

# MISSOURI ROUND ROBIN

A Publication of  
Al-Anon Family Groups of Missouri



FEBRUARY 2012

## *Alternate Delegate's Report*



Hello fellow Al-Anons,

It's hard to believe another year has gone by! As I reflect on the past year I see many changes that have taken place in my life. Personally one of the biggest changes is that I became a grandmother. My granddaughter, Hannah, was born on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, and just as having your first child changes your life forever, so does having your first grandchild. I have also grown quite a bit in service this year. As I was preparing for this article, I went back and read what I had written last year. I wrote about change as we were just beginning the new panel, that we were all beginning a new journey in service, to expect some difficulties and to remember that our fellows in Al-Anon service may also be struggling. I did have some difficulties learning my new service responsibilities, I experienced some personality conflicts and had to work really hard to use the tools provided to overcome my character defects. I didn't always remember that my fellow Al-Anon service partners were struggling too. But, eventually I did seek help from my Higher Power, my sponsor, other experienced Al-Anon friends, and by reading the Service Manual. The storms did pass and when I got to the other side I found I had grown in ways I had not imagined.

I am looking forward to attending the upcoming South Central Regional Delegate's meeting the first weekend in March. The meeting will be held in Missouri this year (it's only in our Area once every seven years). In the past I have volunteered to help with small parts of the event. For example, seven years ago I helped with the luncheon and fourteen years ago I participated in a skit. Last year was the first time that I was able to attend the entire delegate's meeting as your Alternate Delegate. The meeting was in Houston, Texas, and I got to meet many Al-Anons from several different states. It was so interesting to hear the differences and similarities in how each Area handles their Assemblies, AWSC meetings, newsletters, websites, and conventions. I also witnessed our Traditions and Concepts at work in ways I had not seen before. Richard B. Panel 48 Missouri Area Delegate is chairing the event this year and he will need a lot of help. I encourage everyone who is able, to come and volunteer, even if it is only for a small part of the

weekend.

I am very excited to announce that District 17, my home district, is going to co-host the 2012 Day in Service with District 25! For those of you who don't know; the Day in Service is a day-long workshop sponsored by the Area to promote service through fun and fellowship. On January 21<sup>st</sup> we are having our first planning session to set the date and location, choose a theme, and brainstorm for fun ideas to fill our day. Check the Missouri Area website "Calendar of Events" at <http://www.missouri-al-anon.org> for the event details which will be posted very soon!

I hope to continue to grow in service as your Alternate Delegate over the next year and to share the gifts of love, serenity, and peace that I have been given through this program.

Holly D.  
Panel 51, Alternate Delegate

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## *South Central Regional Delegates Meeting Hosted by the Missouri Area*

**Volunteers Needed:** Missouri Area Al-Anons are needed to assist at the Registration Table, plan and set up banquet and other decorations, and to staff the Hospitality Room. As volunteers you may attend sessions. All attending banquet pay \$30.00.

PLEASE EMAIL ME IF YOU, YOUR DISTRICT, OR YOUR GROUP WOULD BE INTERESTED IN HELPING THE MISSOURI AREA WELCOME THE SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL DELEGATES TO ST LOUIS.

**You are encouraged to attend.** All Al-Anon members may register for the event. I have attended most of these meetings for the last 14 years. I find them extremely interesting and most enjoy hearing the experience, strength, and hope of those who have given so much service to Al-Anon Family Groups.

Details are at [www.missouri-al-anon.org/events.html](http://www.missouri-al-anon.org/events.html)

Reported by Richard B.

## *Chairperson's Report*

### Our Spiritual Journey—we get as we give

I am adopting the theme of the 2012 World Service Conference for the theme of our Spring Assembly this year.



### Why DO we slice our pickles the long way?

Years ago, a restaurant chain ran a series of ads depicting their employees answering questions from customers. These ads described the company's burgers, shakes, and even their china dishes. In the final ad, the employee repeated the question regarding their pickles: "Why DO we...." Our Literature contains similar lessons. A member shares what happened when her daughter asked why they always folded the towels a certain way. The member asked HER mother, who said that they had a narrow linen closet. A similar story tells of cutting the ends off the roast. (Grandma had a narrow oven.)

