

Lifelines – Rhode Island

Your Monthly Newsletter
December 2012 Edition

Alateen Event:

27 Alateens from all over RI had fun at Legion Bowl in Cranston on Friday night November 30. They enjoyed lots of pizza, soda, bowling, laughter, and fellowship at our third annual Rock N Bowl. It was a wonderful opportunity for Alateens from many different groups to come together in fellowship to get to know each other. Big hugs and thanks to all the sponsors who came to the event.

Love in service,
Rose

*The next AWSC meeting
will be Dec 15th, 10 AM
– 12PM at the Rolfe St
Office in Cranston*

Sharings are Still Needed for *Intimacy in Alcoholic Relationships* (working title)

The WSO currently has about 525 sharings on intimacy for this new book, but need many more for this piece to become a reality. Sharings from men, parents, siblings, gays, and lesbians are especially needed if it is to express the diversity of our fellowship and its experiences. A sharing sheet for this project should be available on the Members' Web site soon. Or, contact me at deb.anon@yahoo.com and I can send you the preliminary version.

Would you like to host a writing workshop?

A writing workshop is just like any other meeting—only we share our experience, strength, and hope on a given topic in writing. Sharings can be submitted to the *Forum* or to a piece of conference approved literature in development.

I'd be willing to come to any group, district, or area meeting and chair a writing workshop for the new book on *Intimacy in Alcoholic Relationships*. Or, if you'd like to chair one, I'd be happy to provide you with materials and guidance.

Happy Reading (and Writing)!

Debbie E.

RI AFG Literature/LDC Coordinator

Remember, when you buy from your local LDC, you support your local services!

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Public Outreach Poster Contest

Al-Anon and Alateen members are invited to participate in a poster contest for Public Outreach.

WSO welcomes members' horizontal or vertical designs for new posters based on the current theme—"Is someone else's drinking tearing you apart?"

Please submit your own photo, drawing, painting, or graphic design for consideration. Do not submit copyrighted material, unless the copyright belongs to you. All submissions become the property of Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc.

Submissions should be:

- JPEG or PDF files.
- no larger than 11" X 17"
- no smaller than 5 ½" X 8 ½".
- 200-300 dpi at 100% print size.
- no more than 10MB.

Please send your JPEG or PDF submission to the Public Outreach Department at the World Service Office at wso@al-anon.org Attn.: Public Outreach. Or submit a hard copy/CD to:

AFG, Inc.
Public Outreach Department
1600 Corporate Landing Parkway
Virginia Beach, VA 23454.

Winning entries will be posted on the Members' Web site for use as Public Outreach posters.

Thank you for everything you are willing to do for the families and friends of alcoholics!

The office hours vary depending on volunteer hours. The phone message is changed every Sunday to reflect the availability. Please call before going to the office (401-781-0044).
We are always in need of more volunteers to keep the doors of the office open.

Area Structure Task Force

In response to a challenge from the Al-Anon Board of Trustees at the 2012 World Service Conference, the Rhode Island Area World Service Committee formed a Thought Force “to explore possible area structure changes that would maximize our ability to serve the needs of the fellowship”. At the November Area Assembly, I chaired a breakout session where we shared ideas about possible changes. We presented our “thoughts” to the Assembly and they voted to create a Task Force to make recommendations to the Group Representatives on Area Structure Changes at the next Area Assembly.

Ideas that came out of our discussion include (1) have the November Assembly as part of the Workshop; (2) change from 5 districts to 3: North, South, East; (3) expand the pool of candidates for Delegate to include District Representatives and AWSC current and past active members; (4) shorter terms of service for GRs (and possibly AWSC officers, coordinators, and DRs); (5) GR training, job descriptions, handbook; (6) embrace technology; (7) network with other areas; (8) GR service sponsors; (9) stagger terms of office for AWSC officers, coordinators, and DRs; (10) apprenticeships/shadowing to educate new officers/coordinators.

We also discussed what we like about the current area structure: (1) AWSC meets every 6 weeks; (2) email correspondence; (3) keep the number or increase the number of officers/coordinators to minimize the amount of work

So, now it is time to formally establish a Task Force to formulate a recommendation to present at the June Assembly. We can use the “thoughts” listed above as a starting point or create our own list from scratch.

Currently, three members have volunteered to participate in the Task Force. If you would like to volunteer to help out, please send me an email at phyllis.alanon@gmail.com. Most likely we will not have formal meetings, but rather will communicate via email.

