

Lifelines – Rhode Island

Your Monthly Newsletter
August 2012 Edition

WSC MEETING July 21st, 2012

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*The next AWSC meeting
will be Sept. 8th, 10 AM –
12PM at the Rolfe St
Office in Warwick*

Barbara M, Area Chair conducted the July 21st, WSC Meeting at a sea-side location.

Bonnie, the office manager reported that she needed volunteers to work in the office and also to pick up messages from home. We have a need for bi-lingual volunteers even on an as needed basis. If you speak another language besides English, please contact the office if you are willing to help in times of translation need.

Maura, Our workshop co-ordinator has two tentative dates for the workshop - they are Oct. 27th and Nov. 17th and the two possible locations are Butler Hospital and St. Mary's in Portsmouth. Confirmation will be announced soon. The workshop committee is looking for several couples to dress as Lois and Bill from the 1950s for the workshop. Date expected 11/17.

September 30th, there will be an Open House at the Rolfe Street RI area office. EVERYONE is invited to meet the AWSC members and check out the office and the literature room!

The next AA Convention with Al-Anon participation is March 22-24, 2013! Save the date.

Two new thought forces:

- A. Area Structure Change - lead by Phyllis H
- B. Area Policy on Individual Donations - lead by David G

***** more to come***** check the website for the minutes

We need
thinkers for
our thought
forces!!!!

Call the office:
401-781-0044

The RI AFG Literature Catalog and Order Form has been updated. All items listed here are available for purchase at the RI Area Office/Literature Distribution Center (LDC). Copies of the catalog will be available at the office. You can also access the catalog on the RI AFG Web site (<http://www.riafg.org/>).

Deb E, RI AFG Literature Coordinator

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

12th Step Commitment Opportunity for RI Al-Anon Groups!

The annual RIAFG Workshop with AA Participation will be held in late October – we are finalizing date and time details. The theme this year is: **Lois & Laughter**

We will weave **Lois Wilson's story** into the event, and by popular demand from last year, humor will reappear to provide some hearty **Laughter!**

Please email riafgworkshop@gmail.com if you are willing to share your talent, time and energy!

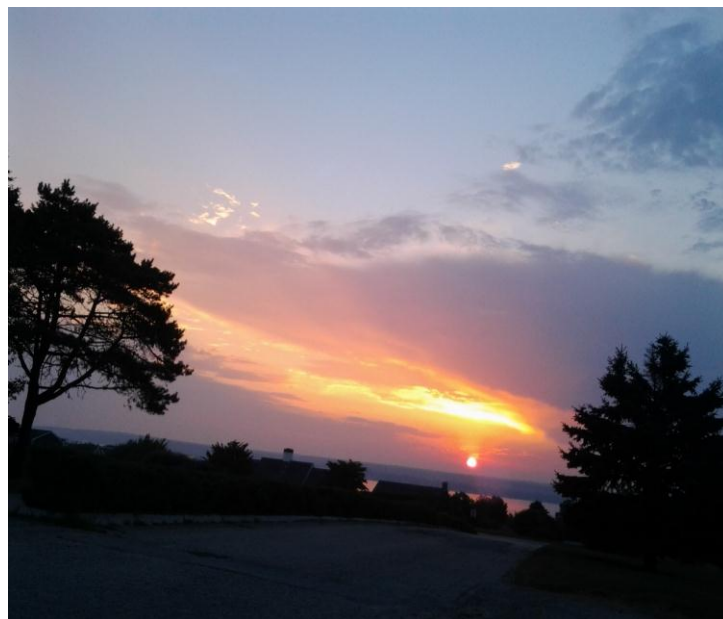
Maura D

New Conflict Resolution Wallet Card

By J.C.

I had the chance to review the new Conflict Resolution Wallet Card. It's a good pocket tool for helping with issues related to conflict and a guideline for use in resolving conflict. I like the fact that it's foldable and has a plastic coating so it won't get dog-eared. The illustrations remind me of the concepts booklet and have a light feel to them. I love the referral to *How Al Anon Works* with the page number and the *Dilemma of the Alcoholic Marriage*. I think it's a really helpful tool for individuals to use in their personal life, like a mini-inventory on the topic; or for a group who is dealing with conflict issues where the group could use the pamphlet and the pages in the two books mentioned. I have used some of the suggestions in my personal and group life, with good results, and it added awareness to the many options I have to deal with conflict. I think it helped me see that recognizing conflict as not just on the negative aspect.