### Why DO we slice the AWSC Meeting the long way?

I have heard the Service Manual as containing the sum of the loving Group Conscience, as written at our World Service Conferences. The Missouri Area Procedures Digest likewise is the collected experience of those who have preceded us in service. The Missouri Area Procedures Digest and Al-Anon Duties each provide together specific description of the service work performed by our members.

As Chair, I often refer to these when planning the agenda for Assemblies and AWSC meetings. I have found that the information regarding any particular topic may be scattered through the document. I compiled a summary of just those that refer to our AWSC meetings. (These were from 11/2010 revision).

- Vinyl banners of our Legacies will be displayed. p3 D2

- Immediate past Delegate has vote, all others have voice. p3 E.4
- AWSC meetings are partially funded by the Area's general fund. p4 E.7
- District Representatives have five minutes for their reports. p6 M.5
- Officers and Coordinators read written reports (no time limit mentioned). p11 A.3.b
- Action Committees each get ten minutes for reports.
- DRs may bring problems regarding their groups to the AWSC. p12 D.5
- Treasurer will submit year-end report at March AWSC Meeting. p13 F.3
- Literature Depot Coordinator will submit annual inventory at the March AWSC Meeting.
- The location, hospitality, etc. is arranged by the Convention Coordinator. p15 M.7
- Secretary will read summary of minutes.

If every AWSC member was in attendance, the reports as outlined above would total over three hours. In addition, we generally allow time for the Delegate.

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|--|----------|
| • Minutes and Financial Reports          | 15 min.  |
| • Officers (5)                           | 25 min.  |
| • District Reports (26)                  | 125 min. |
| • Action Committees (5)                  | 50 min.  |
| • Kansas City and St. Louis Liaisons (2) | 10 min.  |

Obviously, it is a challenge to develop an agenda that includes these and also allows for new business.

### Coming soon in future Missouri Round Robin articles:

Planning for Spring Assembly.

Joe O. MO Area Chair, Panel 51

### **Al-Anon Internet Sites**

[www.al-anon.org](http://www.al-anon.org)

[www.al-anon.org/members](http://www.al-anon.org/members)

[www.missouri-al-anon.org](http://www.missouri-al-anon.org)

### 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.***

### Treasurer's Report



Happy New Year to all of you. I hope your Holidays were safe and healthy.

Donations for December were good. It's hard to believe that our first year on this panel is gone already.

I appreciate so much all of the support you have given us, your Officers so far. Please know that we are here to serve you. Also, please remember, when you send in your donations to be sure to write your district number on your check. Thanks again. We will see you soon!

Mary L.

District	Group Name /Description	Contribution
?	Choices AFG (Ballwin?)	\$40.00
15	Focus on Solutions Adult Children AFG	\$53.72
17	Climbing Higher AFG	\$15.00
31	Monday Lunch Bunch	\$30.00
15	MO District 15	\$400.00
22	River City Freedom AFG	\$50.00
17	Solutions of Harvester AFG	\$15.00
13	Creve Coeur AFG	\$100.00
19	Parkhill Al-Anon	\$8.04
13	F. R. O. G. AFG	\$10.00
19	Smithville AFG	\$60.00
5	Better View AFG	\$25.00
13	Daughters With Dignity AFG	\$50.00
28	Just for Today AFG	\$31.50
15	Mary H.	\$25.00
21	Lee's Summit AFG	\$42.00
?	Suzanne B. (Chesterfield, MO) for Group	\$193.13
25	Wednesday Tranquility AFG	\$60.00
15	Our Gang AFG	\$33.71
?	The Banner Group 14 AFG	\$70.48
15	Focus on Solutions Adult Children AFG	\$80.49
Total Contributions		\$1,393.07

#### January 2012 Balance Sheet

Beginning Balance	\$17,607.24
Income	\$2,505.85
Expenses	-\$411.63
Bank Analysis Fee	-\$4.95
Ending Balance	\$19,701.46
<b>Reserve Fund</b>	
Reserve Fund Balance	\$8,387.33
Interest Earned	\$0.00
Subtotal	\$8,387.33
Deposit 1/2 Convention Profit	\$0.00
Total Reserve Fund Balance	\$8,387.33

Thanks to all  
for your Contributions!