Phyllis H., District 4 DR

Al-Anon

Web Sites

- ▲ Your local, Area 49 web site
<http://www.riafg.org>
- ▲ The Al-Anon Members' Web site
<http://www.al-anon.alateen.org/members>
- ▲ Podcasts <http://al-anonfamilygroups.org/Podcasts/FirstSteps/>
- ▲ Online meetings and outreach
<http://www.ola-is.org>

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteering in the Area Office is an excellent way to do service. Volunteers answer phones, pick up messages, and greet anyone who comes to the office. Visitors are usually coming in to fill literature orders. Having the office open as much as possible is very important for everyone.

If you are interested in giving an hour or two of your time every week or every other week, please send an email to me at bmcrcn68@yahoo.com with the following information: (1) name, (2) phone number, (3) email address, (4) days and hours you are available to volunteer.

Bonnie M., Office Manager

CURRENT OPEN POSITIONS:

Archives Coordinator - Enjoy scrap booking? The Archives Coordinator preserves the experience, history, and memorabilia of the RIAFG. The Coordinator may head up an Archives Committee, which would be responsible for researching the history of Al-Anon in RI. Our archive materials are currently at the Area office. They need to be organized, dated, catalogued, and preserved using archival methods (e.g., acid free paper, boxes).

District Representatives for District 2, 5 - The DR is usually any incoming, outgoing, or active past Group Representative who is willing to represent the district at Area World Service Committee meetings and Area Assembly. The DR conveys information to the GRs from the Area World Service Committee, listens to group concerns, and takes any questions or concerns to the Area World Service Committee meetings.

Forum Coordinator - The Forum Coordinator encourages groups and members to submit sharings to the Forum magazine and to subscribe. The Coordinator carries Al-Anon's message of recovery as it is printed in the Forum to the GRs, who are the Forum Representatives at the group level. This coordinator's duties include, but are not limited to, being available to GRs and DRs for assistance in conducting workshops or outreach activities. Coordinators can ask Area World Service Committee members to assist by subscribing to and sharing the value of the Forum as they conduct their service activities. Coordinators can keep records of their efforts to pass on to the next coordinator. They may also bring sharing sheets, blank order forms, and copies of the Forum to workshops, assemblies, etc. Display boards may also be made to use at these events.

Group Representatives - Many groups in Rhode Island currently do not have GRs. The GR receives information from their District Representative to share with their individual groups and attends the RIAFG Assembly meetings to vote on area issues. The GRs are the voice of RI Al-Anon.



Service (planting the seed) -
Recovery blooms.

The only way the meetings stay alive is by service, we do this by chairing meetings, taking group positions, and taking area positions. The only way to keep what we have is to give it back.

RI Al-Anon/Alateen Events

Al-Anon International Convention (with AA participation)

July 5-7, 2013

Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ONLY HAPPENS EVERY FIVE YEARS. Vancouver is beautiful. For more information and to register online visit the Convention website <http://www.al-anoninternationalconvention.org/>. WSO has set aside blocks of hotel rooms, so the conference and hotel registration can both be easily completed at the same time through the website.

NOTICE!

MEETING LIST AVAILABLE IN SPANISH

Rhode Island now has its Meeting List available in Spanish at the office and soon on the web site. Hopefully, this will aid in our area's outreach in our state. How can you help? If your group has meetings in an area with a Hispanic population, consider distributing the meeting list to treatment centers, therapist offices, libraries, etc.

MEETING CHANGES

The Thursday 9:30 AM Portsmouth meeting has been changed to 12 Steps, Traditions & Concepts Study Group and is a closed meeting.

The Monday morning "Living Recovery AFG" meeting in Coventry at St. John and Paul Church has closed.

The Tuesday night, 7:30-8:30 Al-Anon meeting in Middletown, RI, will be in a new location beginning November 20th. We will be moving FROM the Police station to our NEW LOCATION, the Calvery Church on Turner Road.

From Our Neighbors in Connecticut:

Connecticut will have their 36th AFG Convention "Stepping Stones to Serenity" March 15-17, 2013 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Cromwell, CT. For more information and registration forms, visit the CT AFG website <http://www.ctalanon.org/>.

*****The WSO Quarterly Appeal Letter is being sent out to the Groups*****

Lifelines e-subscription: Email to: RI_Al-Anon@hotmail.com (type "Mailing List" in the subject line)

Web: www.riafg.org

An area newsletter is a vital link in keeping groups and members informed. The purposes of *Lifelines* are to: encourage attendance at service events; communicate local, area, and Al-Anon Information Service news; and attract Al-Anon members into service.

Editor: Linda S. at lin2169@cox.net or 401-855-6009 (it's safe to leave a message).