotel.

Is the Al-Anon logo approved by the Conference?

The circle within the triangle was approved at the 1968 World Service Conference.

Are Anne B. and Annie S. the same person?

No. Anne B. is the cofounder of Al-Anon. Annie S. is the wife of Dr. Bob, who is the cofounder of A.A. Annie S. passed away in 1949 before the Al-Anon clearing house was founded.

How does my Al-Anon group find out our World Service Office registration date?

Printouts with registration dates are sent to either the area delegates or group records coordinators twice a year. Many Al-Anon information service offices retain these printouts and are able to provide you with an answer. If your area is unable to locate the information, ask your Archives Coordinator to contact Group Records at the WSO.

Where can I find the history of Al-Anon in Conference Approved Literature?

Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual (P-24/27)
Alateen—Hope for Children of Alcoholics (B-3), pages 105-116
How Al-Anon Works for Families & Friends of Alcoholics (B-22), pages 141-149 and "Lois's Story," page 152
The Al-Anon Family Groups—Classic Edition (B-5), page 12 and entire text
Lois Remembers (B-7), Entire text and timeline on page 197
Al-Anon's Cofounders (P-87)
Anne's Story: Cofounder of Al-Anon Family Groups (P-66) – Out of Print
Lois' Story – Videocassette (AV-1) – Rental Only
Lois W. and the Pioneers – Videocassette (AV-24) – Rental Only
Al-Anon: Then and Now (a brief history) (AR-2)

What was the name of Al-Anon's first book and when was it first printed?

The Al-Anon Family Groups published in 1955. The original text was reprinted in 2000 and is available by ordering *The Al-Anon Family Groups—Classic Edition* (B-5).

Who wrote the *One Day at a Time* (B-6) daily reader and when was it first published?

Alice B., an Al-Anon member, spoke with many pioneers who shared their experience, strength, and hope to provide the fundamental principles for this work. The first publication was in 1968.

Are there any historical A.A. events listed in Al-Anon literature?

A few historical events of A.A. are listed in the timeline in *Lois Remembers* (B-7).

What is the name of the first on-line Al-Anon meeting registered at the WSO?

On June 18, 1996, CYBERSERENITY@LISTS.BEST.COM This email address is being protected from spam bots. You need JavaScript enabled to view. It was the first meeting to appear in our database.

With sincere appreciation for Al-Anon and Florida North Area 9 and its rich history,

Love and hugs in service,
Cham B., Panel 52, Archives

LITERATURE: DI T.

Here's the latest update of literature news:

Revised Literature: The latest printing of *Why Anonymity in Al-Anon?* (P-33) is a major revision of the pamphlet that covers many aspects of this topic, including anonymity on the Internet and as an important spiritual principle that we place above personalities. It remains eight pages long and sells for 35 cents (US).

New Daily Reader: A writing guideline for the new daily reader is planned to be included as an insert in the November issue of *The Forum*.

Sharings needed for "CAL Corner": Please encourage members to share about how CAL has helped them for this important feature of *The Forum*. We could especially use articles about *Opening Our Hearts, Transforming Our Losses* (B-29), *Having Had a Spiritual Awakening...* (eB-25), *Many Voices, One Journey* (B-31), and *Living Today in Alateen* (B-26).

We are also celebrating the 45th anniversary of *Three Views of Al-Anon—Alcoholics Speak to the Family* (P-15). This pamphlet includes "An Open Letter from an Alcoholic."

"CAL Corner": October's "CAL Corner" feature in *The Forum* will feature *Many Voices, One Journey* (B-31). In November, members share how *From Survival to Recovery* (B-21) has enhanced their recovery.

Explaining Why We Only Use CAL in Meetings: Did you know that *Why Conference Approved Literature?* (P-35) is also available as a free download on the Al-Anon Online Store and the Members' site? Pass this link on to those who ask "Why CAL?": <http://al-anon.org/members/pdf/P35.pdf>

CAL Sample Chapter:

Each quarter we post a sample chapter of Conference Approved Literature on both the Public Outreach site, www.al-anon.org and the Members' site, www.al-anon.org/members. From October through December, Chapter Four of *From Survival to Recovery* (B-21) will be featured.

Yours in gratitude and service,

Remember every time you open a book you get your story.

Love,

Di T., Panel 52 Literature

WEBSITE: SHELLY F.

Hello Florida North,

I've heard it said that the only constant thing we can count on is change. Before program I didn't know there was a choice, I saw change as frightening, daunting or just downright inconvenient. Today, I can recognize the good that comes from it and actually enjoy the process as it unfolds. I have great hope for the wonderful things that Panel 55 will bring us.

There is one thing that will not change when our Panel 55 trusted servants step into their new roles. The website email addresses will remain the same. However, your messages will be going to the new trusted servant taking over that position. So, when you send a message to chair@northfloridaal-anon.org, it will be delivered to the new Panel 55 chairperson, Cindy J.

When you begin your new service path at the district level, please keep in mind the guidelines for email communications. These were recently updated in our *2014-2017 Service Manual*. The use of full names or business email for Al-Anon related business is not recommended. Additional information can be found in the *Service Communication* section on pages 93-94. When our common welfare is given priority, we are strengthened in unity.

At our August, 2014 AWSC meeting, a Website Thought Force reviewed a new set of website guidelines. This document formally establishes the main purpose of our website and its ownership. It ensures continuity of content across panels and ensures conformity to our Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts. Like most guidelines in our program, they are suggestions proven to be beneficial to all, not directives. The committee's recommendation to adopt these guidelines must be approved by panel members to become effective. The thought force also advised the panel to create a password protected area for members only. It is my hope that Panel 55 will move forward on this so that trusted servants will have easier access to the information necessary to carry out Al-Anon business and protect information that is not meant for public use.

