

Area Assembly MINUTES

Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center, 1101 Lincoln Street, Columbia SC

Carolina Room

Saturday, October 4, 2014

The meeting opened at 10:00 am with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer and the reading of The 12 Concepts of Service.

WELCOME —Jan R.-- Good Morning! Welcome to the last of Assembly of 2014. We are finishing up the first year of Panel 54 and I think, so far, we are doing well. How many of you are here for your first Assembly? Would you please stand and give us your first name and the name of your home group? We are glad to have you here this morning!

How many of you are Group Representatives? Would you please stand and count off, so that we know how many votes we are supposed to have when we vote on the budget? I appreciate that you took the time to be here to represent your group and help up do the business of Al-Anon for South Carolina. I hope that you will have good information to take back to your group from this meeting.

Approval of Assembly Minutes– Linda R. -- Approved unanimously on a motion by Bob C. and a second by Julie with no abstentions.

Treasurer's Report – Dawn C. -- The beginning balance was \$12,787.89, and the ending balance was \$18,830.68. The report as approved unanimously on a motion by Julie and a second by Kris with no abstentions.

Alternate Delegate's Report & Group Records Report – Diane F. -- With 2 new South Carolina Groups there are a total of 130 Groups.

12 groups in District 2 – 3 groups with no GR
6 groups in District 3 – 1 group with no GR
24 groups in District 4 – 7 groups with no GR
9 groups in District 5 – 1 group with no GR
19 groups in District 6 – 2 groups with no GR
18 groups in District 7 – 2 groups with no GR
21 groups in District 8 – 1 group with no GR
21 groups in District 9 – 2 groups with no GR

We have 19 groups with no GR.

What WSO says:

Inactivation is noting in the WSO database that the group is no longer meeting. Note that the status of Al-Anon groups in "no mail" will be changed to "inactive" if the WSO does not receive a new address for the group after two (2) years of being in no mail status.

WSO has placed groups in "No Mail" status
Principles Above Personalities – District 6

WSO has informed us of Bounced Emails
Sunshine AFG – District 6
West Ashley Family Group – District 7
The Conway Listen and Learn AFG – District 8
Nowhere But Up - District 3

Groups Receiving No Email:

Group Name	District
Cherokee AFG	0007
Hartsville AFG	0005
Midway AFG	0008
There Is Hope AFG	0004
New Beginnings AFG	0005
Bohicket AFG	0007
Principles Above Personalities AFG	0006
Noon Day Serenity AFG	0003

In a very special way,
Diane Faulkner
Alt-delegate@al-anon-sc.org
Diane_Faulkner@sc.rr.com

Delegate's Report – Joyce H.—It seems almost impossible to believe that soon one year will be upon me since i was voted Delegate . this year has truly flown by. Already there has been Southeastern Delegate's get together in Jacksonville Florida , Then to our 94th WSO Conference in Virginia Beach . my first experience, and what an experience it was . From the first day until the last it was such an honor to be there . To be sitting in a room with 95 other delegates , plus WSO staff , at times felt overwhelming . there were 6 motions brought forward and all carried. One discussion was tabled for next year. Our 2014 theme “ Our Spiritual Principals In Action “ was carried out in all areas of voting, discussions, elections, and workshops . WSO Executive Director Ric B. gave reports from his visits to several countries sharing and giving AL-Anon materials to many that attended .

The audit report was favorable , the budget was past, Group e news was share as a way for GR'S and CMA'S to stay in the loop with changes and news from WSO . It was also suggested to begin getting more participation with in the Home Group , such as newcomer packets, welcoming , sharing with them and addressing concern that they may have . I am already looking forward to Southeastern Delegates Get Together in 2015 in Nashville and again to Virginia Beach in April to Conference . Thanks to everyone who has supported me on this journey and as I continue on into the next 2 years Love in Service Joyce Hord Panel 54 S.C. Delegate

Chairman's Report – Jan R.-- I hope you are all pleased with this new meeting location. If you have suggestions on how we might tweak the setup or issues that you have, please let me know.

