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Area 52, Tennessee

DELEGATE'S REPORT 2019 FALL AWSC



Your link to WSO ...

New Feature on WSO's Website

There is a new blog for members to share their experience, strength, and hope on a variety of topics. For the first topic, members were asked to share their favorite Al-Anon spiritual principle and why. New topics will be added each month. The link for the new blog is: <https://al-anon.org/for-members/members-resources/member-blog/>.

Here are some of the responses:

George T. August 2019 at 12:10 am

For me, the Serenity Prayer is the cornerstone of my recovery. It encapsulates the first three steps. I have repeated it to myself often when dealing with my alcoholic/addict adult daughter. It has guided me as I strive to detach with love, get rid of unrealistic expectations, and not put up with outrageous behavior which has been both emotionally and financially costly. But it's taken me years to stop trying to be my daughter's higher power and to understand that I was enabling, rather than helping. But thanks to Al-Anon meetings and my Al-Anon sponsor I now have a sense of reality, and a sense of Serenity and accept the things I cannot change, including alcoholism/addiction.

Kay C. July 2019 at 12:00 pm

I really don't have a favorite Spiritual Principle from the Traditions. However, today I have been touched by the Spiritual principle of neutrality, which comes from Tradition 10. We have no opinion on outside issues. I have used this when sponsoring other women. I have no opinion on their politics, religion, finances, dress attire, etc. My responsibility is to lead them through the Steps, Traditions and Concepts in a manner that they can discern what is right for them. In my personal life, I have changed and become more serene as I don't have to express my opinions about someone else's life or actions.

Mary W. July 2019 at 6:23 pm

Anonymity is my favorite spiritual principle. When I attended my first Al-Anon meeting near my home it was important that "whom you see here, what you hear here, when you leave here, let it stay here." I had very little trust in anyone or anything at that time and kept a lot of what was happening in my home, my head and heart a secret. Anonymity in the rooms of Al-Anon was key to help me build trust and my self-esteem. The principle has grown to become the basis of principles over personalities and humility. It is a challenge to remove my EGO and to let my higher power lead my interactions with others and my thoughts. Practicing the principle of anonymity helps me stay in the present and not the past or future.

Laura N. July 2019 at 4:44 pm

It's hard to choose which spiritual principle is my favorite in Al-Anon. There are SO MANY good ones! Detachment is such a helpful spiritual principle along with the 3 Cs. In Hope For Today, a reading on detachment states, "Emotionally detaching from alcoholism increases the likelihood that I won't catch an overabundance of anger and anxiety". Brilliant!

Public Outreach Reminder

Received recently from Vali Fayen, Executive Director, WSO:

“We are all messengers of Al-Anon’s purpose and have the responsibility to accurately communicate it to avoid confusion, misperception, or dilution of our program.

The 2018 Membership Survey states "35% of the members came specifically because of someone's use of drugs." The survey also showed that 78% of these members eventually came to realize that someone else's drinking also effected their lives.

When developing and implementing Public Outreach activities, members are urged to keep Al-Anon's Twelve Traditions in mind, this includes reviewing the words of the Traditions in their entirety. This summary of applicable Traditions may assist your communication efforts with members, newcomers, professionals, and the media.

- Tradition Three states "The only requirement for Al-Anon Membership is that there be a problem of alcoholism in a relative or friend."
- Tradition Four tells us that "Each group should be autonomous, except in matters affecting another group or Al-Anon or AA as a whole."
- Tradition Five defines that our singleness of purpose is to help families of alcoholics.
- Tradition Ten tells us that "The Al-Anon Family Groups has no opinion on outside issues; ..."

According to a statement on page 131 in Al-Anon's Conference Approved Digest of Al-Anon and Alateen Policy "... our responsibility is to ensure Al-Anon's survival as a resource for families and friends of alcoholics. By focusing on these drug-related problems, we risk being diverted from Al-Anon's primary aim."

Therefore, conveying that Al-Anon is for families and friends of alcoholics and drug addicts in local or Area produced Public Outreach materials is an expansion and misrepresentation of Al-Anon's purpose (see Tradition Five). This includes but is not limited to posters, flyers, websites, etc.

We appreciate your efforts supporting the families and friends of alcoholics and maintaining our Traditions and primary purpose.”

Literature Committee

The Literature Committee is gathering information regarding *The Dilemma of the Alcoholic Marriage*. The five options we are considering now are:

- Option 1: Archive/discontinue the book altogether.
- Option 2: Keep printing the book exactly as it is.
- Option 3: Include a new preface for the book, but otherwise keep it as it is.
- Option 4: Rewrite the entire book.

Option 5: Print the current book with a new preface as a “Classic” edition AND print a booklet that includes “gems” from this book, with possibly some new material.

We have been asked to voice our thoughts on the Pros and Cons of each option. We will be discussing these at the September Literature Committee meeting.

2019 World Service Conference Summary

The 2019 World Service Conference Summary is now available electronically. You can find it on the website, under the Members tab – World Service Conference (WSC). Scroll to the bottom of the page and you can download a .pdf. You can also order a print copy. Order forms have been in the Forum magazine, or you can order on-line at:

<https://ecom.al-anon.org/ItemDetail?iProductCode=P46&CATEGORY=PAMPHLETS>

The Summary will be shipped in late August or early September. The cost is \$5 for shipping and handling. I should have a copy for all AWSC members at the Fall Assembly.

Tennessee Area 52 Criteria to be Referred and Do Not Refer Process

Per the World Service Office’s request, the Tennessee Area’s Do Not Refer Process and Criteria to be Referred were both submitted for review by WSO last September. We finally have a response from WSO, with some clear direction on what we need to do to.

1. Bullet II – we need to clarify that the District and/or Al-Anon Information Service Liaison is participating in the Task Force researching the concern. This can be that the DR or AIS Rep is a member of the Task Force or only that they are invited to provide input to the Task Force as a matter of Area autonomy. This is implied in this bullet point, but WSO would like us to clarify that. It has been the Area’s practice in these matters to include the DR and/or the AIS Liaison in the research.
2. Bullet V – WSO is looking for a more comprehensive resolution process to bring these groups back into compliance so they can once again be displayed on meeting lists. The letter described in this bullet represents an initial step toward resolution, but WSO would like to see a more in-depth acknowledgment of the Area’s ongoing responsibility and commitment to working proactively with the groups. The Area’s practice has been to welcome these groups to participate at AWSC and at Assembly, although they have chosen not to at this point. The groups receive The Traveler, if they have a GR, and the DR is included on the e-tree for Area information.

The development and approval of the Tennessee Meeting List Publishing Policy is a matter of Area autonomy. The WSO would only require the changes identified above if the Area wishes to have WSO’s support in removing the meetings from publication in the WSO meeting list.

I have not had a conversation with WSO about these yet, but plan to do that after our Convention.