

NEW YORK SOUTH ASSEMBLY AREA (Panel 57)

P.O. Box 30, Radio City Station, New York, NY 10101



Speak-Easy



Fall 2017 / October - December
al-anonny.org



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The Officers and Coordinators of Panel 57

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The Speak-Easy will be published four (4) times a year:

The Fall edition (October, November and December), and will ready for the September AWSC, and the October Assembly.

The **Winter** edition (January, February and March), to be ready for the January AWSC, and the February Assembly.

The **Spring** edition (April, May and June), will be ready for the AWSC in March, and the Assembly in April.

The **Summer** edition (July, August and September), will be ready for the May AWSC, and the June Assembly.

Dates for 2017:

AWSC = Sunday, January 8 / Sunday, March 5 / Sunday, May 21 / **Sunday, September 10**

Assembly = Sunday, February 19 / Saturday, April 1 / Sunday, June 11 / **Saturday, October 21**

ABSOLUTE DEADLINE FOR WINTER ISSUE ARTICLES = DECEMBER 1ST, 2017

Al-Anon's International Convention 2018

Celebrating One Day at a Time

Friday, July 6 – Sunday, July 8, 2018

Thoughts From Our Officers



Area Delegate / Taaj J.

For this term as a Delegate, I am planning ahead as to the next several Assemblies. The GRs agreed by consensus at the June Assembly to do some work around, "How to Deliver a stupendous GR report". As such I am working on how to format this for October.

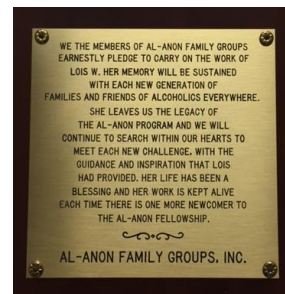
Future options for "break out" discussions are *SPIRITUAL ASPECTS OF FINANCES IN GROUPS, DISTRICTS, and AREAS*.

Going forward it will be exciting to look at the following two things:

1. Bringing the message of Al-Anon to a more diverse population.
2. Bringing the communication of the Area to more groups, and how we as GRs can do this.

It is with great pleasure that the Board of Trustees, Al-Anon Family Groups, Inc. announced that on September 5th 2017, Vali F. will begin her tenure as our next Executive Director. Vali brings with her over 15 years as an active Al-Anon member. She served as a Panel 53 Delegate from Arizona, Area Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. Additional Al-Anon service roles include: AIS Chair and Alateen Coordinator. Vali also brings over 20 years of business experience including management of teams of staff throughout the world. Vali has a keen understanding of the world's ever-changing landscape and how those changes have and will continue to impact the growth and diversity of our fellowship. Vali fully embraces the continued need to find new ways to reach those whose lives have been affected by someone else's drinking.

Thanks to all who are doing service,
to continue to bring vitality to our Area.



Alternate Delegate / Emily D-C.

As most of you know, an important role of the Alternate Delegate is to facilitate group inventories throughout the NY South Area. This is one of the roles I enjoy the most. It's good for my recovery to visit different groups, to get to know Al-Anon members from all over the Area, and to share information that might strengthen their groups.

When talking about the problem of dominance, I sometimes read a lovely passage from the Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual—the introduction to the Three Obstacles to Success in Al-Anon (p. 24):

All Al-Anon discussions should be constructive, helpful, loving, and understanding. In striving toward these ideals, we avoid topics that can lead to dissension and distract us from our goals.

Whenever the topic of business meetings come up during a group inventory, I might briefly explain the difference between Robert's Rules of Order and Al-Anon's Knowledge- Based Decision-Making (ie., the motion is made *before* discussion vs. making a motion *after* presenting and discussing pertinent information).

It's fun to see group members' eyes widen at the thought of incorporating new ideas into their meetings—ideas like Concept Five, in which groups adopt a process for the minority voice to be heard even after a group decision is made.

If your group would like to schedule a group inventory, please contact me at: nys57altdelegate@gmail.com



Here's a photo I took before a recent group inventory in Washington Heights



Area Chairperson / Ellen D.

"Service is an opportunity to grow". These are the words I have heard throughout my time in Al-Anon. I have found this idea of "opportunity" to be true in all aspects of my life. If it were not for the experience of applying myself to various service positions and learning one step at a time my responsibilities I may not have accomplished the myriad other things in my life that became possible as a result of practicing the Al-Anon program "In All My Affairs".

As our Alateen literature states, "Together we can make it". "We" can do so much more than "I" can even imagine. This year's Discovery Convention helped to celebrate 60 years of Alateen with the teens creating a beautiful banner. Such a powerful reminder of how the whole family has been affected and through the tools of the program "...find peace, serenity and happiness whether the Alcoholic is still drinking or not..."

