

AFG Area 9 Assembly

May 1-3, 2015

Report from the Chairperson

I am excited to welcome you to Panel 55 and I look forward to getting to know you as we go through the next three years of service together.

Assembly Highlights

We have chosen Concept 4 as our motto for this panel: "Participation is the key to harmony." Based on this principle of recovery, all of us who serve on the Panel will be reaching out to you and inviting you to participate in new ways. In our first Assembly here are just some of the changes I'd like to highlight:

1. *Friday Night Break Out Sessions* – we will gather, as usual, for Funshop skits and a presentation from our Delegate who will have just returned from Conference! Then we will break out into four working groups – New GRs, Experienced GRs, DRs and there will be a Writing Workshop with our Literature Coordinator. This is a new format, and we hope it will help us get better acquainted as we work together in smaller groups.
2. *Lunch and Learn* – on Saturday we will be offering some options during the lunch break. Of course you can go out to lunch as usual. Or, you may want to bring your lunch back into the meeting room where we will have three presentations: Conventions, Alateen and Technology. Each of these Coordinators will have 20 minutes to give you more insight and perhaps get your feedback as well. Another opportunity to learn something new about service.
3. *Thought Force* – on Saturday afternoon we will be breaking out into Thought Forces: small groups to discuss different topics of interest in the Area. This is something we do a lot at the Area level, and it should be fun for the Group Representatives to participate in this process.
4. *Saturday Night Panel* – after dinner we will have a Panel Workshop on The Legacies. Here is another new format, modeled on the workshops as given at Al-Anon's International Conventions. Members participate by sharing their Experience, Strength and Hope on a topic – then we open up the floor for sharing.

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Ongoing Area Business

* There will be an opportunity to select a South East Regional Trustee (SERT) Candidate – creating an opportunity for participation in service at all levels – from the Group to the Worldwide fellowship. You will hear more from our Delegate.

* We will be discussing some matters that are serious and need ongoing attention such as Insurance certificates. We will be reporting on various Task Forces that are at work on different issues – from Alateen to Guidelines oversight.

* Beginning in 2016 our meeting venue will change to the Hilton at Altamonte Springs. Due to contract issues this change will allow us more flexibility, it will keep our costs lower, and we will remain in a central location for maximum participation. Districts will be getting more information as we finalize the reservation information. In the meantime you can look it up on our website.

* Temporary Hospitality Guidelines – based on a comprehensive Thought Force in February, there is a Task Force working on the Hospitality Guidelines for Assembly meetings. You can see the working documents on the Website. You will notice new hours on the Agenda. And there will be a different approach to the refreshments provided. Please feel free to use the Hospitality Room for fellowship, for informal gathering and for other sharing. There will be Evaluation forms there for your feedback to the Task Force.

* You may notice that we have moved to using “AFG Area 9” rather than NFA or North Florida. The new website address is: www.AFGArea9.org, and our Area emails are the same. This was a “Keep It Simple” decision as we try to create more consistency and reduce confusion. Hopefully this helps participation!

I hope that you will enjoy the Assembly weekend. Service work is something that we freely give because of what Al-Anon has given each of us in our personal recovery. It is our hope that you will find your time well spent, and that you will gain the support, strength and hope you need to take back to your Groups!

Feel free to contact me with any thoughts, suggestions or questions.

Yours in service,

Cindy J.

Panel 55 Chairperson

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