



ALA-TALK

Area 30 (www.msafq.org)

Fall 2021

From the Delegate's Desk

"One thing must ultimately be accepted: few of us know what we really want, and none of us knows what is best for us. That knowledge remains, in spite of all our determined resistance, in the hands of God."
-----*One Day at a Time in Al-Anon*

This quote sums up how I came to be elected Delegate three years ago. Two days before Assembly in 2019 I had never thought of standing for this position. I knew very little about what our Delegate did, except for her Assembly reports. So, when approached by an Al-Anon friend asking me to consider this role I had to first talk to my Higher Power. Since beginning recovery in Al-Anon, I'm inclined to listen to an idea that comes out of the blue more than my own since those often didn't work out well in the past.

I also turned to the service manual and read everything about the Delegate's responsibilities, called the current Delegate with a list of questions and prayed. The fact that I would even consider this position was a miracle given that 4-1/2 years prior when I walked into my first meeting, I could hardly put a sentence together. Little did I know that the true miracles to come from this service position lay ahead.

Following is a partial list of the areas I grew in while serving as Delegate:

- I learned to ask for help instead of working in isolation.
- I regained several lost "executive skills" like good communication, better computer skills, organization and setting priorities, among many others.
- I bolstered areas that I had already been working on in recovery like my self-confidence, self-esteem and self-love.
- I gained more humility, came to appreciate my character asset of perseverance, and grew in courage.



What You'll Find in This Edition

- Delegate's Letter pp 1-2
- Fall Assembly Details p 2
- Area Elections Position Descriptions p 3
- Fall Assembly Agenda p 4
- Spring Assembly 2021 draft minutes p 5-6
- Group Records Update p 7
- SERGT announcement p 7
- ASWC Fall Meeting recap p 8
- Message from WSO regarding COVID-19 p 9
- Welcome Newcomer eBooklet information p 10
- Ala-Talk newsletter subscription information p 10
- Area World Service Committee p 11
- Group Records Change Form p 12



From the Delegate's Desk cont.

-I formed new friendships---people in the program throughout the country and the world who are now only a phone call away. These friendships broadened and deepened my recovery.

-It broadened my view of the fellowship to understand that every member of Al-Anon is a part of a gigantic world-wide group. The Delegates from Mexico, Canada and Australia, as well as others throughout the world, have the same struggles I do. Through service I can help reach people who are still hurting and don't have all the valuable resources we are privileged to enjoy.

-I learned to take risks which strengthened my "voice". During my initial World Service Conference I was the first person at the microphone to share my point of view. At the end of my last Conference, I volunteered to sing on camera, something I had always wanted to do, even though I'm not a great singer!!

Ultimately, like all Al-Anon service, being Delegate helped me more than I could ever give in service in return. The miracle is that God knew what I needed three years ago when I barely knew what a Delegate was.

Is there a miracle waiting to happen in your life through service? Even if it's never been a thought in your head until Assembly November 6, I hope you'll be open to your Higher Power's "nudging" to stand for Delegate, Area Chair, Area Secretary or Area Treasurer.

Remember that all members are welcome and encouraged to come to Assembly. While the primary purpose of the day is to conduct our Area's business, it is also a wonderful way to meet new members from around the state and learn more about our amazing program. I look forward to seeing everyone and sharing my report of our most recent World Service Conference. As always, there is lots happening!!

In grateful service,

Jennifer Magee
Delegate



**Fall 2021 Assembly
Meeting Details**

**Saturday
November 6, 2021
10:00 AM**

**Nativity Lutheran Church
495 Crossgates Blvd
Brandon**

**Elections will be held for
the following positions:**

Delegate

Alternate

**Delegate/Alternate
Chairman**

Area Chairman

Area Secretary

Treasurer

Alternate

**Secretary/Alternate
Treasurer**

Position descriptions on page 3
Refer to the Al-Anon/Alateen
Service Manual 2018-2021 for a
complete description of duties.

