

Alternate Delegate Report

Area 9 Assembly – May 1-3, 2015

I am so excited to share, along with Cindy B from Dist 12 and Doris M from Dist 13, with new GRs attending their first Assembly, on Friday night during the New GR Orientation! DRs please encourage your GRs to attend, as they will be given information and encouragement that will help them as they serve their groups in this new position!

The Forum

Please check out *The Forum* poster board display that will be at Assembly! I'm excited about the new look...no, I am not the artistic one...in this particular case, **it is** all about who you know!! We will concentrate this year on becoming aware of the many articles written by Area 9 members that have appeared in *The Forum*! A celebration of sorts!! I am hoping that this will spur us on to many, many more members realizing that they too can write an article for *The Forum*! Invite me to come to your District to hold a writing event!

DRs please remind your GRs that **they are the Forum Coordinator for their group** (S/M, pg. 47). They, along with the Alternate Delegate and the District Forum Coordinator (sometimes being fulfilled by the Alternate DR) are challenged to help our members understand how *The Forum* can be relevant to their recovery! In order to do that, we have to first make *The Forum* more visible to the fellowship as a whole, by:

- Encouraging members to make *The Forum* a part of their personal Al-Anon program.
- Encouraging members to use the sharings in the magazine during meetings to help generate lively discussion.
- Introduce newcomers to *The Forum*.
- Make it a priority to make sure that every group in our Area takes advantage of the complimentary copy of *The Forum* that they receive from the World Service Office each month.

As of the end of 2014, the entire state of Florida had 1,137 subscriptions to *The Forum*. I think we can do better than that. **I am placing a box near *The Forum* poster board and would love to hear how your group/district encourages subscriptions!!** I hope to share some of your suggestions in my next report.

***The Forum* and Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism: Two very different purposes!** Please encourage members and groups in our Area to share *The Forum* with one another and share *Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism* with their community.

The Assembly

I want to personally welcome all the new GRs to their first Assembly. I hope it will be a great experience for all of you. Keep an open mind!! I remember my first Assembly...I felt lost, confused and not understanding why things were done as they were. After attending as a GR and later as a DR, I now find myself being an Officer in Area 9 and serving as Alternate Delegate...I feel lost, confused and not understanding why things are done as they are. Do you see the pattern? Most of us at this Assembly are all in the same boat...we are starting something new! It can be scary, but it can also be VERY REWARDING! If we all are willing, limit our expectations and trust our Higher Power, this can be a most productive 3 years for Area 9 and for each of us personally!! The choice is always ours! **Participation is the key to harmony!**

GRs make, second and vote on motions during the Assembly. You will find motion forms at the Officers table in front of the Alternate Delegate. After filling out the motion form and having a second, return the form to the same basket. I will check to see if each motion answers the following (when applicable) What, Who, Where, When and How Much and then pass it on to the Area Chairperson.

I am also the time keeper for reports given and comments made. Comments are limited to 2 minutes per person and each person shares only once on any particular subject and it is **always** done at the microphone. To ask a question, approach the microphone holding a Service Manual to alert the Chairperson that you have a question, not a comment. There are no limits on time or trips to the microphone for questions. More information is outlined in the **Meeting Procedures** on the Website.

Looking forward with excitement,

Jill O, Area 9 Alternate Delegate