Today we are going to be voting on the budget for the next year. I hope you all have had an opportunity to look it over and have any questions ready when we get to it on the agenda. It is imperative that we plan and approve a budget to continue to do the business of Al-Anon.

I want to hear more about your ideas for fundraising for this and future conventions. We will be having a GR discussion this afternoon as part of our time here. This will be a good time to share with your fellow GR's what's working and what's not. Let's be solutions not the problems.

I hope you will also use this time for fellowship with area members. This is a great opportunity to meet new people across the state. To me, this has always been one of the important factors in coming to Assembly – the connections I make with Al-Anon's.

This afternoon we will also be having a workshop on writing for the Forum. Our Forum Coordinator, Lynn E., will be leading that workshop.

COORDINATOR'S REPORTS:

Literature—Linda F. -- I am sorry I'm not able to attend today's Area Assembly. I wanted to bring literature to sell today, but unfortunately will have to wait until next Area Assembly in January.

Recently the WSO sent me information regarding our new Daily Reader and guidelines for your sharings, as well as How to Submit Your Sharing for WSO Publications. I brought some copies to the AWSC meeting in August and I have sent them electronically to Linda Ruthvan, so if you want copies for your District, please let me or Linda know.

Our new daily reader will cover a wide range of topics from a variety of members throughout our fellowship. Your sharing will help assure that our new daily reader will reflect our fellowship as it is today.

I encourage DR's to discuss this at your District Meetings, and perhaps to have a writing challenge to encourage people to write their sharings down for possible submission to WSO. DR's in other states have shared their ideas on e-communities and I would like to share those with you at our next Area Assembly.

Love in service,
Linda Flohr
Area 50 Literature Coordinator

Public Outreach—David T.—no report

Webmaster—Russ G.--The website continues to grow and develop and there were a number of updates made since the last Assembly:

As per discussions at the August 2014 AWSC, the phrase "Open Meeting" has been removed from all meeting lists. The phrase "Closed Meeting" has been maintained but there is now a link on ALL meeting list pages that allow a user to visit another page on the site where they will find definitions as to the nature of various types of Al-Anon meetings.

District 9 requested that all of their meeting listings indicate that they will follow the increment weather closures established by the local Board of Education. This notice has been posted on all D9 listings.

AWSC Reports have been uploaded to the private AWSC section of the website.

All AWSC & Assembly dates, through summer 2015, have been posted in the News & Announcements section of the private members area.

Added promotional page for 2015 Alateen Camp.

All officers, coordinators and district reps have been issued @al-anon-sc.org email accounts. Most have begun using but some are still in the process of transitioning from personal email accounts. Please remember to start using the new emails exclusively for all Al-Anon business.

Members can now register for the 2015 Convention Online! The "Local Events" section of the site includes all the details for members and visitors to learn about hotel offerings, fees, dates and other details. There is a choice of downloading the registration flyer for those not comfortable with internet or computers but the download is being promoted as an "alternative" option with the goal to have most users register with the website form.

Currently the online registration is to speed (and hopefully simplify) the registration process but users must still print out the completed registration form and mail in with a check.
Proposal to add PayPal which would allow all users to make online payments.

I had discussed with AWSC in September that newcomers were sending messages from the contact form on the website and those people were referred to the respective district reps for follow up. I will suggest to the Panel that this become the policy for webmasters to send prospective members to local DR's for assistance.

Enhancements & Other Information:

I am currently testing a limited use free "live chat" feature on the site that would enable the webmaster (or other volunteer) to monitor the website and be able to talk in real time with a visitor. The ability for a newcomer to speak anonymously with a real person in live time has the potential to bring more people into their first-time meetings. Depending on results of the live chat test over the next few months, I may ask the Panel to consider subscribing to a paid and full-function Live Chat software.