**Interested in running for
one of these positions?**

**Contact your Group
Representative!**



AREA 30 ELECTIONS

Elections for the following positions will be held at the **Fall 2021 AFG Area Assembly** on November 6, 2021. Please consider committing to one of these opportunities for service at the Area level. Notify your Group Representative if you are interested in one of these positions. All candidates will serve a three-year term.

Delegate

Must be familiar with Service Manual during 3 year term.

Must have served as DR.

Brings Area viewpoint to Conference and returns with broader perspective of worldwide AI-Anon.

Bridges groups in Area to Worldwide AI-Anon to help function in unity.

Is servant of AI-Anon as a whole.

Alternate Delegate/Alternate Chairman

Participates in Area Assemblies and AWSC. Replaces Delegate or Chairman if either resigns.

Area Chairman

Plans agendas and conducts meetings.

Conducts 2 Area Assemblies and 2 AWSC meetings per year.

Asks secretary to send notices of all meetings to all officers and voting members.

Appoints another DR to fill office temporarily if officer resigns.

Call Assembly to elect new officers before January.

Area Secretary

Works with Group Records Coordinator to maintain current contact information of all GR's, DR's, Officers and Coordinators.

Sends notices of all AWSC and Assembly meetings.

Attends to all regular secretarial work and takes minutes of all meetings.

Sends minutes to AWSC Members soon after meetings and permanent copy to be passed along to his successor and possibly archives.

Calls roll of all voting members at Assemblies.

Displays list of all candidates for office at Assembly.

Ensures all names and addresses of AWSC Committee members are sent to WSO.

Treasurer

Handles all Assembly collections and funds.

Prepares appeal letters to be sent out at least once a year to all groups asking them to contribute to the Area Treasurer to cover Assembly expenses.

Forwards to WSO before January 1 the Delegate's Equalized Expenses.

Issue receipts for any contributions received.

Pays all bills for approved expenditures. Two signatures should be required for all checks.

Makes quarterly written financial reports to AWSC and provide reports to Assembly.

Alternate Secretary/Alternate Treasurer

Attends AWSC and Assemblies. Takes job of Secretary or Treasurer if either resigns.

The Twelve Concepts of Service

The Twelve Concepts of Service summarize the AI-Anon principles that have proven to help AI-Anon's service organizations function effectively together.

Twelve Concepts of Service

1. The ultimate responsibility and authority for AI-Anon world services belongs to the AI-Anon groups.

2. The AI-Anon Family Groups have delegated complete administrative and operational authority to their Conference and its service arms.

3. The right of decision makes effective leadership possible.

4. Participation is the key to harmony.

5. The rights of appeal and petition protect minorities and ensure that they be heard.

6. The Conference acknowledges the primary administrative responsibility of the Trustees.

7. The Trustees have legal rights while the rights of the Conference are traditional.

8. The Board of Trustees delegates full authority for routine management of AI-Anon Headquarters to its executive committees.

9. Good personal leadership at all service levels is a necessity. In the field of world service, the Board of Trustees assumes the primary leadership.

10. Service responsibility is balanced by carefully defined service authority and double-headed management is avoided.

11. The World Service Office is composed of selected committees, executives, and staff members.

12. The spiritual foundation for AI-Anon's world services is contained in the General Warranties of the Conference, Article 12 of the Charter.

© AI-Anon's Twelve Concepts of Service, copyright 1996 by AI-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc. Reprinted with permission of AI-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc.

Additional Service Opportunities

The following Coordinator Positions are also open. These are voluntary positions and are not elected. Please notify your Group Representative if you are interested in volunteering for one of these positions. Literature & Forum Coordinator • Public Outreach Coordinator • Newsletter Editor • Ala-teen Coordinator & Process Person • Archive Coordinator

FALL 2021 ASSEMBLY AGENDA

Location: Nativity Lutheran Church, Brandon, MS

Date: Saturday, November 6

10 a.m Opening with Serenity Prayer

Introduce newcomers and welcome all attendees with name, position, and voting or not.

