

Red Light/Green Light

Spring Assembly, 2017

Question: What is the WSO (Service Manual) recommendation for promoting or not promoting within Al-Anon Family Groups and District Meetings, events that are not AA Area endorsed but are attended by AA and Al-Anon members? (The service arm of AA or Al-Anon is not participating.)

First of all, the question was very confusing and I was unable to get anyone to research the question. After talking with a few fellow members, we came to the conclusion we were discussing such things as AA Roundups, Sober Fests and/or AA retreats-functions hosted by local AA groups or A-Clubs.

On page 120 of our 2014-2017 Service Manual, it states "Although a separate entity, Al-Anon should always cooperate with Alcoholics Anonymous. In relating to local AA Intergroups or central offices, Al-Anon may offer:

- *To name one or two members to act as liaison and to provide current lists of group contacts for Twelfth Step referrals.

- *To submit Al-Anon/Alateen meeting information...

- *To reimburse AA for any expenses incurred on Al-Anon's behalf..."

But, it does not state that we may announce events of local service centers or A-Clubs.

On page 122, it states "Members, AS INDIVIDUALS, may establish and operate clubhouses where Al-Anon and Alateen meetings are held. In keeping with Tradition Six, a clubhouse is not owned, operated, financed or endorsed by an Al-Anon group, district, Al-Anon Information Service (Intergroup) office or Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc. It is suggested that Al-Anon and Alateen groups meeting at such facilities be self-supporting and function as *separate entities*." And, we still do not have an answer to our question.

Page 123 states "Al-Anon does not affiliate with other organizations; neither endorses or opposes any other philosophies or spiritual programs. The Al-Anon/Alateen name, therefore, cannot properly be used to identify or publicize retreats or activities sponsored by others. This applies when most or even all of the participants are members of Al-Anon or Alateen. Otherwise there could be a misunderstanding of Al-Anon's purpose and function. In order to avoid any appearance of Al-Anon/Alateen affiliation, it is important to keep promotion of such events outside of Al-Anon/Alateen meetings and meeting locations. Our experience suggests that confusion arises when such events are announced in Ares newsletters, Al-Anon/Alateen local bulletins and at group meetings."

Finally, on page 124, it states "Our Al-Anon experience helps us understand we are powerless over another person's drinking. This makes us aware at a meeting of the danger of being diverted from our own recovery by techniques that are focused on the recovery of the alcoholic." And, it further states "At an Al-Anon/Alateen meeting, in keeping with the Al-Anon/Alateen focus, the groups do not announce or discuss activities of other Twelve Step programs. Al-Anon/Alateen Area newsletters and local bulletins may publicize activities of Al-Anon/Alateen groups and those AA activities with Al-Anon participation. Publicizing other organizations' activities creates an appearance of affiliation."

Humbly submitted,
Lou D, District 5