

Area Outlook

VOLUME 36 NO. 1

SPRING 2008

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



Delegate

Once again, thank you for electing me as your Idaho Area delegate. As the year began my first thoughts were "What have I gotten myself into?" "Can I really do this?", and "What were you thinking?" However; as I remember to recite "THIS TOO SHALL PASS, KEEP IT SIMPLE, AND BUT FOR THE GRACE OF GOD GO I" and praying only for HIS will in my life and power to carry it out, I am rest assured I am exactly where my Higher Power wants me to be!

On February 7, 8, & 9th I attended the Northwest Regional Delegates meeting in Helena, MT, along with our Chairperson Cecilia, and Alternate Delegate Laura.

The meeting was informative, well attended and had 716 years of experience, strength and hope. I heard 2 wonderful speakers, attended the breakout sessions and discussed "hot topics" that are the chosen agenda items for the World Service Conference. Next year the delegates meeting will be in Nebraska.

The Conference theme this year is "Build Bridges – Energizing Our Spiritual Quest."

We are encouraged to use this theme at the Area, District, Group and personal level. Please take this theme to your meetings and ask the following questions. Where do we need to build a bridge, do we have a gap somewhere? Is it possibly welcoming a newcomer, is it having regu-

lar business meetings, is it public information in our home town, are there service positions that need filled, can I fill a gap somewhere, and where have we built strong sturdy bridges that we can learn from. A District, Group, or personal inventory is a great way to discover where



Building Bridges-Energizing our Quest

we need to build a Bridge to Energize Our Spiritual Quest.

Have you heard about the "Concept Blog"? If not, be sure to check it out on the www.al-anon.alateen.org/members website. This is a concepts workshop and the concept number will correspond with the current month. Since this is March it is on Concept 3. It is an informative and a

wonderful way to share our experience strength and hope with each other and learn how we apply them to our service structure, our meetings and our personal lives.

Remember 2008 International Convention is in Pittsburg, PA. on July 4-6. There is still time to register. The 2013 International Convention site has been selected. We will be going to Vancouver, British Columbia.

I will be leaving for the World Service Conference on April 11 and return on the 18th. I have been selected to be on the Admissions Handbook Committee. I will also have the honor of going to Stepping Stones on Tuesday, April 15th.

Thank you again for allowing me to be YOUR Trusted Servant.

With Love in Service,

Berta R.
Idaho Area Delegate Panel 48

Chairperson

Hello Area Members;

We just had our first Area World Service Committee (AWSC) meeting in Boise on March 22; the AWSC meeting was very well attended with all districts represented. In fact, all our Area officers and coordinators positions are filled.

There are no voting items for the upcoming Spring Assembly on May 16-18 in Ontario, Oregon. However, we will continue the discussion on splitting our Area Assemblies from Alcoholic Anonymous. Since this is a new service term, we will recap our prior points of concern and focus on the direction of our future assemblies.

The Area also has an Ad Hoc committee working on "Area Assembly Guidelines" to give assistance and consistency to the host districts holding Area Assemblies. We are hoping to give updates and re-

ports to the assemblies during the development of these guidelines.

Some other exciting news, in addition to our Friday night "G.R. Exchange," we will have a "D.R. Exchange" immediately following. The "D.R. Exchange" is for past and present District Representatives; this is so D.R.s can share their experience, strength and hope with other D.R.s and any current concerns and issues in their districts.

The AWSC has picked three "Hot Topics" for breakout sessions for the Spring Assembly. Those "Hot Topics" are "Outreach" spearheaded by Lisa C. and Wanda L.; "Service Participation" conducted by Danielle E. and Laura F.; and "Group Health" led by Robbin B. and Rob.

After our AWSC meeting, I handed out meeting evaluations. One of the evaluations said, "I was impressed with

our meeting of 1st year new officers; everyone is focused!" I could not have agreed more! We have a wonderful team of trusted servants serving our Area and I'm proud to be among them.

Look forward to seeing everyone at the Spring Assembly in Ontario, Oregon on May 16th. I do suggest if you need a hotel room that you reserve your room early; space is limited. Spring Assembly flyers are on our wonderful Idaho Area website <http://www.al-anon-idaho.org/> then click on "Events" on the left hand side and then click on "flyer."