10:15 Reading of Steps, Traditions, Concepts and Warranties.

10:30 Secretary Report

Corrections, motion to accept, second and vote.

11:00 Delegate Report

11:45 Treasurer Report

Presentation of Budget for 2022 and discussion.

12:00 Break for lunch and raffle

1:00 Cooking with the Concepts

2:00 District and Coordinator's Reports

Literature/FORUM

Adult Children

Newsletter

Archives

Gulf Coast/LDC

District 1

District 2

District 3

District 4/LDC

District 5

District 6

District 7

3:00 Break and Raffle

3:30 Convention Report

3:45 Vote to Approve Budget

4:00 Elections

Delegate

Alternate Delegate/Alternate Chairman

Area Chairman

Area Secretary

Treasurer

Alternate Secretary/Alternate Treasurer

Close with Let It BEGIN with ME.

DONATE

Consider what you have
been given...

And give back!

Birthday donations are a
way to celebrate our years
of recovery in Al-Anon.

Make a donation on your
Al-Anon Birthday!



You can donate to:

MS Area Family Groups

Make checks payable to

"MSAFG"

Mail to:

MSAFG

1158 Ferncrest Drive

Jackson, MS 39211

Or

WSO

Make checks payable to

WSO

Mail to:

AFG Inc

1600 Corporate Landing

Parkway Virginia Beach, VA

23454

**Include your Group Name
and Group# on the Check**

ALA-TALK NEWS

Spring 2021 Assembly Report

The Area 30 AFG met March 26, 2021 for the Spring Assembly. Assembly was virtual and there was no host District.

Minutes Summary (Draft)

Date | time 03/26/21 10:00 | Meeting called to order by Chairman. Cindy H.

In Attendance

Cindy H. (Chairman), Patty B.(secretary), Butch M. (treasurer), Steve P. (GR), Laura P. (GR), Leigh R. (GR), Betsy S. (GR), Hedy H. (GR), Betty S. (GR), Jennifer M., (delegate), DebbieL., Philene A. (observer), Sharyn H., Tammy R. (webmaster), and Dot.

Call to order, minutes reading, and treasurer's report

The spring assembly meeting was called to order by the chairman at 10:00 with a moment of silence followed by the reading of the Al-Anon steps, traditions and concepts of service. The minutes from the fall assembly were read by the alternate secretary and approved unanimously. Treasurers report was given. The area is in great shape mainly due to no delegate travel to SERDGT. Delegate spoke that contributions to WSO have increased and this is the first time the contributions have outpaced literature sales. Treasurer requested checks be send to the treasurer at: 1158 Ferncrest Dr. Jackson, MS. 39211. Please make all checks out to MSAFG with your group number on the check.

Old Business

1. DELEGATES REPORT: Delegate reported the WSC is April 12-16 and is 5 days nine hours a day of virtual meetings. Her recent attendance virtually at SERDOT was the largest participation ever due to not traveling. She also reported about the WSO application being a wonderful meeting tool and that the premium service gives you a daily devotional reading. Lastly, the trustees are looking for applicants, which have to be vetted through the WSC. If you are interested in being a trustee for al-anon please let her know so she can help you through the process. The applications are due at WSO by August. Also, as a reminder the SERDGT will be in Puerto Rico next year so the additional funds in the budget need to be considered.



Stay informed about what's happening in the World Service Organization.

[Click Here To Subscribe To "IN THE LOOP"](#)

MSAFG

Check out all our Mississippi Al-Anon webpage for information about our program in the state.
www.msafg.org



The Forum is an international monthly publication of Al-Anon Family Groups, that offers help and hope for the families and friends of alcoholics. Al-Anon and Alateen members share their challenges, insights, and progress along their path of self-discovery and spiritual growth. The magazine also includes topics for discussion at meetings as well as news and information from Al-Anon's World Service Conference and World Service Office.