Are we interested in creating a Newsletter Subscriber List from the website? A Coordinator would need to be appointed and their job would be to send out monthly newsletters that could include information going on all over the state, such as district All Day events, special functions, news and announcements about members, and anything else that can help bring the statewide organization closer. There are some limited free as well as low-cost paid software tools available and can be integrated into the website for easy online access and signup...any Coordinator Volunteers?

The website will continue to evolve and it's my pleasure to be a part of it.

My Sincerest Regards and Love,
Russ Gahart
Area 50 – Panel 54 – Webmaster
Serenity Seekers, Myrtle Beach

Reflector –Jeri W.--If your group did not get a copy of the Reflector this week, please let your Group Representative know. Hopefully, your GR can send our Group Records Coordinator the email address of your CMA representative so that you can get the latest news from South Carolina. All AWSC members receive a copy through their new generic email addresses. A copy is sent to each of our past delegates as well.

I would like to emphasize that each Reflector is available on the website. It is under the Members Area.

Yes, the Reflector is more than a few pages, but it can be printed out in black and white to be more economical. I have not changed the font size due to the fact that most of our members are no longer 20 years old and WE need something easy to read.

I continue to be open to suggestions. Please address any concerns or comments to me at ReflectorEditor@al-anon-sc.org. I am looking at my emails daily.

In service,
Jeri Wesner

“Reflector” deadlines to remember:
November 21, 2014
January 21, 2015

Forum Coordinator –Lynn E. --Hello! Again – Happy Almost Fall!!! It is hard to believe that September is almost here! That said – there was no ‘special’ request from WSO regarding Forum submissions for August – just WRITE!WRITE!WRITE! as far as this person is concerned! I have emailed all the DR’s these past few months regarding whatever special topics that WSO has requested for Forum submissions and encouraged them to pass the word to all their GRs. I will continue to do so via the new email system. A new Forum posterboard is up and appearing at Assembly – I hope to post OUR submissions when they are printed. A Forum subscription will continue to be provided to the ‘youngest’ member attending Assembly – until my funds run out... I haven’t requested the time of our esteemed chairperson yet but would like to host a writing workshop at least once each year at Assembly(can I see you later Jan?)

If you have ideas for how to promote Forum subscribing or writing – at any level – and you think I can help – let me know. Meanwhile check out the Forum posterboard at Assembly for the writing guidelines(or find them online at the WSO website) and WRITE!WRITE! WRITE! - it does not just benefit the members who might read it if published – it benefits YOU to put your thought on paper(or in data if you are a better typist than I am!)

With the serenity that comes from reading CAL - especially when I can find it in my pocket!!

Lynn Edwards

CONVENTION 2015—Margaret L.--Serenity Starts Today! Come join us at our convention with this theme at the Ocean Dunes Resort in Myrtle Beach Feb 19 - 22, 2015. We are putting together a convention where there are multiple options for recovery. Design your own serenity by attending speaker meetings and the workshops, enjoying the Hospitality rooms, browsing the baskets and quiltS, visiting the beach, or just hanging out with other members in fellowship and love. It is entirely up to you how you choose to seek serenity.

We have speakers each evening, Thursday and Friday, two speakers on Saturday morning (AA and Alateen), and another Saturday evening. We close the convention with our speaker on Sunday morning. What a wide range of experience, strength and hope we look forward to hearing.

We are overflowing with workshop options starting with one on Thursday afternoon to kick us off, followed by many more on Friday morning and Friday and Saturday afternoons, including one by Alateen. If you are not a fan of a large number of workshops, just go to what you want. We are each

in charge of our own serenity and the path that best gets us there. Our hope is that you have lots of choices in choosing the path right for you.

In addition to the Saturday morning AA speaker meeting this year, we are also providing a room to AA for their fellowship to use as they wish. Be sure to look for the AA room right across from the Registration Desk on the second floor of the Convention Center.

Our Hospitality RoomS are three adjoining rooms just down from the main speaker room and feature access to the rooftop seating area overlooking the beach as well as indoor seating. We ask everyone who wishes to help to contribute food items or cash donations, and anyone can sign up to help staff the room. There will be microwaves, refrigerators and ice, but please no crock pots this year.

