

Happy New Year Everyone,

As I enter my last year as DR I took time to reflect on my past two years and I am so grateful for this opportunity to service our District.

I'm truly blessed to be surrounded by panel members that are focused on serving the District and its members. Their passion, commitment and love for the program has helped us grow in more ways than I could have imagined.

Service work has continually shown me what I call "Evidence of God". If I work the twelve steps, particularly steps 3 and 11, and seek His guidance and direction all things are possible. I've to come to rely on not my understanding but believing and knowing that the Higher Power of my understanding will fulfill our service needs in HIS own timing. All I'm expected to do is believe and trust that the God of my understanding will rise to the occasion. Thus far HE has not failed me or our District.

I love each and everyone of our members and thank each of you for doing your part in making these past two year such a success. I look forward to the exciting things, known and unknown, that lay ahead of us in 2017.

Richard G, District Representative

Looking back over 2016, I note the following:

Forum Writing Workshop initiated by Jill O, District Treasurer/Area Alternate Delegate; and Toni J, new Events Chair; was led by Pat A, Area Literature Coordinator. This workshop was located at Bok Tower, a serene area conducive to putting our thoughts to paper. This has resulted in District 9 having several articles in The Forum (December issue, Doris B, Sebring AFG; February 2017 issue, Toni J, Let it Begin With Me; and Ray H, March issue, Sebring AFG).

District AA Liaison to the Florida AA Convention was District 9 member and District Events Chair, Toni J. (Let it Begin With Me). AI-Anon workshops on Gratitude, Choices and Detachment, as well as Parents/Grandparents Meeting.

Convention weekend provided workshops led by District 9 members, as follows: Family Disease, Ruth H; Change, Betty H; First Things First, Jean W; and Forgiveness, Judy S.

Two AWSC meetings, Spring Assembly and Fall Assembly were attended and supported by our District and Group members.

Gratitude Luncheon hosted by the four Highlands County Groups, and chaired by Ray H. successfully provided a baked potato bar with side dishes provided by members. A cake celebrating Double Blessings, AI-Anon's 65th Anniversary and Sebring AFG's 45th Anniversary was dessert. Two speakers, Pat H from Sebring AA and Michael D, Area Archives Coordinator provided additional inspiration. This project netted \$1000 to District; \$600 of this along with \$400 from District Literature, were sent to WSO.

Our District has initiated a Budget Committee, maintained financial stability and recording, maintained District Minutes, filled Chair vacancies, approved Events Chair job description, provided GIP for Assembly, promoted Alateen by providing group opportunities, donations and training, worked on Public Outreach, answered phone messages, provided literature to groups, provided questions for Red Light/Green Light, participated in mock literature podcast panel, provides a District website and newsletter, updates group records, maintains archives, and provides updated list of meeting locations and times. (Whew!)

Pat Steele, AISL