[Click here to subscribe.](#)

2. DISTRICT REPORTS:

- a. District one: District meetings are occurring regularly. some meetings are in person or hybrid.
- b. District two: some zoom some face to face meetings.
- c. District three: NR
- d. District four: meetings are zoom only
- e. District five: no district meetings yet but groups are zoom and in person
- f. District six: no district meeting last year but have started back since February. All six groups are meeting in person and have a couple zoom meeting going on. One new group has started recently. Attendance is averaging three or four per meeting.
- g. District seven: NR

3. COORDINATOR REPORTS

- a. Forum and literature coordinator: receiving information from WSO.
- b. Adult children coordinator: NR
- c. Newsletter coordinator: ALA-TALK is being published and coordinator appreciates everyone's input.
- d. Webmaster: website has all the things you need...links are there. Please send information and it will be posted.
- e. Archives coordinator: Everything is here and available.
- f. Public outreach coordinator: Enthusiasm is still here to do the work.
- g. Gulfcoast AIS/LDC: meeting regularly and doing OK. Literature sales way down.
- h. District #4 LDC: Doing well. She asks everyone to order from the LDCs vs. ordering from amazon or the WSO.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Hybrid meetings and digital coordinator committee gave their report. The group determined that there is not currently a need for an AWSC Digital Coordinator.
2. Workshop on delegate and area positions was given.
3. Update on the convention 2022 was given.
4. Meeting adjourned at 12:00 and closed with the Alanon declaration.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Bryars
Secretary area 30



Ala-Talk Delivered Straight To Your Inbox!

To receive
ALA-TALK for FREE,
Email
Ala-Talk@msafg.org.

For Printed copies, the
cost is \$5.00 (2 issues)
per year.

Complete the form on
page 11 and make checks
payable to MSAFG.

Mail form and check to
ALA-TALK
155 Castle Circle,
Madison, MS 39110

Be a Contributor!

The ALA-TALK would like to
include your stories or
quotes.

Please submit a story of up
to 150-200 words or a
favorite quote. Email
submissions to:

alataalk@msafg.org

GROUP RECORDS UPDATE

As of 9/14/21 MS Area 30 has 55 active Groups with over 70 meetings as several groups have more than one meeting.

District 1 – 10 active groups
 District 2 – 6 active groups
 District 3 – 5 active groups
 District 4 – 15 active groups
 District 5 – 5 active groups
 District 6 – 6 active groups
 District 7 – 8 active groups

Updating your Group information is easier than ever!

You can register a new group by going to:

[Group Records - Al-Anon Family Groups](#) and select Register a New Group or Group Changes can be made by going to: [Changes to an Existing Al-Anon Group - Al-Anon Family Groups](#).

You have two options; you can select the button to **Update Online** or select **Printed Form**. Once you fill out the form, you can mail it back to WSO. If you update online, I am notified of the changes and can make those very quickly. There are instructions on that page also.

Please call Tammy W. Group Records Coordinator if you have any questions. 228-669-6803.

South East Regional Get Together (SERGT) 2022

After last year's cancellation, Area 62 Puerto Rico is excited to welcome Delegates in March 2022!

SOUTH EAST REGIONAL GET TOGETHER

SERGT 2022

MARCH 18 & 19, 2022

AT VERDANZA HOTEL, SAN JUAN,
PUERTO RICO



Mail

Group Record Change Forms To:

AFG

146 Pittman Road
 Ocean Springs, MS
 39564

or

AFG Headquarters
 1600 Corporate Landing
 Pkwy
 Virginia Beach, VA
 23454

Form is on Page 15



Email

Group Meeting
 Updates For the
 MSAFG Website to
webmaster@msafg.org



Area World Service Committee (AWSC) Fall 2021 Recap

AWSC Meeting was Saturday, August 28, 2021, at Open Door Community Church in Hattiesburg and by telephone.

Attendees: Jennifer M (Delegate), Cindy H (Area Chair), Daphne F. (Alternate Chair), Butch M. (treasurer), Steve P. (Alt. Secretary), Betty S. (Newsletter Editor), Leigh R. (Archive Coordinator), Charlotte W (District 4 LDC), Laura P. (GR), Kathy E.