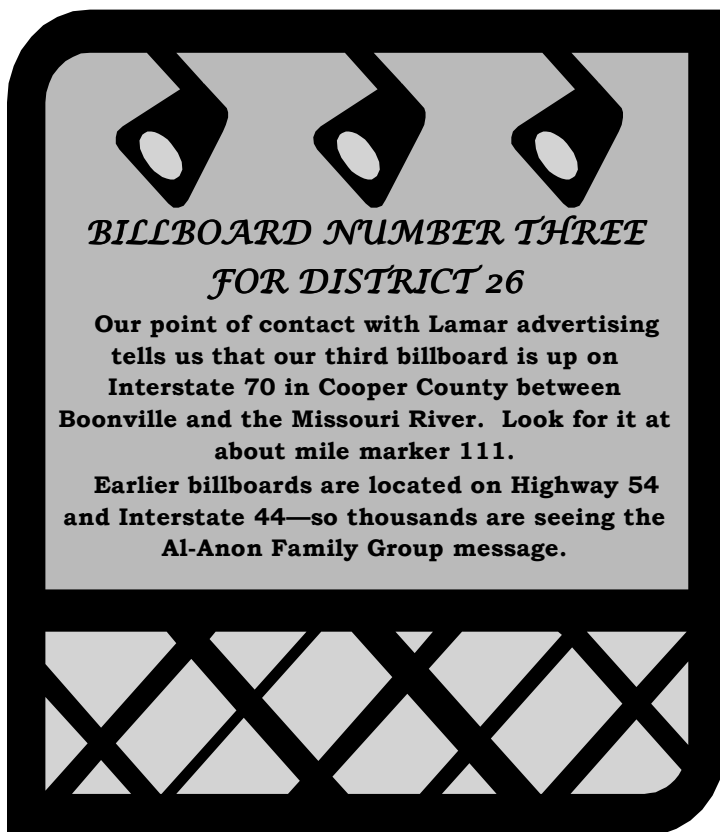
#### Statement Of Purpose

The **Missouri Round Robin** is the monthly service publication of Al-Anon Family Groups of Missouri. Please protect the anonymity of all whose names appear in it by keeping this newsletter within the Al-Anon/Alateen fellowship. Our deadline for material is the 10th of the month BEFORE the month in which your article is to appear.

We publish no poetry. The **Missouri Round Robin** is not copyrighted nor Conference Approved Literature.

For subscriptions (group or personal) make checks or money orders payable to: **MISSOURI AREA AFG** and send to: Leeli D.

Send articles to: Richard B.



### *Registrar's Report*

Happy 2012 everyone...as I write this it is still early January and so I was looking at the year ahead and all the great opportunities for adventures, growth and service that await us. The past year taught me a lot in my new position of Registrar, and now I want to continue to grow in this position and bring the best of me to the job. There are so many exciting events taking place within our area this year that I will be involved with—March brings the AWSC meeting and the South Central Regional Delegate Meeting, May is Assembly, June is likely the month for the Day In Service area workshop (hosted by Districts 25 and 17 this year—since I belong to District 17, I'll get to be involved with that), August is our second AWSC meeting, September is Area Convention, and November our second Assembly. And then there are the Alateen events too...CBAT, Super Sunday...and the district workshops and group potlucks. It's going to be a wonderful year...watch for registration forms and flyers in your *Round Robin* and on the Area website, listen for announcements at your group meetings, and come along for the ride!

Karen C.  
Area Registrar

### *DISTRICT 15 WORKSHOP*

We in District 15 had a very successful workshop on November 12, 2011. In fact, people are still complimenting us about it. Our theme was "Getting through the Holidays." We geared our skits, audience participation, and asked our speakers to use the central theme of using the tools of the program to help us get through the holidays with humor. Our speakers, Jeanine S. and Bridgette M., were great and we want to thank them again. In fact, they were so good some people had asked if we taped them. We wish we had.

The attendance prizes included God's Garbage Bag, a prayer with a prayer rock attached, and a handout for using tools of the program. The district decided to not pass a basket to give the workshop as a gift to the participants. We did have an Alateen fundraiser which was very successful. We also had an ugly sweater contest which was enjoyed by all. The winners received Al-Anon literature as prizes.

We had two skits. One was the Al-Anon Literature skit and the other was "A Good Thing about the Holidays" skit. The workshop was a fun event enjoyed by all. Thanks go out to the workshop committee for all their hard work, the groups in District 15, and to all who came. We hope to do it again next year!