Love in Service;
Cecilia S.

Treasurer

Forms on Website
I worked closely with the Website Coordinator to post forms on the website to help members and groups.



Idaho Area Expense Form
This form is used to record expenses incurred by area officers, coordinators, and Alateen sponsors requesting reimbursement. The form is completed, receipts are attached, and then the form is mailed to the Treasurer. I created both a pdf and Excel version of this form so you could download the pdf to fill in manually or the Excel to complete on your computer.

Treasurer Group Handout
This handout documents how and where to send Area donations.

Group Donations Form
This is a new form that was inspired by information Ruth B received from other Areas. It is a way to identify a donation to ensure a group can be credited with the donation. The form should be used to send donations to WSO, Area, District, or the Literature Center. Sometimes a group will mail a

check and it is very difficult for the receiving entity to identify the group. This form identifies the group with Area, District, and group numbers.

Groups are encouraged to fill in the top of the form with their group's information, then make copies each time a donation is made. This way the group's treasurer does not have to fill in the form each time.

If a group needs their group number, they are look at the meeting schedules on the website. Each schedule has the group's number.

Area Expense Reimbursement Policy
Area coordinators and officers are encouraged to review this policy to understand what is reimbursed by the Area.

Financials
Financial statements for yearend 2007 and 2008 year-do-date were distributed at the Area meeting. The budget was presented. Contact your District Representative for copies of the reports.

Group Bank Accounts
Have you tried opening a checking account for your group at a new bank and been frustrated with the process? I created a document to help you navigate the process and to clearly identify your group so the bank can properly set up the account.

Please note that your group should have an EIN (the document explains what this is and how to obtain one). You should never use the Literature Center's EIN for your group.

Documentation
I created a document called Treasurer Information. It includes a chart of accounts to explain each expense and income account, a list of treasurer activities, and details of the initial setup when a new Treasurer is elected.

Bean Counting Yours,
Toni R.
Area Treasurer

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Concept Blog

One of the best ways to protect the future of the Al-Anon fellowship is an area is to look to the past.



Archives Coordinator

I encourage each District to have their own Archives which would include a history of your groups—current group included; flyers for District events with dates on them; District officers and anything else you think would be interesting that pertains to Al-Anon and Alateen.

Area Archives is looking for a few good Forums in the following issues:

- 1962 Jan., Aug.
- All of (1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1969)
- 1968 Jan., Feb., Mar., Apr., June, July, Aug., Oct
- 1970 Jan., Feb., Mar., Apr.,

- June, Aug., Sept., Nov.
- 1971 Jan., Feb., Mar., June, Oct., Nov., Dec.
- 1972 Jan., Feb., Mar., June, Aug., Dec.
- 1973 March
- 1997 February
- 1998 July

PURPOSE

The purpose of an area archives is to preserve the experience, history and memorabilia of the Al-Anon fellowship from the beginning of the family movement in that locale. This history should be preserved so as to be available to the membership and the seri-

ous researcher, within the framework of our Traditions, for the good of Al-Anon as a whole.

One of the best ways to protect the future of the Al-Anon fellowship is an area is to look to the past. Of course, our primary purpose remains—to carry the message of hope to the families and friends of alcoholics. We can, however, renew our own sense of purpose by continuing to collect and preserve the rich and meaningful heritage of our past within the whole range of Al-Anon services.

Ladora B.

Area Alateen Process



Caption describing picture or graphic.

I am very excited about my new role as Idaho's Area Alateen Coordinator & AAPP (Area Alateen Process Person). As a past Alateen Sponsor, I have a passion for Alateen. I see a little bit of myself in each kid. I've heard Alateens share with incredible honesty about how they've been affected by the disease of alcoholism. I've also heard them share how the Twelve Steps work in their homes, and make their lives better. It's an awe-inspiring experience to witness the program making a difference in a teenager's life. With your help, we will strengthen our Alateen program in Idaho by giving our Alateen Sponsors the support & training they need to feel confident in their roles, and by giving our Alateen kids safe meetings to attend and a strong Twelve Step program to apply to their lives.

