

IDAHO

AL-ANON NEWSLETTER

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Newsletter by and for Idaho Al-Anon Family Groups

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AREA HIGHLIGHTS

Revisions of Policy Statements Developed During 1974

"In keeping with Tradition Seven, Alateen groups should not accept contributions outside of Al-Anon. However, they may raise money for the Conferences or other Alateen purposes by performing services and by means of activities within the Al-Anon and AA fellowships (e.g. bake sales, car washes, spaghetti suppers or the sale of articles pertinent to the program, such as Serenity Prayers, Praying Hands, Slogans, etc.) These activities should be held at reasonable intervals and with the permission of the respective AA or Al-Anon groups which will be directly affected by these activities."

"The WSO will register any group designating itself as an Al-Anon Family Group with the understanding that it will abide by the Traditions and that meetings will at all times be open to any Al-Anon member. Many groups identify by selecting a name that will attract members with similar needs and problems, such as the Alateens, Stag Groups, Parents Groups, Young Peoples Al-Anon, etc."

Rescinded

"When Al-Anon and Alateen members are invited to speak at open AA meetings, it can naturally be assumed that the AA committee has approved the invitation. Accepting such invitations offers the opportunity for better understanding between the two fellowships."

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"It is yours, this wonderful life...With your heart, hand and mind you hold the power to mold each golden moment, each shining hour into new designs, infinite possibilities."

Tina H.

## COORDINATORS

### Public Information

Beth met with all agencies working with "Drop-out" students. What an opportunity!! They listened and will cooperate with posters and will accept the Al-Anon books and Alateen hardback book in the schools. Plans are to talk at P.T.A.s the next school year.

Beth D., Ida. Falls

### Institutions

An orientation to Al-Anon type of meeting has begun at the Ada County Courthouse on each Tuesday at 7:30pm. This meeting is planned as a one time meeting for families of persons in the jail due to alcohol related crimes to inform them of what Al-Anon is, give them a few pieces of literature, and encourage them to attend the other regular meetings throughout the city.

The meeting room has been held open for an hour for 2 weeks now but no one has dropped in. The word isn't out very well at this point to those people directly in contact with families of alcoholics in jail. The Prosecuting Attorney, Sheriff's Office, District Judges, and the Chairman of the AA group meeting in the jail have been informed of the purpose of Al-Anon and of this meeting. The next contacts will be the City police, and probation officers. It's taking time to get around to all concerned.

Ladora G., Boise

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## GROUPS

### Wood River Valley Group, Hailey

Our group had 7 members in attendance the last meeting, and we had 3 males present. This is a little growth from our usual 2 or 3. I have made contact with pamphlets and posters for Al-Anon at our two hospitals, 3 police stations of Hailey, Ketchum and Sun Valley, besides the County Sheriff's Office. I have been invited to participate on the For Men Only panel at the International Convention at Denver.

Bob S., Hailey

### Salmon

Fond memories rest gently in the hearts of the Salmonites who were once active Al-Anon members. Now after seventeen years of inactivity some of these same people have graciously started another Al-Anon group. They opened the door in 1974.

Beyond that door lies hope, sunshine and fellowship, and something else---a revelation. "Is it fact or fiction?"

FICTION----"We know we have to control our alcoholic for he obviously is not responsible to control himself. We know that all our emotional problems are their fault."

FACT---"The family must learn to accept and treat alcoholism as a "disease". Any amount of attempted control aggravates and supports the alcoholic's reasons for drinking. He (or she) must view his

problems in their proper perspective before he is able to undertake a positive program of recovery. Al-Anon teaches us that it is possible to improve 'ourselves' and our living conditions despite the dilemma in which we have been caught. Our emotional responses are controllable."

Beyond the Al-Anon door is sunshine. The sunshine of sharing love and compassion with our fellowman. Filling the lives of others with the same hope and fellowship we gain through this marvelous and practical program.

By helping others grow, we grow. With the encouragement and assistance of our former Al-Anon members we directed our energies toward making personal contact with community leaders. Their enthusiastic response really encouraged us.

We keep our doctors' offices and hospital waiting room stocked with Al-Anon literature. Our public library now boasts a total of eight books on coping with alcoholism.

Our local KSRA Radio sponsored an hour long Al-Anon program on 'Voice of the Valley'. Three dedicated Al-Anon ladies made the 150 mile trip from Idaho Falls to Salmon to be on this program. Our junior high principal served as moderator. His enthusiasm and interest made our Idaho Falls visitors feel at ease and the message they had to tell found its way into numerous homes and hearts. KSRA will rebroadcast the program periodically and they do Al-Anon spot notices.

Our school superintendent gave his full support. He gave us permission to contact other school officials and he ordered Al-Anon and Alateen literature, posters, and books for the school libraries.

Our high school principal 'taped' the Al-Anon 'Voice of the Valley' program. The counselor and health teacher are anxious to use Alateen as a hope and strength for their students.

One of our Al-Anon members is now our Alateen sponsor. We have opened the door for Salmon's first Alateen program.

Armed with facts, not fiction, our ability to grow and help others grow is turning our revelation to reality. It's fun to share,

Bonnie P., Salmon

#### Idaho Falls Alateen

The Alateens voted to use the money they earned cleaning the AA meeting place to send their G.R. and Alternate to the Spring Assembly. It was a worthwhile trip- both knowledge-wise and fun-wise. Johnny Sue, their co-sponsor took the girls over. We are buying the new posters for the "Back to School Campaign".

Dawn H., G.R.

#### Idaho Falls

Jean, an Al-Anon friend from New Zealand, stayed with Darlene P. enroute to Denver. Sunday evening a pot luck(or ladies-a-plate as they say in New Zealand) was held followed by a meeting featuring Jean as guest speaker. The girls asked all sorts of questions, and the main feeling was that Al-Anon is much the same all over the world.

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Next deadline will be August 10, 1975. Sorry this issue is late, and that last time I goofed on some mailings. Be patient as I am still learning.

Gail L., Editor