John M., District Representative

### *Newsletter Editor Comments*

#### **Fonts and Readability**

Your input on readability is important. Check out this article, the Registrar's Report, and District 15 Workshop report (all on this page) and note the differences in fonts. Do you have any comments on the readability of the fonts? If so, please rank the readability of the fonts and send your comments to me.

#### **Round Robin Content**

The content of the *Round Robin* hopefully gives you news you can use in both your personal life and your Al-Anon/Alateen service. You are invited to submit articles about your service work, the goings on in your district and meeting, and your insights in your growth in Al-Anon Family Groups through your experience, strength, and hope.

#### **Newsletter Publishing**

If you know Microsoft Publisher, and want to help with the newsletter, please contact me.

Reported by Richard B.

## *Greetings from the Convention Committee!!*

Happy New Year to all! With the New Year here, it's time to think about the convention and Assemblies (hotel rates) for 2013, 2014, and 2015. I'm publishing the rates and, in the next couple of issues, I'll be going into more detail about the three hotels that I'm working with.

### **FOR MAY ASSEMBLIES**

#### **#1 – Inn at Grand Glaize**

Hotel room rates proposed are

\$75.00/night plus tax for 2013, 2014, and 2015

Note: The hotel rooms and meeting rooms and hospitality room are all in the same hotel building. They will not charge any extra fees except for coffee/beverage services if we meet at least 90% of the rooms we block for the event.

#### **#2 – Country Club Hotel & Spa**

(sleeps up to four, two double beds or one king size bed and a sleeper sofa)

Deluxe Rooms and Suites rates are

\$83.00/night plus tax for 2013

\$85.00/night plus tax for 2014

\$87.00/night plus tax for 2015

Country Club also has Villa rooms that sleep up to six people and are separate from the main building of the hotel. The rates on the villa rooms are:

\$165.00 per night plus tax  
for 2013, 2014, and 2015

Note: The hotel rooms and the meeting rooms are all in the same building but will be on different floors of the main hotel building than where the hotel rooms are. The hospitality room is located in one of the villa suites and is separate from the main hotel building (FDA regulations).

#### **#3 – The Lodge of Four Seasons**

Rooms single or double occupancy

\$79.00/night plus tax for 2013

\$80.00/night plus tax for 2014

\$83.00/night plus tax for 2015

Note: Meeting room would be an outside walk from the hotel rooms to where we are meeting. Meeting room cost for the Assembly is an extra

\$500 in 2013; \$600 in 2014; and \$700 in 2015. Access to the Hospitality room would be an outside walk and is separate from where the hotel rooms are located. There would also be extra charges for the coffee/beverage services as well.

### **FOR SEPTEMBER CONVENTIONS**

#### **#1 – Inn at Grand Glaize**

\$85.00/night plus tax for 2013, 2014, 2015

#### **#2 – Country Club Hotel & Spa**

2013 - \$83 room/\$165 Villa plus tax

2014 - \$85 room/\$165 Villa plus tax

2015 - \$87 room/\$165 Villa plus tax

#### **#3 – The Lodge of Four Seasons**

2013 - \$99/night plus tax

2014 - \$102/night plus tax

2015 - \$106/night plus tax

### **FOR NOVEMBER ASSEMBLIES**

#### **#1 – Inn at Grand Glaize**

Hotel room rates proposed are

\$69.00/night plus tax for 2013, 2014, and 2015

#### **#2 – Country Club Hotel & Spa**

Same as "FOR MAY ASSEMBLIES"

#### **#3 – The Lodge of Four Seasons**

Rooms single or double occupancy

\$79.00/night plus tax for 2013

\$82.00/night plus tax for 2014

\$85.00/night plus tax for 2015

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All of the same notes for the hotels listed under the May Assembly apply to September Convention and November Assembly.

This is all of the information I have at this time. In the next coming months, in the *Round Robin* before Assembly in May, I will be saying more about the rates.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to email me.

Thanks for letting me serve as your Convention Coordinator.

Lori H.

### *Archives Coordinator's Report*

As we look forward to this March Regional Service Seminar, it is with a great deal of sadness that I think of the loss of our dear Mary Beth J. (Panel 16, Kansas) and how very much she will be missed. When we had our Regional Delegates Meeting here in St. Louis seven years ago, Mary Beth was present and gave a part of the presentation. She shared on an old timers panel about how Al-Anon was when she came in and how it has changed over the years.