Here are some current Alateen issues:

Background Checks:

All active Alateen sponsors must have fingerprinted background checks completed to be re-certified. If you have not done this, go to our Idaho Al-Anon website at www.idaho-al-anon.org, and click on "Areal Members," then on "Alateen Sponsorship" to get full instructions on our Idaho Area background check instructions.

Recertification Process:

Every year WSO requires each area to re-certify all our Alateen Sponsors. This may sound bad but it's really a good thing, since it forces us to update our AMIIAS (Al-Anon members involved in Alateen service) records—that means our kids are safer!

The re-certification process is very simple. WSO will send me a spreadsheet of all Alateen sponsors, including addresses, phone numbers, email addresses. They will also send a list of all Idaho Alateen meetings, including location, time, day, contact names & numbers. We need to send back updated records no later than July 1st.

To do this, I'll send records to each district. I'm asking our District Alateen Coordinators (or District Reps) to return the lists with corrections, additions, deletions, no later than June 15th. This will give me time to consolidate the files and return them to the WSO.

Alateen Sponsor Training

The World Service Office is working on a new ALATEEN SPONSOR TRAINING Module. Hur-ray! It will be officially introduced on July 3rd in Pittsburgh at the Al-Anon International Conference. My goal is to start on-going ALATEEN SPONSOR TRAINING sessions at all our area assemblies. The first training session will happen

at our Fall Assembly in Boise, if there's interest.

Alateen Sponsors gain so much insight by sharing their experience, strength, and hope with one another. Our new Training Module will give us the benefit of world-wide Alateen sponsor experiences. Isn't that exciting news? I'd love for each district to consider paying the expenses of one or two of your Alateen Sponsors to each assembly.

District Alateen Contacts

WSO is asking that each district have an Alateen contact person (this could be a District Alateen Coordinator). Requests & questions about Alateen meetings come in to our World Service Office from schools & professionals across the country. If a request comes from an Idaho educator or professional, the WSO will send it to me and I will refer it to the nearest district. If there is no contact name, the District Rep will be my contact. I will ask the district to follow-up on these requests in their local area.

Thank you for allowing me to serve in this role.

Love in Service,
Ruth B.



In Remembrance—From the Ladora B.

Grace Louise R. 1924-2007

Trusted Servant Grace Louise or Louise as most of us knew here was a good friend to me and to her home group—Steps to Serenity AFG in Boise.

Even though her health was failing she looked forward to weekly meetings up until she retired from her home into an assisted living center. She was a Group Representative in the 1970's. We rode together to assemblies and shared hotel rooms.

When the Literature Center became organized she was an Intergroup Representative.

The pioneers of early Al-Anon in Idaho are truly to be remembered.

Helen T. 1914-2008

Another of our longtime members and trusted servant has left our midst. She was a good friend to me and an active member of my home group right up until she went into assisted living.

Helen enjoyed a good joke, not only on herself but on others.

She was office of the literature center in Boise for several years. She was active in the

formation of the literature center and had the hot line Al-Anon telephone at her home before we even had an office.

Her trusted servant years included being a GR, Area Treasurer; District III Treasurer. Money tender for all the yard sales and fundraisers for District III and the literature center. She liked to handle the money and she was good with figures. Farewell trusted servant



Remember



Alternate Delegate

Happy Spring to everyone! I love this time of year when the plants and birds are all getting a fresh start; it's perfect timing for a fresh start in our Al-Anon service positions.

NWRDM

My term of service started with a real infusion of enthusiasm and pride in our fellowship when I attended the 24th Northwest Regional Delegates' Meeting in Helena March 7-9. The meeting brings together past, current and alternate delegates from our 9-state region for the purpose of preparing new Delegates for the annual World Service Conference. It was very helpful for me to see the idea of knowledge-based decision making in action as Past Delegates and a Trustee spent the whole weekend informing us about current issues that will be coming up at the Conference and sharing their experience to give depth to our understanding of those issues. We were lucky this year because Cecilia (Past Delegate), Berta (Delegate) and I (Alternate Delegate) were all able to attend together. An opportunity like that strengthens our unity as an Area.

What has struck me since attending that meeting is how much I need a change of perspective to be able to see my own growth.