We opened with the Serenity Prayer, reading of the steps, traditions and Concepts.

Secretary's Report: Minutes from the Spring AWSC meeting were accepted.

Delegate's Report: Information to be presented at Fall Assembly from the World Service Organization (WSO).

Treasurer's Report: District 1 & 6 2022 Convention seed money (\$2,500) has been sent. Recommendation that \$1,200 for the 2022 SERDGT be budgeted. Last year's contribution to WSO was \$300.

Area Assembly Location/Date: Brandon/November 6, 2021. District 7 is the host.

Convention 2022 Report: Hosted by Districts 1 and 6: The theme is "Coasting into Serenity".

June 24 – 26, 2022 at the D'Iberville Civic Center, 10395 Auto Mall Pkwy, D'Iberville, MS 39540.

Other Agenda items for the Fall Assembly:

Elections: Information about position "job descriptions" will be sent to District Representatives prior to the fall assembly.

Closing: The Ala-Anon declaration



Where Will You Be June 29-July 2, 2023?

Al-Anon's next International Convention will be held June 29-July 2, 2023, in Albuquerque, New Mexico, United States!

JUST FOR TONIGHT
Bookmarks and all
Conference approved
literature is available for
purchase.

When we buy literature,
we help WSO and
ourselves! There is a new
book on intimacy and the
Just for Tonight
bookmarks are just a
dollar a piece! We do not
need to buy from Amazon
as that only gives a
portion to Al-Anon



Contact Charlotte
Cwood311@comcast.net
Literature & Forum
Coordinator



Message update to the Fellowship regarding COVID-19

The World Service Office (WSO) recognizes the emergence of COVID-19 variants of concern, particularly the Delta variant, has led some groups to begin reevaluating their meeting approach if they have been meeting in-person or in a hybrid format. As a clearinghouse of information for the Al-Anon Family Groups, the WSO has no informed guidance to offer on health matters. As in every challenging situation though, our experience, strength, and hope encourage us to rely on the principles found in the Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts of Service as guides. In this situation particularly, we recognize the wisdom expressed in Tradition Two which urges the WSO, Areas, Districts, and groups to rely upon “one authority—a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience.”

In making informed decisions, we suggest groups, Districts, and Areas access reliable national and local health authorities to gain the knowledge necessary to talk to each other and reason things out. Al-Anon’s Twelve Traditions offer guidance. Tradition One reminds groups that our common welfare should come first in these conversations. Tradition Four invites groups to be flexible in considering alternatives that limit personal contact, while Tradition Three reminds each group in part that “the only requirement for membership is that there be a problem of alcoholism in a relative or friend.” Of utmost importance is providing an environment which allows Al-Anon newcomers and members the opportunity to feel safe and maintains the unity of the group.

If your group is meeting electronically or in a hybrid format, or decides to return to one of these formats, we encourage you to notify your local service arms and to update your group record with temporary contact or electronic meeting details using the [Temporary Al-Anon Electronic Meeting Change Form](#).

To ensure our Staff safety and wellbeing at the WSO, we monitor current information from the Governor of Virginia, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the World Health Organization (WHO). As a result, the WSO remains open—shipping Conference Approved Literature to members, answering member calls, and processing member contributions to support our fellowship worldwide. We are continuing our implementation of proactive measures recommended to minimize the spread of COVID-19.

In May 2021, the WSO invited the Thursday evening Al-Anon and Alateen groups to return to the building to meet, provided they adhered to specific protocols. At that time, we also began planning to reopen the building for scheduled tours and WSO Volunteer visits. Unfortunately, the emergence of the Delta variant has postponed these plans for the time being. We look forward to future updates when we will once again be able to welcome our members and Volunteers at the WSO.

Thank you for allowing us to continue to be of service to our Al-Anon Family Groups.

-from this month’s In *The Loop*

**VISIT THE
FOLLOWING
WEBSITES FOR
UPDATES ON
CORONAVIRUS
COVID-19**

Visit [MS. State Dept. of Health](#) website for latest information regarding your county.