I also got to hear her speak two years ago as Dinner speaker at the Regional Delegates meeting. I always enjoyed every word she spoke. I especially looked forward to seeing her at the Delegates Meetings each year. She always made the meetings more fun.

Since Mary Beth had been living for the last several years in Neosho, Missouri, I know she had been actively spreading her Al-Anon program in District 23. I am sure she will be so sadly missed by many members there. In fact, I first met Mary Beth at an A.A. Holiday Convention in Neosho about 1985. She was with her husband Clyde. Mary Beth had a most unique gift of making friends quickly and making a person feel special and important, somehow. Even at this first meeting, Mary Beth made a strong positive impression on me, and I have loved her ever since.

Fondly Submitted,

Sarah M.

Archives Coordinator

and Missouri Panel 30 Delegate

### *Literature Coordinator's Report*

Dear Friends in Recovery,

Well, yet another year has come and gone. This is when I like to review what happened in my life during the past year, reinforcing those things that made my life better (more peaceful, more loving, closer to my Higher Power, etc.) and working on eliminating those that made my life "less than" (my temper, impatience, ignoring my Higher Power and His gifts, and so on). Although I had fewer "less thans" in 2011 than in the past, I'm still working on many of them. With the help of my Higher Power and all of you, my friends in recovery, I hope to walk with my head a little higher and my heart a little lighter in 2012 than I have in the past. I'd like to thank all of you in advance for your love, support, and guidance during my journey.

Now, on to fun things. Barb G. (Literature Depot Coordinator) and I were invited to share the Amazing Al-Anon Literature skit with the Climbing Higher Al-Anon Family Group at Trinity Episcopal Church in St. Charles. We had a great time presenting the skit and everyone seemed to get a kick out of it. A lively discussion followed, with some folks sharing their favorite pieces of literature or even favorite readings. One member noted the large number of books and pamphlets that Barb had with her and asked where they could all be viewed or reviewed. Barb promised to get copies of the WSO order booklet to the group. A newcomer asked, "What should I buy first?" which opened up a conversation about sponsorship. Who'd'a thunk it?

So, if you'd like more information about Al-Anon Conference Approved Literature (CAL), please contact Barb G. or myself. We'll be glad to share with you and/or your group. Here's another copy of the invitation for me and/or Barb to visit your group with this skit (or maybe another one that I'd like to work on).

With love in service,

Karen L.

#### ~~~~ An Invitation ~~~~

We'd like to invite Karen L., Missouri Area Literature Coordinator, for a presentation at

our \_\_\_\_\_ Workshop in District \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Place: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

RSVP (name, phone, email): \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete and mail to Karen L.

PANEL 51 MISSOURI AREA OFFICERS/COORDINATORS/ALTERNATES/LIAISONS					AC=Action Committee
Please protect the anonymity of all whose names appear by keeping this information within the Al-Anon / Alateen fellowship					
Position	Name	Address	City-State& Zip	Telephone	E-Mail / Contact Person
Delegate	Geneva D.				
Alt. Delegate	Holly D.				
Immediate Past Delegate	Richard B.				
Chairperson	Joe O.				
Secretary	Diane S.				
Treasurer	Mary L.				
Alateen Coordinator	Debbie J.				
Alt. Alateen Coordinator					
Area Alateen Process Person	Marilynn M.				
Archivist	Sarah M.				
Alt. Archivist	Loretta R.				
Convention Coordinator	Lori H.				
Alt. Convention Coord.	Vicki M.				
Registrar	Karen C.				
Alternate Registrar	Cathy Ci.				
Forum Coordinator	Lori A.				
Alt. Forum Coordinator					
Group Records Coord.	Penny H.				
Alt. Group Records Coord.	Karlene L.				
Literature Coordinator	Karen L.				
Alt. Literature Coord.					
Literature Depot Coordinator	Barbara G.				
Alt. Literature Depot Coord.					
Public Outreach Coordinator	Shirley M.				
Alt. Public Outreach Coord.	Kathy R.				
Newsletter Editor	Richard B.				
Alt. Newsletter Editor	Leeli D.				
Speaker Coordinator	Donna E.H.				
Alt. Speaker Coordinator					
Web Page Coordinator	Sharon S.				
Alt Web Page Coord.					
AC Business Services					
AC Membership Outreach					
AC Group Services	Loretta R.				
AC Public Outreach	Janet F.				
AC Fellowship Communication					
Trustee at Large	Laurie K.				
Al-Anon Information Services					
Liaison St Louis	Annie R.				
Liaison Kansas City	Brenda F.				
WSO	AFG, Inc				