I am grateful to have had this opportunity to serve the Florida North Area. It has changed me into a better person and friend, only because of what never changes in the rooms of Al-Anon/Alateen – the unconditional love.

Shelly F.

Web Coordinator, Panel 52

webdudette@northfloridaal-anon.org

PUBLIC OUTREACH: ANN Q.

As your trusted servant in the Public Outreach position Panel 52, I have seen H.P. working to give us all opportunities to practice Step 12. Thanks so much for all you have done. Your carrying the message is often quiet, consistent service in reaching out to those in need. I am very grateful to have had the opportunity to work with you and be a part of these experiences.

1) At the Assembly on Oct 1-3, 2014 we discussed the update on the Replacement/Purchase Offer from ProForma the Magnetic sign Co. If we purchase 1000 for \$1..20 each, we will only have to pay for 500 (\$600) because of our dissatisfaction with the previous order. I will have the ProForma address for all those who asked for it.

2) We voted to fund the table @ Pain Medicine and Addiction Conference, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 10/30-11/11 2014, where the Experts in Pain are meeting. (in the Land of District 3).

Let me count some of the ways North Florida has been carrying the message:

- *Inviting newcomers to Meetings, Gratitude Dinners, Workshops, etc.
- *Listening – when someone is reaching out
- *Bus stop signs with our PO message in several Districts
- *Displaying Magnetic signs/Bumper stickers displayed on cars, in offices, clubs, churches, club houses, treatment facilities, police and sheriff offices. Some signs have traveled on cars and trucks to Chicago, Va., N.Y. etc.
- *Donating books to the libraries, schools, treatment facilities
- *Speaking at meetings, conferences, schools, sheriffs offices
- *Sharing Al-Anon meeting lists with AA meetings for spouses and families
- *Writing articles for *The Forum* or the

Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism 2012-2015
*Volunteering at Gratitude Dinners, Anniversary Parties, Day of Workshops
*Newcomer book giveaways of How Al-Anon Works

*Making or buying supplies for those with talents to create gifts for the Boutique at the Conventions, the Assemblies, and the AWSC meetings.

Please continue to carry the message to those who are still suffering from the effects of Alcoholism while enhancing your own program. Do service! Service is a way of attracting others to our fellowship. This time in the 3rd year of Panel 52 the new service opportunities are endless. Stand up, show up and you will be surprised at the fun, fellowship and growth you'll have. I do know from personal experience. Thanks to all who have made my Public Outreach Panel 52 experience a great one. May HP reward you for all you have done to help me grow.

Hugs,
Ann Q., Panel 52 Public Outreach

SPANISH INTERGROUP: LETICIA R.

With some sadness and gratitude it is always an honor to meet good, willing people to keep our 12th step in action and get together to do it. I'm so excited to share with you my gratitude for having the opportunity to be an instrument to go to more Spanish speaking members in our area. I had the opportunity to see ideas come true, together with meeting people that are grateful for finding choices they never knew were possible through all of you one day at the time.

For me even in the hands of my grieving process for the loss of my husband almost 3 years ago and the loss of my 22 year old son this past December because alcoholism, I'm being blessed with your love and prayers. Through this process, when I planned to write my report, I found out a great friend in recovery with many decades of recovery passed,

and wow I found myself emotionally and spiritually down in the dark again. My sponsor and friends in program are being the key to my well being today. My life is full of many tools and a great family of choice reminding me to keep coming back. Life happens if I put my left foot in front of the right foot & I will be ok.

And on that note I'm glad to report in the past few months I have been working with WSO and a local free newspaper to put an ad of Al-Anon like the bumper sticker with the intergroup phone number. It will be printed in the next 4 months around the holidays coming up with a cost of \$89.00 dollars'. It is distributed the last week of the month in Tampa, Lakeland, Clearwater, and New Tampa, in the Spanish grocery stores for free.

In honoring our tradition of cooperating with AA in November— 28 29 de noviembre 2014 in the Sheraton Tampa east 10221 princes palm av, 813-623-6363 will be the xviii convencion estatal de la florida of AA spanish speaking convention, and we will have a table with literature and some meetings. A way to do 12 step work and share our experience strength and hope.

There is a Spanish telephone meeting every day at 9:00 pm at 1 806 970 0300 code 32106# To speak *6 with participation of people from Jacksonville, North Carolina, Miami, Georgia, Chicago, New Jersey, New York, Texas, Florida, etc., and even last week they had a speaker sharing live from Mexico.

With all my heart and gratitude I thank you for letting me be of service and showing me that recovery is a gift to give away if I want to keep it.

Please feel free to take some of the al-anon se enfrenta al alcoholismo 2015 from the intergroup to take to your group and ask someone to share it in some place. Please don't let it get dusty in your store's box.

Thank you all for being part of my journey.

Blessings,

Your Spanish Coordinator

Leticia R, Panel 52

**DISTRICT 1 AISL:
DIANE C.**

As panel 52 comes to a close it's hard to imagine that it has been 3 years since I accepted the position of AISL for District 1. I had gone to a pot luck turnover meeting to see how Al-Anon works. Good food, good fellowship and a learning experience to help me in my recovery. When I left, I was the new AISL for our district. I had no idea what that was or what I would be required to do, but I was willing! The number one thing you must do in service work is to be willing.

