

News from The Forum Magazine Editor

Hello *Forum* Coordinators!

Some of you have Area World Service Committee meetings coming up and have asked for the latest *Forum* news to include in your reports. Please feel free to share this information with your AWSC, as well as at Assemblies and via email to District Representatives, Information Services/Intergroups, Website Coordinators, and Newsletter Editors. Some Coordinators have found it helpful to set up an email list of these members and service arms in order to easily forward this information on a regular basis.

Big News: A Change Is Coming! I am excited to let you know about a recent vote by the *Forum* Editorial Advisory Committee (FEAC) to approve a change to the "Instant Meeting" department of *The Forum*. The "Instant Meeting" is a section of the magazine that features two short member sharings followed by two or three thought-provoking questions. The idea is that the topic leader or chairperson at a meeting could simply read the sharings and the questions to open the discussion. Or a subscriber can enjoy a personal mini-meeting by reading the sharings and journaling about or contemplating the questions (or writing their answers and submitting as a sharing to *The Forum!* 😊). For a number of years, the Instant Meetings were always on the Step that corresponded to the month. Now, however, the FEAC has voted to open the Instant Meetings to additional topics of interest to members, for example, detachment, slogans, Sponsorship/being sponsored, grief, living in sobriety, etc. Since the WSO receives fewer submissions on the Legacies, this gives more options to choose from for the Instant Meeting department. The first issue where the Instant Meeting will be topic-based rather than Step-based will be July's, and the topic is "Finding a Higher Power."

In Other News... Subscriptions to *The Forum* have been in decline in recent months and are down by about 3,000 subscriptions compared to this time last year. This decline corresponds to lower literature sales over the same time period. A huge thank you to all *Forum* Coordinators for continuing your valiant work during this pandemic. **You are our frontline Trusted Servants!** Your work in keeping our fellowship aware of the importance of *The Forum* has never been more needed. We rely on you to remind local members of the value *The Forum* provides to their recovery. Please share with each other on AFG Connects the ways in which you are reaching out to the members of your Area.

Writing Workshop Guidelines: I recently discovered an issue with the Writing Workshop Guidelines document that was posted here on AFG Connects. I took down the old document, fixed it, and am reposting it now for use in writing meetings and workshops. Please share in the comments whether you are conducting Writing Workshops, what format you are using (electronic or in-person), and any experience you can share about hosting a successful event.

Because your Assembly or Area World Service Committee meetings might not coincide with my postings on AFG Connects, please contact me anytime you need more information or have questions about *The Forum*. My email address is carolcn@al-anon.org, and my direct telephone number is (931) 223-5050.

Yours in Service,

Carol Cowan

Magazine Editor | *The Forum*

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