When I started in Al-Anon my view of the world was so narrow it was like looking through a paper towel tube – long and dark with one painful, hopeless image at the end. I remember my sponsor talking to me about doing service in Al-Anon. She told me that when we isolate ourselves our world gets smaller, and conversely, when we get involved in service our world expands. I'm thinking about the folks who piled in the car around Portland and made the drive to Helena, and the ladies in Lincoln who got up early to fly over, the Trustee who told us about her trip to Russia. Just from being present during the weekend, my world expanded tremendously. It's possible to relapse and become isolated again in recovery, but service provides me with valuable insurance against that happening. I am so grateful for that!

GR Exchange

One of my duties as Alternate Delegate is to lead the Group Representative Exchange that takes place on Friday evening at our Area Assemblies. Since this will be the first

Assembly for many of our new GRs we'll be preparing them for the business meeting that takes place all day Saturday. This meeting is an opportunity for past and current GRs to share information, make contacts, and find solutions to their group problems. I will be emailing District Reps to see if their GRs have topics to discuss at the Exchange. Feel free to email me with your ideas. Please include Al-Anon in the email subject line and send to Rebola@aol.com. Thanks and hope to see you all in Ontario!

Love in Service,
Laura F.
Alternate Delegate



Outreach in District 1



North Idaho District 1 is doing a non-bake sale to raise funds for the district in lieu of a speaker/potluck night we usually do twice a year. We are asking members to donate what they would have spent for the ingredients or items purchased from stores or what they would have bought at the sale. Send

donations to: North Idaho District 1, PO Box 5397,

Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814.

Also, I will forward a registration form for a 12 Step workshop by Mary Pearl, Friday and Saturday, September 19-21, here in Coeur d' Alene. We are asking groups and members to help finance the start-up/ district activity fund for this event. Donations can

be sent to District 1 Activities, PO Box 5397, Coeur d' Alene, ID 83814. There will be a serenity walk and breakfast Sunday morning at Tubbs Hill just behind CdA Resort.

Barbara V.

Group Records Coordinator



Lisa C.

Area 13 Records Coordinator Report

Area Meeting – March 22, 2008 – Boise, ID

Thank you for allowing me to be the Area 13 Records Coordinator. I'm learning quite a bit and will do the best job I can. Please do not hesitate to let me know if the groups have any concerns about information updates

to Area and WSO.

There have been a number of GR and meeting changes over the past couple of months. I'm providing a printout of the current meeting information on file for each District. I'd like to invite each District Rep to take the information back and share it with their Group Representatives so updates can be made. Group Reps also should know what the process is for getting meeting change information to the Area and WSO.

Two ways to update information with Area & WSO:

You can e-mail me directly (lisacon2001@yahoo.com) with any changes and I can file an on-line Group Records Change Form to WSO on behalf of the group.

Groups can file a Group Records Change

Form by mail or online at www.al-anon.org/test/MemberForm.htm

If groups choose to file their own information, WSO sends a confirmation to the Area Records Coordinator so the Area Records and Website Schedules can be updated.

Handouts:

- Meeting information currently on file with Area, by District
- Blank Group Records Change Form for group use
- Instructions on how to fill out the Group Records Change Form
- Copy of the current District schedule on the Website

Members Sharing

North Idaho District 1 is working on a few outreach projects. Our main one is the North Idaho Behavioral Health Panel Meeting. About 4 Al-Anon members go and shares their experience, strength, and hope during family night every 6 weeks. We have been running this for about a year now and it's been a wonderful experience with a lot of positive feedback from the family members and the hospital staff. We are working on getting a few Alateens to come and share as well.

April is Alcohol and Drug Awareness

Month. We are challenging groups in our District to spread the word of hope and asking members to drop literature at their Doctors or wherever they may be. One of our Alateen members is going to the Middle Schools in the Coeur d'Alene area and sharing how Alateen has made a positive change in her life. And lastly, our Outreach Coordinator is working with the Alateen Coordinator and putting together packets of information to mail out to other Non-Profit Groups and Churches who help families and local Counselors.



District 1

Hello From North Idaho!