I must say it has been a real learning experience and growth I did not expect or imagine in my own recovery. I have discussed many things with my higher power, and I was not always in a good mood. I must tell you that a good sponsor is also paramount to doing service work. At least it was for me.

District 1 had its last district meeting on August 24, 2014. We shared with the GR's present how to go about group elections. So far only 2 groups out of 8 groups have held elections, I am hoping the other groups will have elections for their groups by Nov. 2nd—which will be our last district meeting for panel 52 and district elections for panel 55. I am really hopeful district 1 will elect a DR for panel 55, as well as an AISL and other chair positions to help us function as a district.

For me, I believe service is the key to recovery, and I am looking forward to what my Higher Power has in store. I am grateful for every experience, the good and the challenging, and for each of you on panel 52. I have learned so much from all of you. Thank you for your experience, strength and hope, and the love I have felt in these meetings.

Onward into service,

Diane C.

AISL, District 1

**DISTRICT 2 REP:
ELSA C.**

Here is our last report for Panel 52. It is with joy and sadness at the same time that I give you my last report. My recovery has gone to a higher level being the DR for District 2. I never thought that I would grow getting to know myself deeply.

I am grateful for my growth in recovery in the Al-Anon Program. I will miss you. For me it is time to go to the next level in recovery,

In love and in service, your grateful trusted servant,

Elsa C., District 2 DR

**DISTRICT 4 REP:
LUCY MacD.**

District 4 has approximately 32 - 36 meetings, including 3 beginner's meetings, 5 Book Study meetings, 2 Step Study meetings, 3 Adult-Child Focus, one institution meeting which meets twice weekly, and one meeting that meets thrice weekly. A new Alateen meeting started on September 12 @ 7:30 p.m. at United Methodist Church 1520 S. Daytona Avenue Flagler Beach, scheduled to coincide with established Al-Anon and AA meetings on Friday nights in Flagler Beach. The Alateen meeting has two AMIAS for sponsors and a list of alternates in case another AMIAS is needed.

District 4 continues to hold its business meeting on the third Saturday of each month at the Learning Center of Santa Maria Catholic Church in Flagler Beach. All are welcomed. It is scheduled from 10 a.m. to noon. It has been decided by a group conscience that we stay (a reasonable time, usually 20 - 25 minutes) until business is complete. We observe a 10-minute break at 11 a.m. and resume with a spiritual share by a

member; light refreshments are served. Attendance numbers between 22- 30.

Our district elections were held on September 27. There were 30 in attendance, many new Group Representatives (GRs). I am continuing as the DR, and Diana Z. will do so as (Al-Anon Information Services Liaison) AISL. Our Alternate District Representative (ADR) is Fran S. Many of the various AIS chair positions are filled; however, we are still looking for a "few good members". As a whole, our district officers and chairpersons are committed (???) to responding to emails/phone calls from fellow Al-Anon members in a timely fashion; this is an area in which we feel improvement is needed.

Fall Assembly was attended by 22 district members; Doug M was elected as North Florida Area (NFA) Treasurer for Panel 55. Congratulations! District 4, along with District 2, hosted the Hospitality Room for Assembly—what a learning experience! I believe that the guidelines for Hospitality at Assembly and AWSC are in need of clarification and/or revision. Something to think about for AWSC (Area World Service Committee) in February 2015.

Two groups from Daytona Beach co-hosted our District 4 Gratitude Dinner on Saturday, October 11, 2014, from 5 to 8 p.m. at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Daytona Beach Shores. District provided coffee, tea, water, and baked ham and turkey. All guests were asked to bring a covered dish (with food in it!) During the weeks leading up to October 11, it was discovered that the Church does not allow gambling on its premises (no raffle baskets, no 50/50), so as good Al-Anons that we are, we improvised: we had small orange containers on each table for monetary donations. That along with a couple of anonymous donations and a group donation, a total of over \$400 was realized after expenses. We had approximately 80 guests in attendance; the Al-Anon speaker was fabulous!

During our October 18 district meeting, it was voted to cancel the

November meeting and change the December district meeting to Saturday, December 6. The meeting will be brief, and a pot-luck brunch will be served (provided by each attendee bringing a dish to share; again, with food in it).

Yours in Service,
Lucy MacD,
District 4 DR

**DISTRICT 5 REP:
SHARON N.**

Thanks to all for sharing this service opportunity with me in panel 52.

At our District voting meeting on 09/27/14, we were able to fill most positions, except the top positions: District Rep., Alt. District Rep., and Public Outreach.

The next day after the meeting, I had members interested in taking the remaining positions. Our next District meeting in October could hopefully bring about all positions as filled. What a great ending to Panel 52 for our District.

We have many District events coming up: Gratitude Lunch in November, Holiday Party in December, and January our District will have our Day of Workshops with Alateen training available. All are invited with an RSVP. See our flyer at: nfdistrict5.com. Also, you can contact me personally if you have questions.

Our District is looking for a permanent residence for our District Meeting, and we hope to have good news to report for Panel 55.

I will say so long for now, and hope to see you along the way somewhere in service, "Communicating Recovery."

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon L.
District 5 DR

**DISTRICT 6 REP:
EVA N.**

We held our District meeting on Saturday, 9-27-14, and I am pleased to say that all our Officer positions are filled and several of our Chairperson positions, as well. We still have a few positions to fill and as the information trickles back to our groups, people will step up.

