

DISTRICT 12 DR/DISL REPORT JULY 2020

Wow! I can't believe that we are coming to the end of Panel 58, with our last Area Assembly held virtually! I really miss all of the hugs, but am so grateful to see so many friends from around the state when we gather for such events!

District 12 is wrapping up too, and we held district elections at our last district meeting in September, also virtually. Most of our district positions were filled, including DR, DISL and Alternate DR, among many others! Panel 61 is off to a great start in district 12!

We are grateful for our Al-Anon principles, which have guided us, and provided us with the tools to cope with our ever-changing public health situation. We are reminded that, like alcoholism of those we love, we did not cause, cannot control, and cannot cure COVID-19, and the changes in our lives caused by it. We have been able to respond, avoiding reacting in fear, and using our group conscience, each autonomous group has been able to decide if and how to meet, and know that we have the freedom to change our minds as the situation changes as we are led by our Higher Power, through group conscience to make a different choice. As such, some groups are meeting virtually, some in person with physical distancing and following safety guidelines, some a combination of both, and some have temporarily closed. Some of those have since reopened. One benefit that has been noted is that many of our "snow birds" have been able to attend our virtual meetings, and some members have found new virtual meetings in the home communities of some of our "snow birds". Many of our groups that would be very small "off season" over the summer have flourished as a result!

Our Group Liaison, Mary I., wrote "Panel 58 is ending much differently than I would ever have imagined. Many of our groups are still meeting virtually, while some have started meeting in person again. Members of the panel are always here to help with any questions you may have."

Groups have gotten creative to ensure that we remain self-supporting, and have created PayPal buttons on our district website for individual group donations, are using Venmo, PayPal and other electronic banking apps, and are sending donations directly to group treasurers through the mail.

Our Helpline chair, Dianne D., reported that the Helpline continues to serve. Calls tend to be looking for meetings on Zoom or in-person and people report being grateful for the Helpline's assistance with finding meeting information and website information regarding Al-Anon. We have volunteers scheduled through November! December forward will be the responsibility of the incoming Helpline Chair. The Chair position is a fun and meaningful way to provide service and she will assist in the transition in any way that she is needed.

Our district Webmaster, Amy T., reports that there are 21 electronic meetings taking place on Zoom in District 12, in addition to 19 In-Person meetings, and that the website is updated in real time. On average, 520 different users log into our district website in any given week. The new 2020 World Service Conference book and a new pamphlet (S60) titled: Fact Sheet for Electronic Meetings have been uploaded to our website, and are both downloadable. There are now electronic contribution links to donate to WSO, North Florida Area, District 12, and to several individual meetings in the district. The complete Guidelines for District 12 Service Positions is another free downloadable resource on our website.

Gratefully in service,

Gretchen S., District Representative, Hannah D., District Information Services Liaison