The new Conflict Resolution Wallet Card (S-71) is available for \$1.00 at the Area Office/LDC. Copies are also available in Spanish (SS-71).

Shades of Summer

RI's Area World Service Committee....what is it all about....

In between Assemblies, Area World Service Committee (AWSC) meetings are held, attended by the Assembly officers, all District Representatives and Al-Anon Information Service Liaisons, and the Area Coordinators of special services. At these meetings, the Assembly agenda is planned, information and reports are conveyed, and decisions may be made that cannot wait until the next Assembly. (page 61, Al-Anon/Alateen Groups at Work).



In RI we meet every 6 weeks. As a committee, we run area business in between our 2 assemblies. Ever wonder how the bills get paid? How our Alateen sponsor's get training? Or even how to get books? You'll find that your area trusted servants are volunteers who perform the day to day activities of budget balancing, registering new GR's or keeping our hot line manned. These are just some of our responsibilities. Then there is the recovery part of serving on the AWSC. Have you ever worked with a group of people and knew that your opinion mattered, it was okay to disagree (even passionately), and accomplished business decisions without a background in business or leadership training? Working with the AWSC has improved my sense of confidence, widened my knowledge of our program and others. When I leave our Area meetings, I have the same feeling of peace and fulfillment found during my home group meeting on Friday night. It amazes me how we all come together to support one another in performing the business of Al-Anon/Alateen Family Groups, and I leave feeling the spiritual peace and love of our Traditions and Concepts at work. What a wonderful group of people I have been privileged to serve with. Service is essential to my recovery today; I can honestly say that I get back more than what I have to give by being of service to our program.

With much love for our program and fellowship, Barbara M, Area Chair

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.

Looking for volunteers for the Policy Committee, the Workshop Committee and the Assembly Guidelines Committee - Interested? Call the office!



Please Note: The RI Area office is only used for Al-Anon Family groups in accordance with Tradition 3 and Tradition 6.

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>
- ▲ Public Al-Anon/Alateen site
<http://www.al-anon.alateen.org>

Circle of Friends

Circle of friends gather to share from the heart,
From all walks of life, doing our part.

Some frightened and fearful; some happy and serene.
Comforted in knowing on our friends we can lean.

We give to each other a gift with no price tag,
We make small suggestions like starting a God-bag.

It takes courage to enter this circle of friends,
In telling what's inside and starting to mend.

I'm grateful to be learning I'm safe,
strong and free,
In this circle of friends God has chosen for me.

Sandy C.
North Smithfield, RI
1995

CURRENT OPEN POSITIONS:

Alateen Process Person - The Area Alateen Process Person (AAPP) serves as the Area's designated Alateen contact with the WSO Group Records Department regarding Alateen forms. Since 2004, every Area has Alateen requirements and has a process to certify Al-Anon Members Involved in Alateen Service (AMIAS), register Alateen groups, and implement the Alateen Behavioral and Safety Requirements at all events in the Area that have Alateen participation. The Alateen Process Person works closely with the Alateen Coordinator; for example, the Alateen Coordinator may be responsible for the training and certification of AMIAS, and the AAPP for submitting Alateen forms, recertifying AMIAS, or verifying certification of members serving Alateen for Al-Anon conventions and other events with Alateen participation.

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.

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.

Alternate Area Delegate - The Delegate attends the annual Al-Anon/Alateen World Service Conference (our world-wide group conscience) and brings to the Conference our Area's viewpoint on matters affecting the entire fellowship. The Delegate then returns to the Area with a broader perspective of Al-Anon worldwide. He/she is the bridge of understanding that links the groups in the Area with world Al-Anon/Alateen to help us continue to function in unity. The Delegate is the servant of Al-Anon as a whole.



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

August 5, The Sunday Morning Group that meets at Pawtucket Memorial Hospital is holding their 25th anniversary from 10-11:30 with guest speakers and refreshments.

August 17 - 19, 21st Annual Maine Al-Anon/Alateen Convention with AA Participation
Visit www.maineafg.org to download registration form.

September 21-23, Ridin' into Recovery; 29th New Hampshire Al-Anon and Alateen Convention with AA Participation - updates to follow.

JULY 5-7, 2013 Al-Anon International Convention, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. A flyer with details is found on the members' web site.

THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ONLY HAPPENS EVERY FIVE YEARS. Vancouver is beautiful. WSO will provide registration information to the state and also on its website <http://www.al-anoninternationalconvention.org/> in September 2012. 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 WSO.

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).