The Friday Freedom Group in the Villages is holding an 8 ½ year anniversary on Friday, May 10th at the Churchill Rec Center, 2375 Churchill Downs Drive, The Villages, 32162. 9:00 AM – 11:30 AM. There will be coffee and goodies to get you started and AA & AI-Anon speakers.

Our Convention team is busy at work making plans for Convention 2015, "Taking Care Of Business, the AI-Anon Way" at the Trade Winds Island Resorts at St. Pete Beach, September 18 – 20, 2015. You may register on line at www.TakingCareOfBusiness2015.com or by mail at NFA AFG, Inc., P.O. Box 742, Oxford, FL 34484. We look forward to seeing you all there.

We would like to close by saying a big "Thank You" to all the AI-Anon members, GR's, Officers, and Chairpersons that served District 6 during our Panel 52.

Yours in service,

Eva N, District 6 DR

**DISTRICT 7 REP:
ANDY M.**

As this year and panel 52 come to a close, I look back at what District 7 was able to achieve and challenges we continue to face.

This district was blessed to have an abundance of dedicated, talented and

driven panel members who not only served our district well, but also stepped up in a pinch twice when their trusted servants, Anna DO and I had to step away for personal reasons. I was humbled by the district's appeal to me to return nearly a year after I had resigned to take care of my ill wife. I was again humbled at how well the district was managed by Anna DO's sharp and focused management skills as well as Ginny's (our AISL) steadfast focus and unflappable dedication to her AIS chairpersons throughout the panel. It made my job so much easier, knowing that they all had my back - especially when I needed it most. The love and support I felt will remain in my memory and heart forever. Thank-you District 7 for trusting in me and Thank-you North Florida for putting up with me! (kind a like herding cats.. isn't it?)

We held our district elections and filled all of our district panel positions. We still have work to do in finding willing volunteers to assume the open AIS positions that remain.

Your servant,
Andy M

District 7 DR

**DISTRICT 8 REP:
CHARON L.**

It is hard to believe that our job is almost done. It has been interesting and sometimes exciting. Here's wishing Panel 55 much hard work and much growth!

Position Guidelines

With the help of all of the district panel officers, we were able to write position guidelines for all of our elected positions and distribute to the groups before our elections in August.

Elections, Elections, Elections

We filled 17 of our 19 positions at our August District meeting. Several chair positions remain open, but we hope

to fill them before the end of this panel: Literature Distribution Center and Where and When Information Services.

Alateens at N. FL Area Convention

The Alateens from District 8 were part of the opening session. They did a panel discussion of the Alateen program in front of a huge audience, and they did an amazing job! They received compliments all weekend about their performance. Our teens are wonderful ambassadors for the Alateen program and for District 8.

Event News

Gratitude Dinner

Our Gratitude Dinner was held on Friday Nov. 7th, 6:30 p.m. at St. Mark's Episcopal Church on Cain Rd in Tampa. Food and fellowship was enjoyed by all.

Mark your calendar for next year!

Our second Recovery Weekend will be held April 10-12 2015, at the Bethany Center in Lutz, FL. Registration is open to all Al-Anon members immediately so look for the form on the District 8 and North Florida Area websites. Register today!

Public Outreach

We had several outreach projects this year. Our Public Information Chairperson arranged to have 10 bus benches with the Al-Anon message throughout the county. Our Institutions Chair distributed Al-Anon literature to 30 institutions and our Cooperating with Professional Community chair mailed out literature to many professionals in the area including the publication, "Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism 2014."

Annual AA Tampa Bay Fall Round-Up

District 8, in cooperation with AA, and with help from our Literature Chair and volunteers set up a literature table at the Round Up and distributed information about our program. Our Alateens held meetings and presented a panel discussion as part of their effort to "get the word out."

We had a great three years and learned a lot about our great program and ourselves.

Charon L.
District 8 DR

DISTRICT 9 REP: JILL O'B.

As you are well aware this is the last Assembly for Panel 52! What an amazing experience this past 3 years has been for this DR. I am overwhelmed when I look back and think about how this all began. At the time I was voted in as DR, my state of mind and emotions were defiantly not very stable, and I was not exactly confident in my ability to fulfill this role in our District; yet I had the only thing one needs to serve in Al-Anon ...WILLINGNESS! I learned that from YOU! I remember explaining at our very first District Meeting to a bunch of new GR's and Panel members what I had heard about service in this program; in the first year we are confused, in the second year we may feel somewhat confident and in the last year we could actually be competent; and then it is time to move on to something else and leave room for others to serve and grow, as we have. I am in awe of what my Higher Power has done in my life and in District 9 during this Panel. I do not have the time or room in this report to tell you about all the Evidences of God but there have been plenty!! I am full of gratitude to District 9 for allowing me the opportunity to serve as their DR. We've come a LONG WAY BABY!! I have been amazed again and again by the members on our Panel who have given of their time and abilities to help serve in our District! We have been a TEAM and we have had a great three years!

District Elections were held on September 20th. As usual for this DR, I go into a slight panic because I have never done an election before...what to do...how to do it...what if this...what if that?? So, I do the best I can to research the Service Manual and ask the long timers how it has been done in the past...turn it over to my Higher Power and imagine that...it turned out perfectly...went so smoothly...it was unbelievable!! We have a couple positions that remain to be filled (Alt DR & Alateen) but hopefully that will happen before the year is over.

Celebrating Recovery Month in September, our Public Outreach Chair distributed AFA's to GR's asking that their members give them out to Professionals in their communities. This is always our largest AFG Outreach project of the year.