See hardcopy  
For contact information

**2012 World Service Conference Theme**  
**“Our Spiritual Journey—we get as we give”**

PANEL 51 MISSOURI DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES					
Please protect the anonymity of all whose names appear by keeping within the Al-Anon/Alateen fellowship					
Dist	Name	Address	City, State & Zip	Telephone	E-Mail / Contact Person
004	Shelley S.				
005	Renae R.				
008	Michelle T.				
010	Cathy K.		See hardcopy For contact information		
013	Sarah S.				
014	Rich H.				
015	John M.				
017	Kathy B.				
018	Carol R.				
019	Lisa T.				
022	Ruth T.				
023	Jean M. (*)				
025	Cheri H.				
026	Barbara H.				
028	Judi D.				
There are no DRs or contacts for districts 1, 2, 3, 7, 9, 11, 12, 20, 21, 24, and 27. *=Acting Alternate DR. There are no districts numbered 6 and 16.					

### Area Alateen Process Person's Report

As many Area members who attend Assembly or who read the *Round Robin* already know, there was a special committee appointed to discuss the business procedures regarding Al-Anon and Alateen due to the Motion 6 being tabled at the November 2010 Assembly and discussed at the May 2011 Assembly. As it turns out, our committee has expanded the conversation/study much broader into discussing the relationship between Alateen and Al-Anon, as a whole, in Missouri. We had our first actual face-to-face meeting on January 8, 2012. We had been exchanging emails previous to this, which makes good quality communication difficult, as you can imagine. Richard will be reporting the recommendations of our committee at the AWSC meeting on March 10.

Due to our committee work, I wanted to share the information in the World Service Handbook section of the current Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual regarding the relationship between these two entities of AFG. What a better way to start our new year and improve our fellowship than to educate ourselves on our relationships?

The Service Manual (page 133) states that "Alateen is an integral part of our fellowship. Area World Service Committees (AWSC) --each Area has one-- are urged to encourage Alateen participation at district and Assembly levels." The Alateen group representative (GR) has voice and vote at the district and Assembly. Did you know that an Alateen can hold office at all World Service levels

(DR, Assembly officer, and Delegate) if elected by Al-Anon and Alateen GRs?

The AWSC consists of the elected and appointed officers and coordinators of the Area, District Representatives, and liaison members from Al-Anon Information Services (Intergroups). ***It's primary purpose is to "plan for the general improvement of both the Assembly and the groups" (p. 154 in World Services Handbook).*** All Al-Anon members are welcome to attend AWSC meetings. While you might not have a vote, you, the individual Al-Anon/Alateen member, can participate if you want to be part of successful Al-Anon business in our Area and potentially carrying the message of Al-Anon and Alateen to every community which is the mission of our Fellowship. (By the way, in our instance, our Area is the State of Missouri. Some states have such large numbers of groups that their state may be divided into more than one Area. Definitions of these terms are in the Service Manual.)

While the reading may be rather factual and dry, the Service Manual is a great way to educate yourself and help you understand why "we do things the way we do" at Assembly as well as in our meetings.

I was elated to receive a copy of the *Al-Anon and Alateen Groups at Work* with my December copy of *The Forum*. I had not kept current on reading *The Forum* and had to ask our Delegate, Geneva, why I had received

*(Continued on page 10, AAPP Report)*

## *Dual Members and Al-Anon Service Policy Timeline (PART TWO)*

*This is the second part of a two part article. The first part was in the January 2012 Round Robin.*

**1981** WSC approves Policy Committee question and answer sheet on “Cooperation Between Al-Anon and AA.” These were published later in the guideline “Cooperation Between Al-Anon and AA” (G-3) to which the question and answer to “What offices can Al-Anon/AA members hold” was added. (*1981 WSC Summary*, pp. 26-27, 48)

**1983** WSC approves Policy Committee revision that the WSO cannot register any group that is solely for dual AFG/AA members because they do not qualify to have a group representative. (*1983 WSC Summary*, p.48)