Hospitality will run from Thursday afternoon through Saturday night and will close 15 minutes prior to and during speaker meetings.

Our fund raising events this year include T-shirts, baskets and quiltS. T-shirts can be ordered on the registration form (found at the SC Area 50 web site, www.al-anon-sc.org under News & Announcements, as well as in the packets distributed to DRs today) and must be paid for by the January 31 deadline (Area Assembly). There will be no extra T-shirts available at convention. Convention registration paid after January 31 goes from \$20 to \$25. (The Alateen rate of \$5 and the one-day rate of \$10 do not change.)

We are asking all groups who wish to participate to send us a basket directly to convention.

Everyone LOVES the baskets and we cannot imagine convention without them. Our Basket Chair asks for each basket to include a label/tag showing the group name/district, the basket theme, if any, and the contents of the baskets. We want to know what is in there! Come help us out!

We are exceedingly proud of our quiltS project this year since we have TWO quilts to offer in fund raising events. The quilts are composed of squares made by many members of your hosting districts and represent a terrific team effort. Come to convention to see the entire story of our quiltS fund raising project. Both the larger queen-size quilt and the smaller lap-size quilt display contributed squares of butterflies of all kinds alternated with the slogans (by Diane F). The larger quilt also shows our convention theme, Serenity Starts Today, in the middle (also by Diane F), The backs of the quilts are entirely different from each other. These are each one-of-a-kind, never to be repeated quilts, and you will have to attend convention to be able to have a chance to get them.

There are no tickets in the convention packets you received today. Every paid convention registrant will receive one free basket ticket and one free quilt ticket as s/he checks in. If additional chances are desired, tickets will be on sale at convention for the usual price of \$1 each or 6/\$5. No one except paid registrants can purchase additional tickets or can win baskets or quiltS. Something NEW this year: all tickets sales will end at 5 PM on Saturday to allow enough time to select winners and post them prior to the evening meeting. Please broadcast this new cutoff time to all members so that no one is caught off-guard and misses the ticket boat!

Don't wait until the last minute! Register now for the 40th Annual Area 50 SC AFG convention! Bring a buddy! The pricing is completely reasonable for both the hotel and the registration fee. Let your "Serenity Starts Today" experience begin by registering for the convention RIGHT now!

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Lattimore

2015 Convention Chair

NEW BUSINESS:

Proposed Budget Motion: To accept the proposed 2015 SC area 50 Budget

Rationale: To meet increased expenses in doing business of Area 50 - South Carolina

The \$2500 for Convention 2015 was a typographical error which was deleted. Following the correction, the budget was passed unanimously on a motion by Marie J. with a 2nd by Clara T.

The winner of the subscription to The Forum was Pam C.

AWSC AND AREA ASSEMBLY

Apr.30,2014-Aug.25,2014

BEGINNING BALANCE		\$12,787.89
Income		
Group Contributions	\$3,291.86	
District Contributions	\$138.80	
Reflector Subscription	\$12.00	
Literature Contributions	\$85.00	
2014 Convention	\$6,496.15	
Total Income		\$10,023.81
Expenses		
Alternate Delegate	\$0.00	
Alateen Representative	\$44.00	
Archivist	\$0.00	
Area Treasurer	\$314.09	
Chairperson	\$230.08	
Delegate	\$733.04	
Forum	\$59.84	
Delegates Equalized Expense	\$0.00	
Donation	\$20.00	
Literature Coordinator	\$129.80	
Literature Purchase	\$477.25	
Public Outreach	\$0.00	
Rent for Area Assembly	\$776.20	
Rent for AWSC	\$720.00	
Webmaster	\$177.89	
AAPP	\$110.00	
Area Secretary	\$176.00	
Group Records	\$0.00	
Misc.	\$2.00	
Reflector Editor	\$10.83	
Total Expenses		\$3,981.02
ENDING BALANCE		\$18,830.68

GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS

May 2014-Aug 2014

DISTRICT TWO

Chester AFG	
Fort Mill	27.60
Hope for Today	42.00
Hope for Tomorrow	28.50
Lake Wylie AFG	
Lancaster Co-Ed AFG	45.00
Last Resort	30.00
Mid-day Serenity	45.00
New Life	
Spartan Al-Anon	
Stepping Stones	15.00
Tega Cay AFG	100.00
TOTAL	\$333.10

DISTRICT THREE

Awesome Aiken	
No Where But Up AFG	100.00
Entirely Ready	120.00
Noon Serenity	
TOTAL	\$220.00

DISTRICT FOUR

Back Door	
Chapin	
Courage to Change	
Dutch Square	
New Hope	
Happy Hour AFG	200.00
Hope for Today	50.00
In Good Hands	105.00
Love Bunch AFG	183.00
Parkview AFG	15.00
Saturday Nite Live	
Sparkleberry AFG	80.00
Springlake	
WANA	24.00
Courage to Change	
Gilbert Main St. AFG	70.00
Tues/Fri Night AFG	
New Hope AFG	40.00
Airport AFG	
There is Hope	
TOTAL	\$767.00

DISTRICT FIVE

Cottonmouth AFG	80.00
Kershaw AFG	30.00
Lugoff Bright Side Rd	30.00
New Beginnings AFG	
TOTAL	\$140.00

DISTRICT SIX

Bridge to Recovery	
Harmony AFG	15.00
Hilton Head AFG (FROG)	
Hilton Head Friday Luncheon	
May River	
Monday Brown Baggers	30.00
Monday Night Serenity AFG	20.00
New Beginnings AFG	
Oakbrook CTC	
Principles Above Personalities	10.00
Steps & Traditions	
Summerville AFG	6.00
Sunday Night Serenity	27.43
Sunshine AFG	
Thursday Night Serenity	
Thursday Noon Gratitude	12.00
Walterboro AFG	40.00
Friday Fellowship AFG	8.34
TOTAL	\$168.77

DISTRICT SEVEN

Begin With Me	135.00
Berkley AFG	
Bohicket AFG	
Harborlights AFG	
How It Works	15.00
Center of Charleston AFG	
Cherokee Family Group	
Friday Night Hope AFG	141.00
Goose Creek AFG	15.00
Primary Purpose AFG	
Gratitude	
Hollywood Stepping Stones	
James Island Lighthouse	
Mt. Pleasant Tues AM	
Old Central	50.00
Old Village	75.00
Serenity AFG	100.00
Tuesday Morning AFG	
Tuesday Night Trident	
W. Ashley Parent/Family	41.59

OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS**BIRTHDAY CONTRIBUTIONS****TOTAL \$-00****DONATIONS Alateen****TOTAL \$-00****LITERATURE CONTRIBUTIONS**

Literature Sales 85.00

TOTAL \$85.00**MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS****TOTAL \$0.00****REFLECTOR SUBSCRIPTIONS**

Subscript 2015 12.00

TOTAL \$12.00**DISTRICT CONTRIBUTIONS**

District 3 138.80

District 4

TOTAL \$138.80**Convention 2014**

Seed Money 2,500.00

Revenue 3,996.15

TOTAL \$6,496.15

Wisdom to Know the Difference
Johns Is. Primary Purpose 30.00
TOTAL \$602.59

DISTRICT EIGHT

Conway AFG 10.00
The Daily Readers AFG 40.00
Georgetown AFG 25.00
Grand Stand
High Noon AFG 37.40
Hope For Today 30.00
Island Serenity AFG 67.00
Lunch Bunch
Midway AI-Anon AFG 20.00
Grace AFG 25.00
Murrells Inlet AFG 30.00
Myrtle Beach Family 50.00
Myrtle Beach How AI-Anon Works
New Beginnings of NMB 40.00
New Hope
Serenity Seekers
Thursday Mens AFG
Unity AFG 50.00
Wednesday night
Serenity on Hwy 90 30.00
TOTAL \$454.40