We are in the midst of a snowstorm but what's new? We have had a great turn out for the first quarter of 2008! Our new officers, representatives, and volunteers have really been willing and able to support the district. We have been trying to meet once a month during the week in the evening. We have had about 12 attendees, most of them GRs (group representatives). We try to remind members that they all have a voice at the district meetings.

I am very excited to be the new DR (district representative) for District 1. We have some **very** enthusiastic members. Some have been involved beyond the group level for some time and some are new volunteers. We are thrilled to have Cecilia S, our first DR, the past Area Delegate and current Area Chairperson involved. Also, we have Lori M. our recent past DR and now a WSO Outreach Member-at-large, who always has a shoulder for me to lean on. The new treasurer Sue O. and secretary Barbara K. are **making** this district run.

We are so excited to sponsor Mary Pearl coming September 19-21 for a 12 Step Workshop in CdA (Coeur d'Alene). There is a separate planning committee working to facilitate that weekend. We hope to have a serenity walk on Sunday around Tubb's Hill and a breakfast right there in McQuen Park near the main entrance to the trail. Please plan on attending!

Call Lori M. for more details (208) 676-8802.



When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, let the hand of Al-Anon/Alateen always be there



PSA Announcement

District 2

The rest of the meetings from Washington District 3 joined the rest of the Idaho District 2 in the last few months. It has been wonderful. We had a successful Progressive dinner in December and some good elections.

This district is working on getting active in public outreach. One of our members has taken the PSA we received, when District 1 received the area award. It will play at KLEW TV starting in April, approximately five times a week. Hooray for our District.

We also had a new meeting start in Lapwai in January.



District 4



Our Annual February Luncheon was a success. After hibernation for a few months it is always nice to see the other groups come together. I think it is a good thing to get out of our own little cliques and meet new members. I tend to get comfortable in my home group and it is good to know that no matter where I go in this world there will be an Al-Anon meeting with the same Traditions, Steps, and Concepts as my home group, the simple, yet very spiritual foundation that Al-Anon has to offer.

What is planned this year:

We are planning a Summer Fun Event, which will include swimming, games, and family fun. A yard sale fundraiser for Alateen will be included in this year's event. I had learned a valuable lesson in last year's yard sale fundraiser: "Ask for Help!" I learned that there are some things that I simply cannot do on my own. I learned that arrogance and self-

District 3

I am really excited and proud to be the new DR for this great District! We've had at least 11 GRs attend our 3 district meetings this year. We have a nice mix of new and returning GRs, and everyone is enthusiastic. One of the projects we're going to undertake is to put together a District Policy Manual. I am inspired by the Area Policy Manual; I know there are issues that we often have questions about on a District level, so we've put together an ad hoc committee to work on it.

We've filled all of our coordinator positions, and great things are happening! I'm pleased to report that we're experiencing a resurgence of Alateen in the valley, with 3 established meetings happening in schools, with another one coming. They're doing so well that students attending at a junior high have requested that one starts at the corresponding high school, so that they can continue next year. There's also a new evening Alateen meeting that is doing well. I can't say enough about the sponsors who have worked so hard to get all of this started, and who keep it going.

Public Outreach is alive and well, with an Institutions meeting starting at Intermountain Hospital in late March,

and continuing on the last Thursday of each month. As well, we've been asked to have a presence at the Idaho Conference on Alcohol and Drug Dependency (ICADD) in May. Volunteers will man a booth, getting the word out about Al-Anon to alcohol and drug professionals. This year, we've been invited to have an actual Al-Anon meeting on site one evening.

Plans for the Gem State Round-Up (August 1-3) and Fall Assembly (October 10-12) are in full swing, and flyers will be forthcoming.

Love in Service,

Traci E.

District 3 Rep

centeredness is detrimental to my recovery.

Last years Spaghetti and Speaker was a success and a lot of fun. We plan on having it as an annual event. We have an Al-Anon Speaker, and we include our brothers and sisters from A.A. We learned some lessons and will do some things a little different this year. Again, "Ask for Help." I am learning slowly.... My Higher Power has been very patience with me. Elsa has retired from our outreach coordinator and Shar has picked up where she left off. Thank goodness for Elsa's wonderful job in outreach that Shar has been able to adjust to it very well. Although we are looking for a group effort in outreach instead of just one person tackling it on there own. I am reminded by Concept Four: Participation is the Key to Happiness.

