

Area 9 – Florida North Service Structure Document for Task Forces

Adapted from Page 12 - World Service Conference Summary 2012

AFG, Inc. vs. AFG the Fellowship (Similar to our Area Assembly and NFA AFG, Inc.) The Chairperson of the Board and a Trustee demonstrated the difference between Al-Anon, the organization, which Lois incorporated as Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc. in 1954; and Al-Anon Family Groups, the fellowship.

Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc. ,the corporation

- Exists in the eyes of the law-the Board of Trustees is legally responsible for AFG, Inc.
- Has tax exempt status.
- Is the legal arm-protects our logo, our copyrights, our trademarks (name).
- Conducts the business of Al-Anon .
- Has a governance document, the By-Laws of the corporation, which is amended by the Board of Trustees.
- Recognizes the World Service Conference as the ultimate traditional authority.

Al-Anon Family Groups, the fellowship

- Doesn't exist in the eyes of the law.
- Doesn't have tax exempt status.
- Is the traditional arm-provides meetings and service structure.
- Provides support for individual members.
- Has a governance document, the World Service Conference Charter, which is amended by the World Service Conference.
- Recognizes the Board of Trustees as the chief service arm of the Conference.

Similarly – we can understand this structure at the Area level.

NFA AFG, Inc., the corporation :

- Exists in the eyes of the law -- the Officers are legally responsible for NFA AFG, Inc.
- Has Tax Exempt Status
- Is the legal arm - is able to sign contracts, and act on behalf of members.
- Conducts the Business of the North Florida Area of Al-Anon
- Has a Governance Document (By-Laws – *which are under review by a P55 Task Force*)
- Recognizes the Area 9 - Florida North Assembly as the ultimate traditional authority in Area business

Area 9 – Florida North Assembly , the fellowship :

- Doesn't exist in the eyes of the law
- Doesn't have tax exempt status (nor do the Districts or Groups unless each individually organizes as such)
- Is the traditional arm - provides meetings and service structure (Officers, Coordinators, Events, Delegates)
- Provides support for members, groups and Districts in the particular geographic location
- Has governance documents - Area Guidelines and Assembly Motions as passed by the Assembly
- Recognizes the authority of the Officers to act in accordance with the laws of the State of Florida

It may be helpful to familiarize ourselves with these similarities and differences, especially as we move into concentrated efforts to clarify Area Guidelines and Policies.

Discussed at AWSC February 2016