We have been asked to start an Al-Anon meeting at the AA Clubhouse in Winter Haven. The rent, we think, is rather high but after some discussion, waiting, praying, being asked a second time, and then voting, we have made a decision to give it a try.

We held an Alateen Training Session on Oct 18th after our District Meeting. Thanks to Marilu for doing one more training session before her certification expires this month. Four individuals took the training. We have been so blessed to have someone with quite a bit of Alateen experience in PA & NY, move into our District. As soon as she gets certified, we will be voting her in as the Alateen Chairperson and are looking forward to getting an Alateen meeting started in District 9.

Saturday, November 1 was our Gratitude Dinner which was held at Sebring Christian Church on Hammock Rd at Noon. There was an Al-Anon and AA Speaker and all sorts of fun.

Our last District Meeting of the year will be December 6th with our Holiday Party afterwards.

As grateful as I am to have been the DR for District 9, I am equally grateful to have been a part of the NF AWSC and Assembly. To watch the way you work and to work together with you, to listen to your words, to feel your enthusiasm, to see you work through your struggles, to hear of your growth, to listen to you laugh, to feel your pain, to get to know you better, has been an encouragement to me and has caused me to want more...I want what you have! I know what that means...I have to do what you do! I am ALWAYS reluctant to try new things. My Higher Power knows that about me! I continue to be blown away when I realize that once again He has worked through other Al-Anon members to plant seeds of encouragement about service into my

ears, which slowly penetrate into my mind and eventually ends up in my heart. I look forward to serving on NFA Panel 55 as Alternate Delegate! God Bless and Guide us all!!!

Gratefully *Communicating Recovery*,

Jill O'B
District 9 DR

DISTRICT 10 REP: MICHEL S.

As we pass the "Torch" from panel 52 to panel 55, I find myself reminiscing about the past 3 years...

...Moving NFA from Ocala to Orlando...challenging and Brilliant!

...My DR firsts... first AWSC meeting, first Assembly, first Task Force assignment ..all scary and exciting.

...Our visit from Ric B. and the Concepts...a wonderful Al-Anon experience. Awesome!

I have grown and learned so much. I am profoundly grateful for the opportunity to have been the DR for District 10. Here are just a few benefits I received...I learned to make and even laugh at my Mistakes

...I became more aware of my character defects AND assets

...I learned to ask for help and how to work with others, teamwork is more FUN!

...I learned to place principles above personalities

...I grow in self-esteem when I do service work

...Service work helps me with my spirituality and gives me a sense of purpose and program

I have learned that service work helps me grow in all areas of my personal growth. Enough about me, here's some D-10 news...The Turnover Committee chaired by Lois M., is busy meeting and planning the Turnover Event for November 15.

District 10 has 5 Alateen meetings. Two of these meetings are in High Schools. We have recently been getting inquiries from other schools looking for Alateen. All of our Public Outreach positions are currently filled for Panel 55. Lots of new and innovative ideas are being tossed around for P.O.

District 10 has a 'Gratitude Brunch' planned for Sat. Dec. 13 at the first Christian Church, 2565 E. Kaley in Orlando.

And last, but not least, a BIG Congratulations to all the new Panel 55 members !!!

Yours in service,

Michel S,
District 10 DR

DISTRICT 12 REP: SANDY P.

Our big news, as I'm sure it is for all other districts, is that our elections took place for Panel 55, and we are so excited that all but 2 positions (Speaker Event and Institutions) were filled. We even had more than 1 candidate for several officer positions and chairs. We did not have a newsletter in our district for most of panel 52, but our district voted to keep the position open and it was filled for panel 55.

Webmaster

We have a new and improved website! There is now an interactive Google map on the "Find a Meeting" tab. It shows the location of all our current District 12 Al-Anon meetings. Check it out! Our Webmaster has been getting more questions and inquiries through the website so she added a "Contact Us" form. It seems to be working in a similar way as the Helpline does. There is a new updated "Literature" section with pictures and descriptions of many of the materials Al-Anon has to offer - including an entire section of downloadable guidelines.

Alateen

Our chair met with the principal of Booker High School in Sarasota and told her about Alateen. She was very enthusiastic and moved us forward to meet the faculty of 100. We handed out information and did a short song and dance show. Next we met with the whole guidance counseling staff and again received positive feedback. Our next job is to produce a 1 or 2 minute Alateen commercial to show the students. If they show interest in Alateen, we are scheduled to do a 30 minute mini-meeting and, if there is continued interest, we may start up a regular meeting after school.

Public Outreach

We had someone new volunteer to take Al-Anon literature to the downtown public library.

Two members met with a team of Sarasota Drug Court counselors to talk about Al-Anon and hand out literature. One member attended drug court for a few hours and the drug court quickly requested more Where and When's.

Upcoming Outreach Opportunities:

National Night Out @ Payne Park
on 10/7 from 4:30 to 8:30.

Sarasota Police Department
Farmer's Market Booth.

The Sarasota Pride Fest October
18th.

Our AA Liaison requested that we add links to AA onto our district website, so we have done that and we now hope that our local AA webmaster does the same for us. We are growing in our cooperative outreach efforts with AA. We have several projects going on with them including an AA/NA/Al-Anon presentation to a group of nurses in October. We are looking into the possibility of running an ad at a movie theater. AA does this and we want to work with them so they are not running at the same time and place but possibly alternate.

Unfortunately neither Ginny nor I could attend Assembly. Ginny was out of the country, and I was at a hotel with

my children. So I hope I see you between meetings! I will miss you all so much!! Thank you for a wonderful 3 years!!!

