How do you use *Many Voices, One Journey*?

Our most recent piece of conference approved literature (CAL), *Many Voices, One Journey*, chronicles Al-Anon’s story of growth and recovery as experienced by the fellowship as a whole and individual members, including Lois W., Anne B., and other founders, over the past 60 years. Personal stories from members, interspersed with insightful discussion questions, tell how members found the courage to change as they faced challenges in their personal lives and in the development of the fellowship. But this isn’t just a history book. Just as with any other piece of CAL, you can “do a meeting” in the book by selecting a topic in the index, reading the passages noted there, and think about—or discuss with a group—how the ideas may apply to you.

You may notice more coverage of *Many Voices, One Journey* in the *Forum* and other communications from the WSO this year. The WSO has also created a workshop guideline to help groups lead meetings using *Many Voices, One Journey*. The guideline shows how you can use the book to lead meetings on the topics of control, change, denial, or growth through service. If you’d like a copy of the guideline for your group, please e-mail me at deb.anon@yahoo.com, and I’ll be happy to send you one. I’d also be happy to come to your group and lead a meeting. (I could always use an extra meeting!)

Have you read *Many Voices, One Journey*? Have you used it in a meeting? I’d love to hear how it went.

Deb E., Literature/LDC Coordinator
38th Rhode Island AA Convention
With Al-Anon Participation
March 22, 23, 24, 2013

Friday 3pm Registration opens
Convention Website http://www.rhodeisland-aa.org
This website will give you all the information to attend.

We have three opportunities of service for the Convention -
Greeters, Parking, Lead a Marathon Meeting - please mark your registration form
at the bottom of the page if you can be of service!

FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY*, THE AREA OFFICE/LDC WILL SHIP LITERATURE ORDERS!!!

WHY order from the Area and not the WSO? Groups would receive their orders faster with us (a week or so with us vs 2-3 weeks with the WSO), and cheaper (8% vs 10% with WSO), and your funds will go to support local services.

HOW? Groups can download an order form from the Area Web site, www.riafg.org, fill it out, and mail it along with payment to the Area office.

Please help us by providing your feedback:
• Is it of value to your group?
• What do/don’t you like about it?
• How can we improve?
• Would you be willing to help?
Send your comments through your District Rep, leave a message at the Office (401-781-0044), or contact the Literature Coordinator directly at deb.anon@yahoo.com

Did you know?
CMA - means current mailing address for the group
CAL - means Conference Approved Literature
AWSC - means Area World Service Committee
Closed Meeting - means the meeting is limited to members or perspective members
GR - Group Representative - often this person is also the CMA.
PSA - Public Service Announcement
Hello to all:
One duty of the delegate is annually to send to WSO a question for consideration on behalf of our area. Sometimes the area question goes on to be a discussion item at conference, called a Conference Agenda Item, and sometimes WSO simply chooses to send an answer back to the area.
In this case, WSO has sent an answer. A copy of the question I sent and the hi-lighted answer are attached for your information.
My question focused on the intermix of AA and Al Anon, and ways to mutually work together, although with separate identities and purposes. In such a small state as Rhode Island, I thought the issue was important to consider in terms of resources and geographic limitations.
The WSO answer directs us in part to Guidelines. Guidelines appear to be a general sharing of member information of common interest. There are guidelines on conventions, websites, newsletter, etc.
To access the guidelines as referenced in the WSO answer, do the following:
1. Go to WSO Members Website; 2. Click on Group Services; 3. Select guidelines, and select the one of interest.
Thanks, David G.-Delegate

Please see my answers in blue below,
I hope this information is helpful. Best regards, Suzanne

Name the CAI (50 words or less). To what extent can Al Anon Members or Areas Intermix with AA areas or groups? The type (or level) of cooperation varies depending on the circumstances, which is the reason we have the Guidelines. There is also information in the “Digest of Al-Anon and Alateen Policies” section (“Al-Anon as It Relates to Others” beginning on page 113) of the Service Manual that addresses this question. WSO is just finishing a task force on dual members service in Al Anon. What about vice versa? Can Al anon members act jointly with AA groups in recovery & service efforts, with what type separate identifications? The Guideline, “Cooperation between Al-Anon and A.A.” (G-3), gives the basics. It would also vary depending on the circumstances. In addition, see the “Digest of Al-Anon and Alateen Policies” section (“Twelfth Step Work” in the “Al-Anon as It Relates to Others” section on page 113) of the Service Manual.