**1984** Handbook revised as follows: “The election of the DR and alternate DR, from among the new and re-elected GRs, neither of whom are members of AA...” and “The Committee asks the GRs who have the right to vote to elect a delegate, who is not also a member of AA...” (*1984 WSC Summary*, p.47)

Part Two will be in the February 2012 *Round Robin*

**1985** Long Range Study Panel reviews results of Questionnaire on Dual Membership and Service at the area level sent to 71 past Conference members; 43 responded. 35 believe the policy on dual membership should remain as it is; 6 believe the time has come to change the policy; 2 believe the policy should be changed in the future. (LRSP Minutes 11/18/85)

**1987** Handbook revision under Area World Service Committee: “An Al-Anon/Alateen member, who is not a member of AA, is eligible to serve as area coordinator...” (*1987 WSC Summary*, pp.34, 53)

**1991** WSC denies “request that the Policy Committee reconsider interpretation of the policy.” (21 yes; 76 no) (*1991 WSC Summary*, pp.19, 23, 47)

**1994** WSC denies a motion to eliminate restrictions to service. (21 yes; 77 no) (*1994 WSC Summary*, pp.17-18, 47)

**1996** WSC denies motions “to declare a three-year moratorium on any Conference action/discussion regarding dual membership.” (52 yes; 42 no); and to request “the Policy Committee and fellowship reflect and consider what is best for Al-Anon in accordance with our Traditions.” (56 yes; 38 no) (*1996 WSC Summary*, p.56)

### **Other Discussions:**

Also discussed at Policy Committee meetings and WSC Workshops in ‘76, ‘81, ‘84, ‘86, ‘89, ‘92, ‘93, ‘98, ‘99; no changes suggested.

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **1. Can an alcoholic not in A.A. serve as GR?**

Yes, any member, who is not also a member of A.A., may serve as GR.

#### **2. Can a member of A.A. serve as a District Chairperson?**

The policy states that dual members cannot serve in positions that could lead to membership at the WSC.

#### **3. Can A.A. members have voice and vote on matters at a district meeting?**

Many districts hold open meetings for all interested members, who would attend with voice and without vote. Only Group Representatives vote at district meetings.

#### **4. What will happen if a group decides to elect a GR who is a dual member?**

The Assembly could choose not to seat the GR.

#### **5. What offices can Al-Anon/A.A. members hold?**

These dual members are, by virtue of their Al-Anon membership, eligible to hold office in their Al-Anon or Alateen group; this is service at the group level. Because of the unique natures of the Al-Anon and A.A. fellowships, experience has shown that service positions beyond the group level, such as Group Representative (GR), should not be filled by Al-Anon/A.A. members. The need to focus at all times on the Al-Anon interpretation of the program could produce a conflict of interest at Assembly and world service levels. (Guideline G-3)

#### **6. Why are members of other Twelve Step programs allowed to serve above the group level, but not A.A. members?**

Al-Anon has a special relationship with A.A. that it doesn't have with other Twelve Step programs. For example, Al-Anon Traditions only mention A.A., not any other program.

#### **7. What is some of the rationale given for the dual member policy?**

Discussions over many years at World Service Conferences refer to: the uniqueness of each program; a possible conflict of interest; a need to retain the Al-Anon perspective; to avoid dilution of the Al-Anon program; the primary purpose of each program is different; and that the member could be eligible to serve at both Al-Anon and A.A. Conferences.

## *Reoccurring Questions Feature—Al-Anon Declaration*

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.

**Q**uestion: What is the history of the Al-Anon Declaration? Does it imply that Al-Anon's help is for anyone with any type of problems?

**A**nswer: The November 9, 1973 minutes of the International Convention Committee for Al-Anon/Alateen activities in the 1975 A.A. International Convention with Al-Anon/Alateen participation stated the following:

“Henrietta told the Committee of a call she received from AA telling how impressed they are with our proposed choice of theme—‘Let It Begin With Me.’ They might even want to adopt it as the overall Convention theme.”

The Convention Committee for Al-Anon/Alateen activities then recommended that this theme be used as a declaration. The recommendation was brought to the Policy Committee in January 1974. In April 1974, the Policy Committee reported to the World Service Conference that:

“The slogan ‘Let It Begin With Me’ is to be worked into a declaration, similar to AA’s ‘I Am Responsible,’ and it is to be printed in a small leaflet to be introduced at the 1974 World Service Conference.”