Yours in love and service,
Sandy P.
DR District 12

DISTRICT 13 REP: ELLIE B.

DISTRICT 13 AISL REPORT

Archives:

Mary C is our Archives Chairperson and she has done a great job of organizing the District's information. She brought the archive information board to our Day of Workshops and has created a listing of all speaker discs available for loan-out. There are approximately 134 and they include talks given by Bill and Lois. She is working to complete all the group histories before the end of this Panel.

Public Outreach:

Brenda B continues to work in close cooperation with AA's Public Information Chairperson. She displays our literature and books at AA events. I hope to be meeting soon with the AA Institutional Chairperson and Brenda to discuss other avenues to cooperate in getting the word out. There was a start at bringing meetings to the jail in Port Charlotte, but this did not work out. Apparently the literature given out was being left behind and staff did not want to be responsible for picking this up. PO continues to participate in monthly health fairs in the Port Charlotte area. The information boards that Brenda created are available for display at any event.

I have been distributing the new magnetic stickers, and they are generating very positive interest. Some people immediately said they would like to have them available for purchase for more widespread use. For now, most groups are handing them over to a new person on a weekly basis.

I attended a meeting where a member said he regularly heard PSAs on

the radio station he listens to. I will get more information so I can send a thank-you note. Another member said they saw AI-Anon information posted at the Venice Public Library.

Our Area Alternate Delegate, Shelley C joined us on February 15th for our Day of Workshops. She wrapped up our day with her traveling Forum workshop and left with submissions ready to go to WSO. I also got member information to enter these writers into our PO Area writing contest at the next assembly. We were also pleased to have Sharon E from District 8 as our speaker. It is wonderful to have these trusted servants willing to travel and deepen our District's AI-Anon experience.

Group Records;

Linda B has stepped up to help with the information changes occurring in groups. There are new GRs for two groups and she will forward this information to Toni when she has received it. Our newest group has not had a person step forward to be GR yet, but the group is well attended and looks like it will continue.

Intergroup Liaison:

Sandy H coordinates with the AA Intergroup storefront to keep them up to date on meeting lists and information brochures. Our District depends on the AA hotline to make appropriate referrals to AI-Anon and this has worked out well. They have a list of names and phone numbers to give to people who need to talk to an AI-Anon. This cooperative effort continues to be positive for our District.

Website:

Our Website Chairperson has not been available to keep the website up to date. We voted at our last District meeting in February to ask for another person to step forward to work on the site. Sheryl has stepped forward to take on this task, and we are in the process to see if the previous website host will work with her to continue the current site. If not, we will need to start over and will be asking for help from other District web coordinators and our Area web guru.

Alateen Process Person:

Our APP stepped down after the last District meeting and indicated they will also step back from being an AMIAS. The District has had no new members step forward to be an AMIAS since the last round of certifications. All paperwork is up to date. This position is now open, and we ask all groups to announce this and see if there is a willing member to take it over.

Alateen

Our Alateen program seems to be in a transitional state. There is need for AMIAS at schools that want them and no AMIAS are available for these (four) meetings. We announce this need at meetings and there has been no response. The bottom line is that we have fewer AMIAS and fewer meetings than in the past. Is there something we can do as a District and Area to help this program grow in each local area? Is there a better way to reach teens?

To date no teen has preregistered for the Conference in June and yet there is much activity being generated in individual time and "requests" for District money, raffle baskets, boutique items. We will discuss this more at our next District meeting and would like to find some simple solutions to an event that seems very complicated. Could this time and money be better spent helping Districts in building their local Alateen efforts?

Our District has a heart for Alateens and many have voiced a desire to meet the needs we have at our District level in the best way possible. We appreciate Area support for this. The roles, however, seem to have been reversed; it appears that our District is being told to support an Area effort that reaches only a few teens.

Where & When:

These meeting information lists are up to date for each District Meeting where they are available to GRs to take to their groups. Our printing costs are very reasonable and these are widely distributed. They continue to be one of our best public outreach tools.

Respectfully Submitted,

Doris M, AISL, District 13,

RESEARCH FROM RED-LIGHT GREEN-LIGHT QUESTIONS (p.1)

Question 1. In a large Step Study meeting (average 24), 1 or 2 members sign to chair at least once a month. Is this a form of dominance?

I believe the short answer is YES.

Here are passages from our Service Manual and literature to back this up:

Dominance: Our leaders are trusted servants; they do not govern. No member of Al-Anon should direct, assume authority, or give advice. Our program is based on suggestion, interchange of experience, and rotation of leadership. We progress in our own way and pace. Any attempt to manage or direct is likely to have disastrous consequences for group harmony.

Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual page 24 “Three Obstacles to Success in Al-Anon” is from the pamphlet, Alcoholism, the Family Disease (P-4).

© Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc., Virginia, 2005.

This passage has helped many groups to resolve group problems.

Participation of members in group activities is important. This creates real involvement with the group and solidifies the relationship of the individual member to the group. Since each group has only a limited number of officers, it is best to have a policy of rotation, rather than have one member hold office for long periods of time. Other assignments may involve public outreach, bringing the refreshments for a limited period, setting up, and cleaning up. The more jobs available, the more members will participate and feel themselves to be an integral and important part of the group.

Concept Four reminds us that “Participation is the key to harmony.”

Al-Anon and Alateen members expect a safe and pleasant environment when they attend a meeting, and when one member causes unrest due to inappropriate or intimidating behavior, the entire group could be affected. Groups are within their autonomy to establish group behavioral guidelines in a manner that reflects their group conscience and abides by the Traditions.

