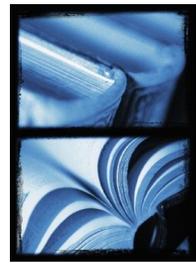




FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

(to N. FL Area Literature Coordinator)



~ Please feel free to contact me at the e-mail address below if you need further info. ~

GENERAL QUESTIONS ABOUT CONFERENCE APPROVED LITERATURE (CAL):

Q - How can I find out how much a book, or other literature, costs?

A - *If you're in a meeting, there's a good chance they'll have an "Al-Anon/Alateen CAL Catalog" (item #S-15) with prices in it for every item. Another way to get it is electronically from the Al-Anon website: <http://ecomm.al-anon.org/shop>. Enter "S-15" in the search box & there will be a link for "[Click here for free download](#)."*

Q - What is the best way to buy literature for our group (i.e. online from WSO, District meetings, etc...)?

A - *The World Service Office (WSO) recommends that literature be ordered through a local Literature Distribution Center (LDC) to help support local services. Orders can be taken by LDC's in a variety of ways. It's best to contact your District's LDC to find out how to place the order. Only items that you want to have ship regularly to a mailing address should be ordered through the World Service Office. For example: "The Forum" magazine, newsletters, service manuals, etc...*

Q - Why was an item I liked discontinued?

A - *Per the World Service Office: Because the process for the discontinuance of a Conference approved book is slightly different than for a pamphlet, let's start with books. In order to discontinue a book, the following criteria are required:*

- 1. The book has had a three-to-five year initial introductory period following the date of publication;*
- 2. The sales of the book reflect minimal interest by the membership;*
- 3. The content of the book is or will be adequately covered in other CAL material if needed.*

The process also requires that the Literature Committee must recommend discontinuance of the book. After determining that the above criteria have been fulfilled, the Board of Trustees may grant approval to discontinue the book. In keeping with a Conference motion, the Board of Trustees will notify in writing all Conference members of its intent to discontinue any books while there is still at least one-year's quantity of books in stock at the WSO. The WSO sells the item until all the copies are gone. While this is occurring, a notice in catalogs & order forms will state, "While supplies last."

Discontinuance of Conference approved pamphlets (including CAL service tools) also requires recommendation of the Literature Committee. The Executive Committee must then pass a motion to discontinue the pamphlet.

Q - Why we can't use AA's Big Book just as a reference?

A - The short answer is that although Al-Anon's roots are based in A.A., the A.A. "big book" is not & never has been Al-Anon Conference Approved Literature (CAL). "Outside" or non-conference approved literature may or may not convey the Al-Anon message. It also may be confusing to a newcomer, lead to dissention within members, or affect our groups' unity. We are always free to read whatever we wish outside the meetings.

For a "long" answer that further explains how several of our Traditions apply to this decision, please e-mail me to request the October 2008 memorandum from the WSO's Executive Director to Conference members regarding this topic.

Q - How do I know what books would be appropriate for me?

A - The "Al-Anon/Alateen CAL Catalog" (item #S-15) has brief descriptions for many of the items available. (See the very first answer on this FAQ sheet for how to get this catalog.) A sponsor also might be able to give you some good recommendations that are more tailored to your needs. Lastly, in response to this question, I have begun a podcast, "CAL Chat" (www.calchat.libsyn.com), where members discuss their favorite literature & how it has improved their lives. Every episode features a different book so you can pick & choose which piece you'd like to find out more about!

QUESTIONS ABOUT SUBMITTING WRITINGS/SHARINGS:

Q – Will I hear back from WSO once I’ve submitted a sharing?

A – I have personally not experienced this, however here is the official response from WSO about receiving writings for literature in development: “WSO has a process that includes sending an acknowledgment of receipt. Sometimes people don’t submit their address or they move & thus we are unable to send them their acknowledgement. If members submit a sharing & do not receive a ‘thank you’ letter within a couple weeks, they should contact the WSO to make sure that the WSO did receive it.”

Q – If I submit a sharing for “The Forum”, do I receive any notice that it was received?

A – Provided that you included your contact info when you submitted your sharing for “The Forum”, you will only be notified when it’s actually published. WSO will also send you one complimentary copy of the issue in which it appears. Because of the vast number of writings the WSO receives, it could be several years before your sharing is published. Additionally, it’s important to note that every sharing submitted (even if it’s not for “The Forum”) becomes part of a general body of information & sharing from our fellowship that helps create new literature. So if a sharing you submitted for a different item is not used for that particular piece, it will be forwarded to the Forum Editorial Advisory Committee for their review & possible publication in “The Forum” magazine.

Q – Where do I submit my sharing? Can I give it to my Group Representative?

A – It’s best to submit any writings or sharings directly to the World Service Office using any of these four ways:

- 1. Mail: Al-Anon Family Groups, 1600 Corporate Landing Parkway, Virginia Beach, VA 23454-5617***
- 2. Fax: (757) 563-1655***
- 3. E-mail: wso@al-anon.org***
- 4. On-line on our Members’ website: www.al-anon.org/members
Once on the Members’ site, under the “Individuals” tab a***

drop-down menu will appear, click on “Featured Publications” & then click on “Send Your Sharing.”

Q – What formats are accepted?

A – Based on the answer above, it seems WSO will accept almost any format except smoke signals, semaphore, Morse code, & of course texting or use of emojis are   .

Q – Are there any more literature topics offered?

A – YES! Helpful “writing guidelines” for each project currently under development are available through your local LDC, the WSO, our Members’ website, or you can contact me at Literature@AFGArea9.org & I can send them to you.

QUESTIONS ABOUT BEING AN AREA LITERATURE COORDINATOR:

Q – What do you do? / What are your duties?

A – Primarily, I’m a link between LDC’s in North Florida & WSO. I notify the LDC’s of any literature updates from WSO. I also see myself as a resource or “librarian” with a database of “What I’ve learned” from every piece that I’ve read. If an LDC, or any member, has a question I can’t answer, I contact WSO for guidance. A more detailed description of this position can be found in the guideline “Area Literature Coordinators” (item #G-6).

Q – What do you like best about your position?

A – The conference calls! I facilitate a call twice-a-year with LDC’s in North Florida & learn about the exciting things they are doing with Al-Anon/Alateen literature in their local cities. Then I also have a twice-a-year call with WSO & other Area Coordinators across the nation to learn about what they are all doing too!

Q - Would you have a campaign for any new literature, such as attending District meetings to introduce it?

A - I have designed a creative writing workshop centered on the new upcoming daily reader & its topic: diversity. If invited, I'm definitely willing to travel to any District in North Florida to give this workshop! (It can be used for Alateen members as well!)

Q - How has this position affected your growth in the program?

A - It has expanded my thinking & definition of our three Legacies (recovery, unity, & service) in the sense that I used to believe all of these involved a terrible amount of work that yielded a very small result: me. To paraphrase a line from "Living Today in Alateen" (item #B-26): 'I grow in proportion to my effort.' But now I have learned to turn that effort from being "work" into fun & the effects can have much more of a far-reaching impact than I ever imagined!

To me, Al-Anon has also broadened into many things. ...A program, a way of being, a family, & a place. ...A place for me to grow continuously.

Q - What can groups & members do to help you do your job better?

A - Keep asking me questions & keep coming back!

Q - How can I contact you if I have other questions?

A - Reach me by e-mail at: Literature@AFGArea9.org. Emojis welcome! 👍

With gratitude in service,

PAT A.
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Happy Reading!