Importance of CAI and how it could shape Al anon as a whole (100 words or less). How can Al Anon and AA better work together as vital entities to the recovery of both families and the alcoholic. As far as Al-Anon’s cooperation with A.A., our information is in our Service Manual and our Guidelines. But, as far as A.A.’s cooperation with Al-Anon, we have no say or control that. Can the groups hold joint conferences/state assemblies saying Al Anon & AA Convention? The type (or level) of cooperation varies depending on the circumstances—please see “Cooperation between Al-Anon and A.A.,” “Al-Anon/Alateen Participation in an A.A. Area Convention,” G-7; and “Al-Anon/Alateen Area Conventions,” G-20. Can Al-anon area list AA meetings on the al anon website as a resource for the community. This is addressed in “Guideline for Al-Anon Web Sites,” G-40. Can an Al anon liaison vote as a member of an AA planning committee? This would be up to the autonomy of the A.A. planning committee—see “Al-Anon/Alateen Participation in an A.A. Area Convention,” (G-7) for more information. Could we have a joint recovery day at a local prison, simply labeled” recovery workshop”? For guidance, see the Guideline “Cooperation between Al-Anon and A.A.” (G-3) and the “Digest of Al-Anon and Alateen Policies” section (“Twelfth Step Work” in the “Al-Anon as It Relates to Others” section on page 113) of the Service Manual. Can we rent common space and alternate use? See the “Digest of Al-Anon and Alateen Policies” section (“Al-Anon as It Relates to Others” beginning on page 113) of the Service Manual.

Importance: Promote recovery and decrease image of “them” vs. “us”.

37th Annual Massachusetts Al-Anon/Alateen Convention
With AA Participation

“Journey to Freedom”
April 5-7, 2013

We’re SO excited, it’s a beautiful, newly renovated hotel and sure to be a wonderful weekend of recovery!!

Sheraton Framingham Hotel
1657 Worcester Road
Framingham, MA 01701
Reservations: 508-879-7200

For more information go to: http://www.ma-al-anon-alateen.org/convention.html

36th Annual Connecticut Al-Anon Convention with AA Participation
Stepping Stones to Serenity
March 15 - 17, 2013

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Route 372, Cromwell, CT

For more information go to:
CURRENT OPEN POSITIONS:

**Website Coordinator:** - Primary responsibilities include keeping the RI AFG website up-to-date, updating and posting the meeting list on the website, and attending the AWSC meetings as a voting member. The Website Coordinator posts area news, service opportunities, and events on the website. This information is gathered from emails through the announcements listserv and from the *Lifelines* newsletter. Responsibilities also include renewing the website registration each year and getting reimbursed by the Area Treasurer. Software like Dreamweaver is recommended to update and upload materials.

**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.

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.

Service (planting the seed)  
- Recovery blooms.
RI Al-Anon/Alateen Events

FEB

7 – Alateen Sponsor’s Meeting, 7pm, RI Al-Anon/Alateen Office, 106 Rolfe Street, Cranston.

27 – Butterflies Are Free Group Anniversary, Kingston Congregational Church, 2610 Kingstown Rd. (Rte. 138) Kingston. 12-1pm. Food, fun and fellowship. ALL are welcomed.

MAR

3 – Forever Hope AFG 25th Anniversary, West Greenwich Town Hall, 280 Victory Hwy. (Rte. 102), West Greenwich. 10am. Speakers, food, fellowship.

15, 16, 17 – Connecticut AFG Convention with AA Participation – see page 4 for more informaiton.

22, 23, 24 – AA RI Convention with Al-Anon participation – see page 2 for more information.

APR

5, 6, 7 – Massachusetts Al-Anon Convention with AA Participation – see page 4 for more informaiton.

Meeting update: THURSDAY 9:30 am HR CL Portsmouth St. Mary’s Episcopal Parish Hall, 324 E. Main Rd/Rt 138- AFG’s 12;12;12 Study Group.

Lifelines e-subscription: Email to: RI_Alanon@hotmail.com (type “Mailing List” in the subject line) Web: www.riafg.org or email lin2169@hotmail.com

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.