DISTRICT NINE

Caring & Sharing 18.00
Central AFG
Courage to Change 20.00
Easley Does It AFG 50.00
Fewell Step Study AFG
Greer Gratitude AFG 33.00
Laid Back AFG 50.00
Live & Let Live 75.00
Laurens AFG
Serenity AFG 70.00
Summit AI-Anon 25.00
Think AI-Anon 15.00
Traditional AFG 30.00
Wade Hampton
Greenwood Serenity 50.00
Anderson
Seneca Serenity 150.00
Walhalla Hope for Today 20.00
Penleton Peace
Courage to Change
TOTAL \$606.00

GROUP GRAND TOTAL \$3,291.86

Proposed Budget 2015					
				1/14-9/15/14	
	2013 Budget	Actual 2013	Budget 2014	Actual 2014	Budget 2015
Delegate	\$2,000.00	1,577.33	\$2,100.00	\$2,127.54	\$2,100.00
Alternate Delegate\Group Records	\$400.00	359.23	\$400.00	\$156.98	\$750.00
Chairman	\$400.00	234.14	\$500.00	\$427.45	\$600.00
Secretary	\$400.00	289.20	\$400.00	\$440.00	\$700.00
Treasurer	\$600.00	557.72	\$600.00	\$489.43	\$600.00
Alateen Coordinator	\$500.00	263.66	\$500.00	\$98.56	\$500.00
Alateen Process Person	\$300.00		\$500.00	\$282.48	\$500.00
Alateen Representative	\$300.00	126.50	\$300.00	\$84.58	\$300.00
Archives	\$700.00	582.50	\$700.00		\$700.00
Public Outreach Coordinator	\$1,000.00	290.00	\$1,000.00		\$1,000.00
Website Coordinator	\$750.00	591.99	\$750.00	\$366.08	\$750.00
Literature Coordinator Purchases	\$700.00	674.95	\$700.00	\$477.25	\$700.00
Literature Coordinator Expenses			\$500.00	\$327.80	\$500.00
Reflector Editor	\$300.00		\$300.00	\$73.10	\$250.00
Alateen Conference Advance	\$500.00	1,289.25	\$2,000.00		\$2,000.00
Website Maintenance				\$389.97	\$750.00
Forum Coordinator	\$300.00		\$300.00	\$59.84	\$300.00
Convention Advance 2013					
Convention Advance 2014					
Convention Advance 2015	\$2,500.00	2,500.00			\$2,500.00
Convention Advance 2016			\$2,500.00		\$2,500.00
Rent for Assembly	\$2,400.00	1,936.75	\$2,500.00	\$1,837.40	\$2,500.00
Rent for AWSC	\$450.00	562.50	\$600.00	\$1,020.00	\$600.00
AWSC Travel - District Reps	\$100.00		\$100.00		\$100.00
AWSC Travel - Past Delegate	\$100.00		\$100.00		\$100.00
AWSC Delegate - Equalized Expense	\$1,968.00	1,907.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,447.00	\$2,500.00
Miscellaneous Expense	\$250.00		\$250.00	\$42.04	\$200.00
2013 International Convention	\$1,000.00	1,000.00	1000.00		
Team Expense					\$500.00
Total	\$17,918.00	\$14,742.72	\$20,600.00	\$11,147.50	\$24,500.00

How to Submit Your Sharing for WSO Publications

The stories in our Conference Approved Literature, magazines, and newsletters are written by our fellowship—members like you. The World Service Office is always looking for sharings for various publications and projects, and encourages you to share your story with us.

“Writing guidelines” for each of these publications and projects are available through your Area Literature Coordinator, the WSO, or on our Members’ site (see below).

You can send your writing for consideration via mail (1600 Corporate Landing Parkway, Virginia Beach, VA 23454-5617), fax (757-563-1655), e-mail (wso@al-anon.org), or on-line on our Members’ Web site.