The theme chosen for the 1974 World Service Conference was “LET IT BEGIN WITH ME.” At the

opening dinner, Conference Chairperson Penny B. stated, “You also have a small card at your place. This is the Declaration built on the theme of our Conference. Let us repeat it together: “When anyone, anywhere reaches out for help, let the hand of Al-Anon and Alateen be there, and LET IT BEGIN WITH ME.”

In 1975, the Conference was asked to approve decisions of the Policy Committee. These did not appear as a Conference motion. The 1975 Conference Summary lists the Policy decisions, as revised by the Conference, and states that they were approved as amended. Among them was the following from the March 19, 1974 Policy Committee meeting:

“The following was adopted as Al-Anon’s 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.’”

So the declaration was created 35 years ago, and the wording has not changed since that time. The A.A. Responsibility Statement reads similarly, “I am Responsible. When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And for that: I am responsible.”

Taken literally, someone could take the Al-Anon Declaration to mean, “when anyone with any problem reaches out...” However, as this passage is internal to Al-Anon members who understand the scope of the help that Al-Anon Family Groups offers, we believe that the spirit of the declaration is implicit, that whenever anyone seeks the help of Al-Anon, it is up to each of us to make sure that the help will be available. It is a reminder to our membership to “let it begin with me,” not an invitation to others to seek our help.

*(Continued from page 8, AAPP Report)*

it. She said that all subscribers to *The Forum* received one. PLEASE :) take some time to review that publication for suggestions on how to conduct a meeting, review definitions, read sharings on the Legacies, and much more. There's lots of experience, strength, and hope shared within its pages. You could use it to chair a meeting. Or if you just don't want to keep the booklet, give it to a newcomer so they can learn more about this wonderful fellowship.

**ATTENTION ALATEEN SPONSORS--Save the dates of March 11, 2012, for Alateen Super Sunday (Jefferson City) and March 30, 31, and April 1 for CBAT (Rolla).**

If you really would like to encourage more interactions between Alateens and Al-Anons, please consider also attending the **AWSC meeting on March 10 (Jefferson**

**City).** Area officers would like to see increased participation from Alateens and their sponsors in all the events in 2012. We have some new groups so let's share our experience, strength, and hope with those just coming into the Program! Specific information on these events will be forthcoming, but please contact me if you need to during the month of February because Debbie J., our Alateen Coordinator, will be busy with personal responsibilities out-of-state—she still can be reached by email and telephone but on a less frequent basis than normal.

Missouri Area Alateen Process Person  
Marilynn M.

*Area Calendar of Events*

**2012 Dates**

**SCRDM**—March 2-4, 2012  
 Crowne Plaza Hotel St. Louis Airport  
 11228 Lone Eagle Drive, Bridgeton, Missouri 63044

**AWSC Meeting**—March 10, 2012  
 Wesley United Methodist Church  
 2727 Wesley Street  
 Jefferson City, MO 65109

**Alateen Super Sunday**—March 11, 2012  
 Jefferson City, MO

**CBAT**—March 30-April 1, 2012, Rolla, MO

**Assembly**—May 5-6, 2012  
 Inn at Grand Glaize, Osage Beach, Missouri

**Day in Service**—June, 2012

**AWSC Meeting**—August 25, 2012

**Convention**—September 28-30, 2012  
 Country Club Hotel and Spa  
 301 Carol Road, Lake Ozark, MO

**Assembly**—November 3-4, 2012  
 Inn at Grand Glaize, Osage Beach, Missouri

For more event and other detailed information go to:  
[www.missouri-al-anon.org/events.html](http://www.missouri-al-anon.org/events.html)

**District 17 Sponsorship Workshop**

- Learning to Trust Another Through Sponsorship
- Why Do I Need A Sponsor?
- How Do I Choose a Sponsor That is Right For Me?

**When:**

Saturday February 11, 2012  
 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM

**Registration** 11:30 AM

**Speakers** 1:15 PM

Followed by Breakout Groups, Sharing , and of course Cleanup

**Where:** Zion Lutheran Church  
 3866 Harvester Rd.  
 St. Charles, MO 63304

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