

# Al-Anon – Area 5 – Spring 2006 Assembly – March 25, 2006

## Fellowship Communication Action Committee Minutes

Chair: Kathy S.

22 attendees (please see the Members List dated March 30, 2006)

**Minutes** from our meeting at the Fall 2006 assembly are posted at:  
<http://al-anon-co.org/members/action-fellowship.html>.

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### Subcommittees

#### Literature – Redesign pamphlet holders

Chair: Linda M.

The pamphlet boards will be divided into 4 categories:

- Understanding alcoholism
- Understanding Al-Anon
- Help for family & friends of alcoholics
- Members aides

Display layout:

- More pamphlets per pocket
- Adjustable pocket sizes to accommodate changes
- Create a concordance to find pamphlets
- Keep Spanish language pamphlets in a separate location, but put a sticker on the pocket of the pamphlets that are also available in Spanish
- Alateen pamphlets will be displayed on a separate board

#### Action items:

The boards will be completed by the Summer Assembly (July 14). Linda will complete the design, Jan will construct the boards, Judy will create the dividers and stickers, and Willard will create the concordance.

#### Audio Literature

Chair: Dan

JC discussed progress:

- Much of *Paths to Recovery* has been recorded.
- Volunteers are needed to edit the recordings. They need to have a computer; JC will provide training.
- WSO isn't supportive because of the expense and perceived lack of need.
- Our Area Delegate, Carol C., suggested that we start a grassroots movement to get support.

The subcommittee drafted a letter to WSO, which was signed by many of the assembly attendees. The text follows:

This is a group letter from Area Five members requesting that Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc. make audio versions of Al-Anon Conference Approved Literature available to the entire Al-Anon membership.

**Action items:**

- Dan will send the letter, and will let us know the best address to send it to.
- Laurie will forward the letter in electronic format to all of the District Reps in Area 5 to distribute to their Group Reps.
- We are all asked to take the letter to our groups and send the signed copies to the WSO.
- Members can also email the WSO at: [wso@al-anon.org](mailto:wso@al-anon.org). (Or wait until we get a more precise email address from Dan.)

**Working with AA**

Chair: Kara (not in attendance this assembly)

A number of suggestions were made to improve communication with AA members:

- Al-Anon members can attend AA meetings and do 12-Step work for families and friends of alcoholics.
- Attend AA district meetings and invite AA members to attend Al-Anon district meetings, which may turn into opportunities to work together.
- Network with GSRs, our counterparts in AA.

Concern was expressed about the snafu concerning our meeting space for today's assembly. AA makes the arrangements and takes the bids for the meeting space, and it appears that Al-Anon's needs are not understood.

**Action Items:**

Al-Anon guidelines for area assembly planning were drafted during the meeting, to help ensure that Al-Anon's needs are taken into consideration before bids for assembly meeting space are taken. The guidelines will be sent to Kara and Tom this week.

There was also a discussion about the appropriateness of unsanctioned flyers being brought to meetings. Concern was expressed about this and it was suggested that flyers related to other 12-Step groups be kept out of Al-Anon meetings.

**Electronic Communication Guidelines**

Chair: Rick

This is a new, short-term subcommittee, formed to analyze the email guidelines that were proposed by District 13.

**Action Items:**

Before the Summer Assembly, this subcommittee will provide input on the proposed guidelines, for inclusion in the Area guidelines.

**Communication Survey**

Chair: Larry

This is a new subcommittee, formed to query the assembly attendees on their group's needs regarding communication within the fellowship. 75 responses were collected during the day.

**Action Items:**

- Within the next three weeks, the results will be compiled, and provided both as "raw data" and in a categorized, condensed version. Respondents will be contacted for more information when necessary.

- By the next assembly, provide recommendations on the “low-hanging fruit” and suggest next steps during our committee meeting, including feedback on the services that were proposed on the survey (a tip sheet and/or monthly email message).
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## **Work between assemblies**

A discussion was held on the availability of members between assemblies to work on projects. Approximately half of the committee members said that they are willing to do work between assemblies.

Ideas suggested to improve communication between assemblies included:

- Meet before the host sharing on the Friday session of the assembly (before 7:00 p.m.), but not everyone arrives in time.
- Work in-between assemblies.
- Use electronic communication, such as email and perhaps Internet voice conferencing (e.g., Skype) to work on projects. However, some members do not have email or prefer face-to-face meetings.