I am pleased to Report that we have opened a new meeting in Jerome. This will include Alateen as soon as certification process has been completed. There will also be an Alateen meeting opening on Tuesday Night in Filer as soon as certification process is complete. J

Although I get discouraged that not all the

groups from District Four participate in the events I am reminded that all groups are autonomous and that I cannot control another's behavior. It is a good lesson in "Let go and Let GOD."

I am very grateful for the opportunity that Al-Anon has given me and I will continue to have courage to change.

History



Not too long ago I wanted to find out where the six meetings we tell other members came from, so I e-mailed WSO and this is what they shared with me.

Greetings from the Al-Anon Family Groups World Service Office! Thank you for contacting the WSO with your question about how the custom of suggesting that newcomers attend six meetings came about. This history of how our fellowship evolved is always an interesting topic, but sometimes that history is not readily available, so we asked our Archives Coordinator to briefly research the subject. He found that a workshop on **Beginners' Groups** was held at the 1970 World Service Conference where Delegates from throughout the United States and Canada brought the experience, strength, and hope from their Areas to share with the Conference members.

In the *Conference Summary* of that year states on page 10: "All [workshop presenters] agreed that beginners' meetings were essential to a good foundation in the program and faster progress for the individual." Delegates shared that "Beginners meetings [in her Area] consist of six lecture and question-and-answer periods lasting half an hour each" – "an Intergroup servicing 25 beginners' groups developed a curriculum" – "We use a uniform formula which the leaders of beginners' groups follow faithfully; this gives new members a feeling of Al-Anon unity." – "Newcomers are asked to attend six meetings before they join the regular group. Advantages: established members need not gear the meeting to the limited knowledge of the newcomer; the newcomer is not exposed to concepts she cannot grasp without previous briefing." – "our group has doubled

since we started beginners' meetings."

In 1973, the Delegates to the WSO were given a brochure with their Conference materials entitled *Suggested Beginners' Meeting Format*. It provided an outline of six meetings for beginners with suggested topics and literature that later developed into the present *Guideline for Beginners' Meeting (G-2)*. All of our guidelines can be found on the Members' Web site: www.al-anon.alateen.org/members. (use any variation of your group name followed by afg as the password.)

Literature Center News

The Literature Center has three new board members as of January 1. They are Marje K., Toni R. and Toni R.

The Literature Center also has new hours as of March 1. It is open from 11:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

A Literature Order Form can now be accessed on the web at www.Al-Anon-Idaho.org. The Order Form can be printed and mailed or faxed in.

We also have a conference room available to us for meetings. Contact The Literature Center for more information.

Thank you all for your continued support of The Literature Center.

Marje K.

Website News



Events
Districts continue to provide flyers and other information for their events. Each are posted on the website and removed the day after the event is concluded.

Newsletter Distribution
There are 82 members signed up to receive the electronic newsletter.

Anyone can request to be added to the distribution list by emailing webinquiry@al-anon-

idaho.org. You can also click on "Send your email address" at this webpage: www.al-anon-idaho.org/Newsletter/index.htm.

Alateen Sponsorship
The webpages and forms referring to Alateen sponsorship were updated to include the new Area Alateen Process Person. Encourage potential Alateen sponsors to visit this page to understand the procedures.

Meetings

District 3's meeting schedule by town has been removed from the website. The meeting schedule by day of the week remains because it is current.

Respectfully submitted,
Toni R.
Website Coordinator
www.al-anon-idaho.org

District 6

Hopeful-for-spring greetings from District 6! Our news is as follows: Our Holiday Social in December was a huge success. Over sixty people participated in the potluck dinner and raffle. We had two speakers, one from Al-Anon and one from AA, share their experience, strength and hope. The Holiday Social has been our biggest annual fundraiser, at least until this year. This year we have added a "Spring Fling Chili Cookoff" as another much-needed fundraiser. It is scheduled for April 26, from 5:30-8:30 PM at St. Luke's Episcopal Church. (Check out the flyer on the website!) Eight individuals will provide his or her own special batch of chili, others are bringing corn bread, cheese, onions, side dishes and desserts. We

will again have two speakers (Al-Anon and AA) and hold a raffle. Should be fun! Both the Holiday Social and the Spring Fling Chili Cookoff invite (and enjoy) AA participation.

