

## **District 5 Report for June 2019 Assembly**

(Combined DR and DISL)

District 5 has had a bit of difficulty getting this Panel 58 going. Due to unforeseen circumstances our DR, Cindy S., found it necessary to step down from her position. We were saddened by this news; however, we are happy to report that we do have a complete Officer panel. We now have a DR, Terri K., an Alternate DR, Sue M., a DISL, Frieda P., and a Treasurer, Sharon N. The four of us are looking forward to working together for the remainder of the panel. All of our chair positions are filled except the Institutional Chair. Thanks to all of our GR's and other members for stepping up and taking on the needed service positions.

This report needs to make a correction from the previous AWSC report. It was noted in that report that a question came up at our January district meeting concerning a separate Newcomers Welcome which is still in use at some AFG groups. The member who brought this up found information in the book, "Many Voices, One Journey", page 348 and not from the book, "Lois Remembers". The member shared her concern because the book notes that the Policy Committee of the 2004 WSC determined there is only one Al-anon Welcome and that is the one in our Service Manual. It also determined that the Newcomers Welcome was directive and that is one reason it was highly recommended to discontinue using. At our May District meeting this member and another member spoke and shared the concern with some of our meetings still using the welcome. Research was conducted and found in the WSO archives the 2004 WSC summary notes that in the Ask It Basket section, question 43 notes that WSC would not have this Newcomer Welcome go through the CAL process, because it isn't CAL, and that it was removed from the Service Manual and no longer recommended to be used in group meetings. Tradition 1, 2, and 4 were used to discuss and determine our District's position. Our District took a vote and decided to uphold the 2004 WSC position and will share with each of our groups to use only the Service Manual Welcome and to use other recommended readings in the Service Manual.

Since AWSC our District held two events. We had a District Picnic and a Day of Workshops. Both events went very well, although not attended as well as in the past. This is a concern and our District feels we need to do a better job of promoting our events. We have two more District events scheduled, a Gratitude Luncheon in November, and a Holiday Party in December. We have already had several Group Anniversaries and our Delegate, Cindy J., came to speak at one of these Anniversaries this past January. She spoke on her visit to Stepping Stones and it was exciting to see the pictures of Stepping Stones and hear Cindy's account of the visit. Since most of us will not have this opportunity to visit there, we were delighted to have Cindy share her experience!!

A Budget Committee met in early May to develop our District 5 Panel 58 Yearly Budget. The committee shared the Budget at our May District meeting and the Budget was approved.

Our Public Outreach Chairperson, Janice E., recently completed the project she and some volunteers have been working on. The project entailed sending an approved Al-anon letter along with CAL pamphlets to Lawyers and Family counselors in Hernando and Pasco Counties. Thank you, Janice!! Our Cell Phone Chairperson noticed we had an increase in calls looking for meetings. We wondered if this was a direct result of the Public Outreach project.

Our Alateen Chairperson shared in her report that our District is having difficulty keeping Alateen groups thriving and continuing in our High School settings which is due to school changes and their Guidance Counselors not understanding the need for Alateen. It takes a concerned Guidance Counselor to get this going in a school. Also, some of the Alateen groups have closed due to no attendance. Therefore, our Chairperson suggested that each Al-anon group have a member trained as AMIAS and then be the Alateen sponsor for their home group meeting. If a parent brings a child of Alateen age to an Al-anon meeting then the Alateen sponsor could have a meeting with the child while the Al-anon home group is meeting. This could even be noted in the Where and When which groups have an Alateen sponsor.

Finally, our District only has 17 Gr's for our 29 Al-anon groups. The remaining 12 groups just have a contact person. We are very concerned about this problem. Therefore, this new Panel of Officers will make it our priority to find out why these groups do not have a GR and what can the District do to help them promote the need for a GR. We will send an e-mail to each of the groups with only a contact person with a short survey to determine why there is no GR and we will follow up with a visit to each of these meetings.

Respectfully Submitted by,  
Terri K., District 5 DR  
Frieda P., DISL