Thank you all for your willingness to be of service to this beautiful program and I encourage you all to bring one new member to the next Assembly meeting. Let's work together to strengthen our New York South Area's commitment to service.

1957
to
2017



Area Secretary / Sue V.

The beauty of service is just when I think you have it all figured out, a new service position comes along and I am a "beginner" all over again. With one more AWSC and one more Assembly meeting this year, I am quickly approaching the end of my first year as Area Secretary. This is proving to be a wonderful learning experience. I am so inspired by my fellow members also serving at the Area level. With each service opportunity I am reminded of the power and strength of our worldwide fellowship. I am so grateful to have the opportunity to participate at the Area level. Presently, our Area is in the process of finding new meeting space for our Assembly meetings for the next year as Maryknoll undergoes renovations. I know HP has a plan and I am so grateful for my recovery which encourages me to trust. Hopefully we will have good news for you on this soon.





Around the Area



P.O. Box Coordinator / Arthur S.:

I continue to visit the Post Office Box in Manhattan weekly if possible but at least every other week. This gives me the opportunity to be of service, to walk around Manhattan, and to attend a meeting there.



District 18-19 / District Representative / Arthur S.:

District 18/19 Manhattan, which I serve as DR, is currently meeting 4 times per year. At our last meeting on July 12 there were about 10 GR's in attendance. The most significant takeaway from that meeting is that the District will be holding a Movie Night/Service Seminar on a Friday evening in late October, at the New York Intergroup Building on West 43rd Street. Details will hopefully be announced at the next Assembly.



District 24 / District Representative / Sue V.:

This is an exciting time for District 24 as we make great strides in lower Westchester! We have two very exciting things happening.

First, we had our Fall Workshop entitled, “The Heart of our Recovery” on Saturday, September 16, 2017, at the St. Paul the Apostle School Cafeteria, in Yonkers, N.Y. This was an opportunity to learn and share what makes a group healthy and how recovery can work better for you and your group. Our keynote speaker was Joan L.

Second, District 24 proudly announces the opening of our District bank account! This has been no small accomplishment in the 21st Century. Unlike days gone by when one could walk into a bank and open an account for just about anything, this is not the case today. Opening our District account took a tremendous amount of time, effort and energy; and almost didn't happen! Today banks want all kinds of documentation before they will open an account under an organization's name. Namely, we needed to produce Articles of Organization (or Incorporation) under the State of New York. This became an obstacle for months because our District is not incorporated. Thankfully our program teaches us to do the footwork and to Keep An Open Mind. That's just what we did. Together with a little ingenuity and a whole lot of help from HP, we found success. Six banks refused before we finally found one that would open our account and they gave us one with no fees and no minimum balance! With a Post Office Box already in place, District 24 is now fully operational and able to receive group donations by mail! This will make a tremendous difference in our ability to serve our groups and the community of lower Westchester. We invite our groups to present this information at their next business meeting



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The Steps, Traditions, and Concepts

October [10] / November [11] / December [12]

Steps:

- 10 Continued to take inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.
- 11 Sought through prayer and medication to improve our conscious contact with God as *we understand Him*, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.
- 12 Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to others, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

Traditions:

- 10 The Al-Anon Family Groups have no opinion on outside issues; hence our name ought never be drawn into public controversy.
- 11 Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, films, and TV. We need guard with special care the anonymity of all AA members.
- 12 Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles above personalities.

Concepts:

- 10 Service responsibility is balanced by carefully defined service authority and double-headed management is avoided.
- 11 The World Service Office is composed of selected committees, executives and staff members.
- 12 The spiritual foundation for Al-Anon's world services is contained in the General Warranties of the Conference, Article 12 of the Charter.

General Warranties of the Conference

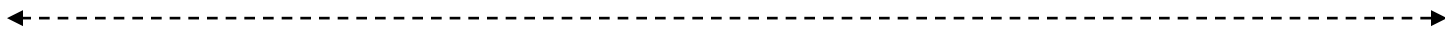
In all proceedings the World Service Conference of Al-Anon shall observe the spirit of the Traditions:

1. that only sufficient operating funds, including an ample reserve, be its prudent financial principle;
2. that no Conference member shall be placed in unqualified authority over the members;
3. that all decisions be reached by discussion, vote and whenever possible by unanimity;
4. that no Conference action ever be personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy;
5. that though the Conference serves Al-Anon it shall never perform any act of government; and that like the fellowship of Al-Anon Family Groups which it serves, it shall always remain democratic in thought and action.



The Al-Anon Declaration

Let it begin with me, When anyone,
anywhere reaches out for help,
Let the hand of Al-Anon
and Alateen always be there,
and Let it begin with me!



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