One or two members may dominate the group, ignoring the principles of rotation in leadership.

When the behavior of any member impacts the group, members apply the Traditions to the problem, and determine how best to approach the individual(s) involved, to ask the member to change the behavior in question. This can be an exercise in applying Al-Anon principles so that the message is not a personal attack, but rather a request based on what is best for the Al-Anon group. Service tools on conflict resolution are available. See the Al-Anon Conference Approved Literature Catalog (S-15) or CAL Order Form (S-16).

Taking a group inventory, a rededication of the group to its primary purpose, a study of the Traditions and Concepts of Service as they apply to the problem at hand, and seeking the experience, strength, and hope of other local groups, perhaps at district meetings, are all good methods of overcoming group difficulties. (See the Taking a Group Inventory Guideline [G-8a & 8b] that is posted on the Al-Anon/Alateen Members' Website.)

Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual pages 54 and 55

Tradition 1

Our common welfare should come first; personal progress for the greatest number depends upon unity.

...It also means sharing with others our experience, knowledge and inspiration. It means being willing to take on duties to serve the group and the fellowship—as Chairman, Secretary, Group Representative, cleaner-up-er or in any other service role.

Al-Anon's Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions page 87

Tradition 2

For our group purpose there is but one authority—a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants—they do not govern.

**RESEARCH FROM RED-LIGHT
GREEN-LIGHT QUESTIONS**
(continued, p.2)

When a member has been appointed or elected to a specific office,...It is wise for the group to set time limits for each span of service; such rotation will not only share the work of the group, but provides valuable experience to those who serve.

Some members may have an inherent tendency to dominate everyone around them, carrying this behavior into the Al-Anon group. ...If this happens, the group has the ability to change this situation and preserve the spirit of equality through the use of Tradition 2.

Often members of a group are only too willing to let their Chairmen and Secretaries hold office indefinitely.....(A member) may gradually come to feel indispensable and important, and without realizing it, take a managing attitude.

The work of the group should be shared, and if the terms of service for each job is set in advance, it not only provides other members with the opportunity to serve, but also to gain the experience such service gives.

Al-Anon's Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions pages 93 and 94.

Question 2. If I don't have a computer, should I not be a GR (Group Representative?)

Re: Al-Anon / Alateen Service Manual

Group Representative* (GR):

- Acts as liaison between the group and the district and between the group and the Assembly.
- Familiarizes them self with the current copy of the Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual (P-24/27), and encourages its use among group members.
- Works through the district in helping to initiate public outreach projects.
- Encourages Alateen sponsorship in accordance with Area Alateen Safety and Behavioral Requirements.

Serves as a local representative of the Al-Anon/Alateen magazine, *The Forum*, by:

- Acquainting members with its usefulness.
- Suggesting personal subscriptions.
- Submitting group subscriptions to the WSO.
- Encouraging members to write articles.

Note; It is a fact that we use email etc. to communicate with one another, so a suggestion of finding someone in the group who would be willing to receive emailed information for the group and pass it to the Group Representative is always a solution. [A Computer Buddy!]

Re: Pamphlet "Joy of Service"

A group representative is an Al-Anon or Alateen member (who is not a member of AA) Elected by the group, for a three-year term.

One member's top twelve reasons for becoming a "Trusted Servant"

Two of the reasons below;

12. Free admission to all district meetings.

11. You don't have to do everything yourself.

Question 3. Is the primary purpose of outreach to bring more members to existing groups or to get the message out to those who do not know about Al-Anon?

RESEARCH FROM RED-LIGHT GREEN-LIGHT QUESTIONS (continued, p.3)

In doing this research we found that a section from the book, "Lois Remembers" is quoted often. On page 194 is the section this comes from, "Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, TV and films. Nothing is said about maintaining anonymity within our group, our family, and our circle of friends. Let us not mistake anonymity for secrecy. The degree of anonymity we practice is a personal matter. Most of us, I believe, do not wish to be anonymous within our own Fellowships. Anonymity here hinders our availability to help our fellow members. Also, if AA and Al-Anon groups do not let the public know of our presence, perhaps by announcing the time and place of meetings in local newspapers or by some other means, we lock ourselves off from those in need. The stigma of alcoholism still is strong. I believe it to be one of the responsibilities of our Fellowships to try to remove this stigma. To act as if AA and Al-Anon were secret societies only increases the idea of shame."

Our Al-Anon Guideline G-38 on Area Public Outreach states, "Public Outreach informs the general public through the media, professionals, facilities, and organizations about who we are, what we do, and how to get in touch with us. Our goal is to attract to our program those whose lives are or have been affected by someone else's drinking, so that those who need our program can find the help and hope we offer. We also strive for name recognition and credibility as a community resource."

On page 109 of our 2014-2017 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual it says, "It is the consensus of the sixth World Service Conference that if Al-Anon is to continue to exist, it must continue to grow. There is no standing still without retrogression. Al-Anon must continue to grow if it is going to fulfill its primary purpose of reaching millions who need Al-Anon's help but who are not yet aware of the existence of our fellowship. We will fulfill this primary purpose most effectively by attraction and cooperation – not promotion or affiliation...Al-Anon is attracting when it tells people why we are, what we are, what we do and how; we let them know that we are available if and when help is needed. We state the facts, which are communicated via the press, radio, TV and films, always stressing anonymity at the public level. Al-Anon is cooperating when it works with others, rather than alone. In working with others, our scope and contacts are broadened and reach many more of those in need."

