

District 1 February 2016 AWSC Report

Greetings from District 1! Our trusted servants continue to grow in service to Al-Anon Family Groups. We are striving to share the joys of service with others in the district so that more may become a part of this important 12th step work. We have developed a list of responsibilities for those in service positions in District 1. This list is now posted on our website and invites others to service, noting the positions that continue to be open. GRs are sharing this list within their AFGs as well. We are looking toward the fall for a Gratitude Event that will include a focus on service. We plan to share displays on these positions at our February Gratitude Brunch.

Our Public Outreach Task Force continues to explore ways in which we can better reach out to the community. We are distributing flyers with tear off portions with the phone and website for our district on community bulletin boards. Local TV stations are being contacted about the WSO PSAs. One was found to have shown the PSA numerous times in 2015 though WSO had not been aware. We were able to express our appreciation for their willingness to share this information vital to many in our community.

Recently, two outreach opportunities have come before us through emails to our district website email address. In January, Cindy J. participated in a panel discussion on Alcoholism as a representative of Al-Anon before the Florida State University Medical Students. The purpose of the request was presented as follows: "As part of the medical school curriculum, we strive to represent the 'human/patient' aspects of what the students are learning about in their basic science classes." Cindy reported that many students came to her afterwards with additional questions about how best to approach families affected by alcoholism. An upcoming event in which we will participate is the Tallahassee Community College African American History Health Fair. We hope to break out the new table cloth provided by Area 9 at this event.

A second task force was initiated after a thought force on the needs of our beginners in District 1. We have one Beginners' Meeting and hope to add a second to allow more than one option for meeting nights. In addition, the chairing of this meeting has fallen to a few dedicated members. Others are interested in learning more about this service opportunity, but would like to learn more first. We used a modified version of Knowledge Based Problem Solving to brainstorm on this issue. For example, the questions were:

What do we know?

What Steps, Traditions, and Concepts are relevant to this issue?

What brings a beginner to an AFG meeting?

What are the elements of a successful beginners' meeting?

What are some obstacles to successful beginners' meetings?

What do we need to know?

What resources are available?

What resources are needed?

The thought force participants' answers to these questions were then shared with a Newcomer Task Force initiated in the district. As a result, following a Gratitude Brunch in February, there will be a workshop on chairing Beginners' Meetings using the information we have collected and WSO CAL as a foundation. A second AFG has had a group conscience and is willing to start a beginners' meeting on a second night after the workshop takes place and they have agreed to the details of the meeting.

Our new Webmaster for the district is excitedly compiling new ideas to update our website and make it more user friendly for smart phones as well as exploring issues of accessibility.

Pat, our Area Literature Coordinator, upon request, kindly shared the documents from her trifold display on Free downloads, E-books and Audiobooks from WSO with us, thus we have copied her display board and are rotating it though all of the meetings for members to view. Thanks so much Pat!

Respectfully submitted,

Susan R
District 1 Representative