

Report from Tina D. Chairperson for 2015 Area Service Workshop "Weeds to Seeds". Held in Jacksonville on March 14, 2015.

The goal of the event was to introduce newcomers into service at the District and Area levels. Also to get long-time members re-excited about doing service work. There were 119 in attendance.

The planning committee met monthly. During the meetings each sub-committee reported on its progress with volunteers, donated items, and time frames on completion of projects, etc. The committees were: Food, Hospitality, Decorations, Setup/Take Down, Program, Raffle, Love Gifts, Treasurer, Secretary, Sergeant of Arms, and Registration. Our fabulous secretary recorded it all and provided us with meeting minutes. She also has created a "Weeds to Seeds" memory book. One copy will stay in the Jacksonville archives and one copy will go to the Area archives.

The Registration Committee started receiving pre-registration in August. Our committee Treasurer worked with the District 3 Treasurer for the bookkeeping and banking records.

The Hospitality Committee started paring Members with District Host as the request came in for housing. 12 District members volunteered their homes and 9 out-of-town members took them up on this offer.

The night before the event the event room was setup. Committee members and District volunteers had the room looking efficient and inviting. The Decoration Committee did a beautiful job setting the atmosphere for "Weeds to Seeds" with 130 boutonnieres and 23 table centerpieces. Other District members were bringing in food donations, supplies, and gift baskets (46 with at least 10 being from other Districts than 3). Once the set up was finished, members were invited to have dinner with the 2 speakers.

The day began at the registration table where each guest was greeted. Once registered they received a bag that had items to guided them thru the day's program. The bag contained a book on service sharing's from Area Trusted Servants who could not attend the event. There was also a custom made note pad and flower pencil. The agenda inside the packet was a guide to visit each Trusted Servants station and become familiar with what the Area does. At each station guest received a love gift (est. 1,850) and free raffle tickets (est. 833 free tickets handed out) Two name tags were provided, one to wear and one to label their bag. The Program Committee was at the core of this function. They wore so many hats. Please read their attached report to appreciate their heart for service.

The bountiful breakfast buffet line was ready as the guest came in. There was a huge variety of hot and cold breakfast items. There was a drink and pastry station set up in the main room so guest could help themselves to coffee, tea, soda or sweet treats, etc. The food committee was awesome. God knew exactly who to send to help me in the kitchen. 6 Angels from one group. Then several other members just came into the kitchen and asked if they could help. Help didn't mean just serving food. It meant washing dishes, pulling trash, cleaning up afterwards. So...I did have a moment of doubt, yes, it was when the donation of food items were only trickling in. The Committees assured me it was a "God Thing". I "turned it over" and a bounty was supplied by the groups.

The Program Committee did a wonderful job. Once they decided on what the program was going to look like, the task of scheduling a time-frame was done. A lot of things had to come into play in a 7 hour time frame. One of those things was who was at the microphone doing announcements. I felt my attention

needed to be on the "whole" event and ask someone to speak on my behalf. What started out for her as just doing a welcome turned into many trips to the microphone and played an important part in moving the program along. One of the program members came up with, and implemented, the Area Trusted Servants meet and greet. Members moved from station to station and met the Area Trusted Servants. They became familiar in what the Trusted Servants, through Al-Anon Service, does for the Area, the Districts, and the individual members.

District 3 donated \$1000 so that Ric B., from the World Service Office, could come speak on the 12 Concepts. The Chaperone for Ric C. picked him up at the airport on Friday, secured Ric a room, saw to his transportation needs, attended the two Speaker dinners, and then returned Ric to the airport on Sun.

Ric's presentation took the audience through each concept and what each concept means to Al-Anon as a whole, what they mean at District level, at Group level, and most importantly at the Member level.

There was a second speaker, Cathy O. who is the Georgia Delegate. She shared her experience on what brought her into Al-Anon, why she started doing service work, and why she keeps doing service work. The program timed Cathy's presentation to be before the members visited the Area Service Stations. Hearing Cathy's inspirational sharing motivated the guest to see what service is all about and what kind of service is out there to be done.

For the lunch break there was another bounty of delicious food. The food consisted of the sandwich buffet line and 12 soup stations. The homemade soups were well received and gobbled up. 40 handmade desserts were donated, as well as salads, and other lunch type foods.

The Raffle Basket Committee was able to get the baskets (46) set into place and then, at the designated time, pick and post the winners. This committee worked behind the lines, fast and furious.

The Sergeant of Arms helped everywhere. She did her responsibilities and a bit of all the others.

Last but not least, we get to the money. The treasurer set up a budget, recorded paid registrations, deposited funds, and paid reimbursements. Her job really kicked into gear when she needed to reconcile the registrations with the deposits. The ending numbers are \$3,204.94 in deposits, \$2,033.79 in expenses, allowing us to return the balance of \$1,171.15 to Area.

This event defiantly took a village. In fact four villages, Nassau, Baker, Clay, and Duval. Then there were the Area Trusted Servants manning the stations, two out-of-town speakers, the three sign language people, the recording/taping crew, and members from other Districts who brought raffle baskets and spur of the moment volunteer service.

Thank you all SO Much. It was everything hoped for and more. My report doesn't do justice to the hard work each volunteer provided. The planning and implementing was hard and time consuming, but it was fun. It was a lot of fun and each of us developed close-respected-friendships.

Thank you Area 9 and District 3! Service = Fun.

Sincerely,

Tina D., District 3, Area Service Workshop Chairperson

The final reports of the Sub-committees are attached.