Visit [CDC website](#) with information about COVID-19 and ways to protect yourself and loved ones.



Welcome, Newcomer! **eBooklet Is Available**

Welcome, Newcomer! (eK-10) is now available in an electronic format. That's right, now you can purchase *Welcome, Newcomer!* wherever you buy your eBooks. You can buy one for yourself or send a gift code or redemption link directly to a newsomer's email address!

Welcome, Newcomer! has been reformatted and streamlined to reflect its new life as an electronic recovery tool. The new eBooklet guides newcomers in understanding AI-Anon and how it can help, learning about alcoholism, finding meetings, and discovering program tools and Conference Approved Literature.

Please order *Welcome Newcomer!* through our Area Literature Distribution Centers (LDCs) or WSO.

To receive ALA-TALK for FREE, email AlaTalk@msafg.org

Printed copies are available. Cost of printed ALA-TALK is \$5.00 (2 issues) per year. Complete this form and make checks payable to MSAFG. Mail form and check to ALA-TALK, 155 Castle Circle, Madison, MS 39110

ALA-TALK SUBSCRIPTION Date _____

Name of Subscriber/Group _____

District # _____

C/O _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Enclosed: Cash \$ _____ Check # _____

_____ New _____ Renewal _____ Address Change

Al-Anon Group Records Change Form

Please submit this form through your Area Group Records Process or the WSO

1. Group Record

WSO I.D. Number _____
District Number _____
Area Name (Abbreviation) _____

2. Status

Change
 Inactive

3. Changes

Group Name GR Meeting Place
 Current Mailing Address (CMA) Meeting Time
 Phone Contact for the Public Meeting Day

4. Group Registration Overview

Group Name* _____
**Reflects Al-Anon principles and is inviting to all. See instructions to fill out the form. Please note that group names not in compliance with the Al-Anon policy will delay processing of the registration. Contact your Area Group Records Coordinator or the WSO for further information.*

Mailing Language _____

Location

Meeting Place _____

Meeting Address _____

City _____ State/Province _____ Zip/Postal Code _____ Country _____

Group email _____

Phone Contact for the Public

First Name _____ Phone Number _____

First Name _____ Phone Number _____

5. Meeting Details

Day _____ Time _____ AM PM

Meeting Attendees: Families, Friends and Observers welcome
 Families and Friends only

Spoken Language _____ Member Count _____

Beginners* Introductory** Limited Access***
 Handicap Access Child Care Fragrance Free
 Smoking Permitted Sign Language

Location Instructions _____

Additional Meeting

Day _____ Time _____ AM PM

Meeting Attendees: Families, Friends and Observers welcome
 Families and Friends only

Spoken Language _____ Member Count _____

Beginners* Introductory** Limited Access***
 Handicap Access Child Care Fragrance Free
 Smoking Permitted Sign Language

Location Instructions _____

**held in conjunction with a regular Al-Anon group meeting, not considered an Al-Anon group. Provide newcomers a simple introduction to Al-Anon.*

*** Attendance changes frequently; not considered an Al-Anon group. Attendees are invited to go to regular Al-Anon meetings.*

**** Meeting access is limited due to the facility's entry restrictions. These groups meet at sites such as military bases, institutions, industrial plants, or schools.*

6. Current Mailing Address (WSO mail for the group is sent to the postal and email addresses)

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Street/PO Box _____ City _____

State/Province _____ Zip/Postal Code _____ Country _____

Phone Number _____ Email _____

CMA email address is entered here. Please enter Group email address in section #4 (See instructions for more information)

7. For Area Use

Group Rep Other _____

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Street/PO Box _____ City _____

State/Province _____ Zip/Postal Code _____ Country _____

Phone Number _____ Email _____

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 be open to any Al-Anon members. *Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual (P24/27), "Digest of Al-Anon and Alateen Policies"*

Submitted by: _____ Date: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____