

# MEMORANDUM

TO: Conference Members  
FROM: Executive Director  
DATE: June 27, 2007  
RE: Pyramid Sponsorship

The WSO was asked at the 2006 WSC to send a copy of questions it receives from Conference members and our responses to all Conference members so that they can share leadership by responding to recurring questions in their Areas. The WSO believes that the following question and our response might be one of those topics.

**Question:** I got a call from a member in my Area that described what I think is a group/district that has a problem with pyramid sponsorship. I have suspected this was going on for about a year but had nothing solid. I told her I would contact the WSO but I wasn't sure there was really anything we could do but educate. I know this was covered at the 2006 WSC, but is there anything you can suggest or anything we can do?

**Answer:** You are on the right track with education regarding sponsorship. As you stated, the problem has been in your Area for at least a year. Instead of reacting and giving more attention to this type of behavior, it would be better to educate about sponsorship in Al-Anon. The new Sponsorship bookmark *Sponsorship—Working Together to Recover* (M-78) has arrived! A flyer will be posted on the File Exchange and a sample will be surface mailed. You may want to use the bookmark and the *Sponsorship, What It's All About* (P-31) pamphlet as resources for a workshop on sponsorship in your Area.

If you are aware that pyramid sponsorship is prevalent in a District—including the DR—you might want to think about having the workshop at an AWSC or Assembly meeting. We have found that planning is the key to success. Be sure to have a format and select a leader/speakers far enough in advance so they can become familiar with the materials. Also, remember that the purpose is to educate *all* members—not merely to react to some. The problem did not arise overnight and most likely will not be resolved overnight either. Your entire Area can benefit and be strengthened by knowledge.

We always need to remember in act in the spirit of the Al-Anon family. Please keep WSO updated regarding this matter.