We also have a speaker brunch on the third Sunday of every month (excluding June and December) at Aussie Eats (a new location) in the Guesthouse Inn on Lindsey Blvd. This brunch follows the district meeting. So far this year we have had a speaker tape meeting, a panel on the steps and a person telling her story, all ways by which we share

our experience, strength and hope.

Overall as a district we are doing well and growing. Several meetings have reported newcomers that keep coming back.

Best wishes, Jody C.



District 7



March 2008

Working with District 7 to put on this Assembly has been wonderful. People have contributed according to their talents and jobs have gotten done. Our program flyer is completed, our committees are in place and people are starting to think about how they can help. **One important note** to all who will be attending the Assembly; **Oregon law prohibits bringing any homemade foods into the Cultural Center or to a hospitality room** in a hotel. Packaged foods prepared by Albertson's or Wal-Mart are acceptable and all pre-made items like chips and Oreos are fine. People can bring homemade items to their own rooms although it is still not in keeping with the law but no one would police that.

As a District we purchased the special outreach magazine: Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism 2008 and when our assembly is over we will begin planning how to distribute them to the groups and how to use them to spread the message of hope we have been privileged to receive.

We have moved our Mini-Conference/ Potluck Luncheon fund raiser to the Fall as we were immersed in Assembly planning this Spring.

An age-old problem is how to get people to take jobs from GR to District to Area. We will continue to include people; take them to conferences and Al-Anon events and see if this magic happens to them as it did to us.

On a personal note, I'm not with you at this Area meeting as I'm in Australia hopefully having the time of my life! See you at the Spring Assembly!!!

Love in Service,

Kathy B.

District Representative District Seven

Area Outlook

Crosstalk — or “loving interchange”?

September 07 Forum

Suggested welcome says: “The loving interchange of help among members and daily reading of Al-Anon/Alateen literature thus makes us ready to receive the priceless gift of serenity”

Are you an active member, the kind that would be missed?

Or are you just contented that your name is on the list?

Do you attend the meetings and mingle with the flock?

Or do you meet in private and criticize and knock?

Do you take an active part to help the work along?

Or are you satisfied to be the kind that just belongs?

Do you work on committees, to this there is no trick?

Or leave the work to just a few, and talk about a clique?

Please come to the meetings often, and help with hand and heart,

Don't just be a member, but take an active part.

Think this over members; you know what's right from wrong.

Are you an active member, or do you just belong?

By: Anonymous

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

Newsletter Editor

I just want to say “Thank You” for giving me this opportunity to serve as the Area Newsletter person. I'm very excited. My plans are to put the newsletter out after each meeting. I've been working on the layout and collecting stories from everyone who is willing to share. Anyone wishing to have something added to the newsletter can e-mail me at: dan-
ielle.engelhardt@gmail.com, or mail it to me at Dan-
ielle, PO Box 181, Garfield, WA 99130



Upcoming Events

Sunday, April 13 - Thursday, April 17, 2008

The World Service Conference at the Stamford Marriott Hotel in Stamford, Connecticut (*Attended by our Area Delegate*).

Friday, May 16- Sunday, May 18 The Spring Assembly in Ontario, Oregon, located at: Four Rivers Cultural Center, 676 SW 5th Ave. (AFG District 7). (*Attended by the AWSC, group representatives and members at large*)

Saturday, June 14, 2008

Idaho Area Al-Anon Day; hosted by District 5.

Friday, July 4 - Sunday, July 6, 2008

The Al-Anon International Convention in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Register online at; <https://register.rcsreg.com/regos-1.0/alanon2008/ga/index2.html>

Saturday, August 23, 2008

The Area World Service Committee (AWSC) meeting at Kopper Kitchen in Boise, Idaho. (*Attended by the AWSC*)

Friday, October 3 - Sunday, October 5, 2008

The Fall Assembly in Boise. (*Attended by the AWSC, group representatives and members at large*)



Calendar of Events