Page 115 states, "In the dynamic world in which we live, we need always consider broadening our outreach efforts so that those needing our help may easily find us. This means that there is no end to the possibilities for carrying our message locally, nationally, and internationally. In developing or conducting public outreach using new forms of communication, including emerging technologies, Al-Anon's outreach message is safeguarded by consistently referencing the primary purpose of public outreach and by applying its underlying spiritual principles." How Al-Anon Works has this to say on page 120, "It is important that those who need what Al-Anon offers have the opportunity to hear about us. Each of us has benefited from the accessibility of the Al-Anon program, and it is important that we remain visible and available to those who seek out help."

Our book, "Many Voices, One Journey" gives us a history of how public outreach began and how it has evolved. Page 56 says, "In early 1953, Lois appeared on a CBS television program, Lamp Unto My Feet, with her face not shown." Page 91 talks about an article written in 1960 for Guideposts magazine about Alateen which created a burst of interest all over the country.

In 1962 Ann Landers mentioned Al-Anon in a column and 5000 people wrote to Al-Anon Headquarters. In 2008 our World Service Office launched its first podcast series in an effort to reach out to potential members, especially younger adults, with Web-based multimedia technology.

Finally, we can gain some insight from our World Service Conference Reports. In our 2014 report we find this on page 99, "The Board's strategic priority is 'to increase the visibility of Al-Anon, so that it is recognized as the number one resource throughout the world for helping friends and families of problem drinkers.' Increased visibility through repeated, multiple exposures is the primary tactic toward achieving the objective of wide public recognition of the Al-Anon name, which leads more people to learn more about Al-Anon and find their way to their first meetings. Visibility and name recognition are each measured in different ways." Our public outreach programs are ranked by gross impressions comparing 2012 with 2014. In 2012 there were a total of 741.8 million impressions. In 2014 there were a total of 1.2 billion impressions. The largest increases were via Facebook and Twitter.

**NORTH FLORIDA AFG AREA
AREA WORLD SERVICE COMMITTEE (AWSC) AND AREA ASSEMBLY
PANEL 55 – 2015 HOTEL INFO AND ASSIGNMENTS**

DATES (2015)	EVENT	LOCATION	ROOM RATES	ASSIGNMENTS *	DISTRICT	NOTES
Feb. 6-8	AWSC	Sheraton Lake Buena Vista- 12205 South Apopka Vineland Rd. Orlando, FL 32835 1-800-423-3297 www.sheratonlakebuenavistaresort.com	\$95	Hospitality Fri&Sat Spiritual Mtg Saturday evening Sgt. At Arms	District District District	Assignments to be made by new Panel 55 Chair
May 1-3	Spring Assembly	Sheraton Lake Buena Vista- 12205 South Apopka Vineland Rd. Orlando, FL 32835 1-800-423-3297 www.sheratonlakebuenavistaresort.com	\$95	Hospitality Fri & Sat Fun Shop Fri Light Side Sat Raffle Sat Registration Fri & Sat Red/Gm Light Sun Spiritual Mtg Sun Sgt. At Arms	District District District District District District District	
Aug. 14-15	AWSC	Sheraton Lake Buena Vista- 12205 South Apopka Vineland Rd. Orlando, FL 32835 1-800-423-3297 www.sheratonlakebuenavistaresort.com	\$95	Hospitality Fri&Sat Spiritual Mtg Saturday evening Sgt. At Arms	District District District	
Oct. 2-4	Fall Assembly	Sheraton Lake Buena Vista- 12205 South Apopka Vineland Rd. Orlando, FL 32835 1-800-423-3297 www.sheratonlakebuenavistaresort.com	\$95	Hospitality Fri & Sat Fun Shop Fri Light Side Sat Raffle Sat Registration Fri & Sat Red/Gm Light Sun Spiritual Mtg Sun Sgt. At Arms	District District District District District District District	

Remember to get a confirmation number when you make a reservation. When rooming with someone include both names on the reservation. Reservations must be made 30 days in advance of the event. There is a 48 hour cancellation notice. Make sure you inform the hotel you are with NFA AFG (North Florida Area AFG) to get the room rate and a reservation for blocked dates. Tax exempt applies only to payments made by the North Florida Area Treasurer.

CURRENT MAILING ADDRESSES

Panel 52 Officers & Coordinators

<u>Delegate Officer</u>	Terry Kirkpatrick, Dist. 7 3755 Philippe Drive Safety Harbor, FL 34695 727 725 1321 H 727 459 1321 C Nfa52del@fishtested.com	<u>Newsletter Coordinator</u> <i>The Legacy</i>	Janet Over, Dist. 4 2810 Ocean Shore Blvd #29 Ormond Beach, FL 32176 386 562 4212 Panel52legacy@gmail.com	<u>Dist 5 Rep</u>	Sharon Nalepa 835 Pritchard Island Rd Inverness, FL 34450 352 637 2916 slnalepa@yahoo.com
<u>Alternate Delegate Officer</u>	Shelley Campbell, Dist. 8 2923 Cloverfield Lane Valrico, FL 33596 813 334 5652 shelleycampbell@earthlink.net	<u>Literature/LDC Coordinator</u>	Di Trask, Dist. 8 6627 Marina PT Village Court #208 Tampa, FL 33635 813 215 0660 dianna_trask@yahoo.com	<u>Dist 6 Rep</u>	Eva Nelson 17096 SE 96th Chapelwood Circle The Villages, FL 32162 352 751 6530 eva_n_99@yahoo.com
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