To submitting an on-line sharing on the Members’ site:

Go to <http://al-anon.org/members/feature-publication-send-your-sharing>. You will need to log in to the Members’ site before you are redirected to the “Send Your Sharing” page. The password to enter is any variation of your group name followed by AFG (e.g. Easy Does It AFG or mondayafg).

There you will find a list of publications and projects, including *The Forum*, *Alateen Talk*, *Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism*, INTIMACY IN ALCOHOLIC RELATIONSHIPS (working title), and PARENTS & GRANDPARENTS OF YOUNG PROBLEM DRINKERS (working title). Each of these separate pages will give information about the project. A page for the NEW DAILY READER (working title) will be posted soon.

If that doesn’t work, do the following:

Go to the Members site: www.al-anon.alateen.org/members. (You can also reach it by clicking on the “Members” box in the upper right corner of the Public Outreach Web site, www.al-anon.org.)

Enter your password—any variation of your group name followed by AFG (e.g. Easy Does It AFG or mondayafg).

Once on the home page, click on the “Individuals” tab.

Then click on “Features Publications.”

Then click on “Send Your Sharing.”

There you will find a list of publications and projects, including *The Forum*, *Alateen Talk*, *Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism*, INTIMACY IN ALCOHOLIC RELATIONSHIPS (working title), and PARENTS & GRANDPARENTS OF YOUNG PROBLEM DRINKERS (working title). Each of these separate pages will give information about the project, downloadable sharing guidelines, and an opportunity to send a sharing directly on-line.

Please Share for Our New Daily Reader



The 2014 World Service Conference gave conceptual approval for a new daily reader that will reflect the Al-Anon program and its members as they are now. This reader will cover a wide range of topics from a variety of members throughout our fellowship. Your sharing will help assure that our new daily reader will reflect our fellowship as it is today, just as *One Day at a Time in Al-Anon* did 45 years ago, and *Courage to Change* did 20 years ago.

Some questions to consider:

- In my early Al-Anon meetings, what kept me coming back?
- What did I hear that was difficult to relate to at first, and how did I come to understand it?
- In what ways did I initially feel different from others in Al-Anon, and how did I come to see the common thread that binds us all?
- How have I learned to "Keep an Open Mind," and how has this enhanced my recovery?
- How has service played a significant role in my recovery?
- What program principle helped me to face my most difficult challenge?

Grammar and spelling are not as important as your heartfelt experiences, feelings, and insights. Please help us make this new daily reader a vital, rich, and multifaceted expression of the Al-Anon program of recovery.

Please keep the following guidelines in mind:

- ❖ Focus on a single program topic, slogan, Step, Tradition, Concept of Service, spiritual principle, feeling, or attitude.
- ❖ Please keep your writing succinct (approximately 200-300 words).
- ❖ Focus on yourself, not the alcoholic or others. Write in the first person singular—"I." Please avoid the use of the pronoun "you."
- ❖ Avoid generalities, outside issues, treatment center language, and religious philosophy or doctrine, although you may refer to the God of your understanding as you prefer.
- ❖ Feel free to include a "Today's Reminder"-type summary of your sharing, a thought-provoking question, or a pertinent quotation from existing Al-Anon literature (including source and page number).

Please mail, fax, or e-mail your completed sharing to:

Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc.
1600 Corporate Landing Parkway
Virginia Beach VA 23454-5617
Attn: New Daily Reader
Fax: 757-563-1655
e-mail: wso@al-anon.org (Please put "New Daily Reader" in the subject line)

In order for us to acknowledge receipt, please include your name and postal or e-mail address with your sharing.

Name or Pseudonym: _____

Address or e-mail: _____

If printed, your sharing will remain anonymous. If your sharing is not used for the book, it will be forwarded to the Forum Editorial Advisory Committee for its review. If published in *The Forum*, you will be notified by letter and receive a complimentary issue of the issue in which your article appears.

Note: All sharings become the property of Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc., and may be used in whole or in part to develop Al-Anon/Alateen printed or electronic material.

Please photocopy and distribute locally.