

What is an Assembly?

An Area Assembly is the business meeting where groups send their Group Representatives (GRs) to express a voice and vote on behalf of their group. . Also in attendance are District Representatives (DRs), Officers, Coordinators, our current Delegate and Past Delegates, trusted servants, and any interested Al-Anon members. Our Area (Colorado) Assembly meets three times a year to discuss issues that are local in nature or brought to us from the World Service Conference (WSC) by our Delegate. In the main Assembly, we discuss business and issues and vote. We hear reports from our Action Committees, as well as from our officers, Delegate, coordinators and other committees. It is a venue for conducting business, announcing Area as well as District projects, and learning how Al-Anon works in “all our affairs.” Not all business is conducted in one large group. We roll up our sleeves in smaller groups called Action Committees, Work Groups, Thought Forces, Task Forces and Sub-Committees to concentrate on specific topics.

Why is it important that I attend an Assembly as my group’s GR?

As the GR for your group and its members, you carry information from your group to the Assembly and back from the Assembly to your group. You vote on important issues that affect your group, your District, the Area, and Al-Anon as a whole. As a GR, you are the most important member at the Assembly; you and the other GRs are the only ones that can vote on issues before the Assembly.

What is an Action Committee?

Action Committees are focus groups of GRs, DRs, officers, and coordinators that work together to assist the coordinators in their roles. They also work on projects that are referred to them by the Assembly. They look at issues affecting specific areas in Al-Anon and make recommendations to the Assembly. While the Assembly may change the make- up of each committee when it deems it appropriate, our Area currently has four Action Committees.

What are the specifics of these Action Committees?

Group Services This Action Committee consists of our Archives Coordinator, Records Coordinator, Alateen Coordinator, Service Center Liaisons, Area Treasurer, Past Delegate(s), DRs, and GRs. Its function is to serve the groups and strengthen their connection to the District, Area, and World Service Office (WSO) by providing contact information and resources. Its actions help to provide accurate group records, thus preserving and sharing our history and heritage and helping anyone in need to find a group meeting.

Fellowship Communication: This Action Committee consists of our Literature Coordinator, Butterfly Coordinator, Media Librarian, Website Coordinator, Alternate Delegate, Past Delegate(s), DRs, and GRs. Its function is to communicate the purpose and activities of our fellowship among its members, utilizing Conference Approved Literature (CAL), *The Forum*, local and Area newsletters, reports, and other Al-Anon publications, including WSO’s and Colorado’s Al-Anon/Alateen website.

Public Outreach This Action Committee consists of our Public Information Coordinator, CPC (Cooperation with the Professional Community) Coordinator, Area Secretary, Past Delegate(s), DRs, and GRs. Its function is to reach out in good will to professionals (organizations, agencies, and individuals); developing ways to better inform the public about Al-Anon/Alateen as an available, affordable resource for families and friends of alcoholics.

Membership Outreach This Action Committee consists of our State Convention Chair, Weekend-In-Al-Anon (WIA) Coordinator, Day-In-Al-Anon Chair, New GR Orientation Chairs, Past Delegate(s), DRs, and GRs. Its function is to reach out in fellowship and support to all members of our diverse fellowship by encouraging individual participation at all service levels and/or in as many events as possible, thus strengthening group, District, Area, and WSO unity.

As a GR, how do I get on one of these Action Committees?

Each year, at our March Assembly, we ask each GR to select an Action Committee that sounds interesting or passionate to him/her. When GRs select Action Committees, they are actually selecting for their groups and will participate on behalf of their group. If you are a new GR and the group’s previous GR didn’t inform you of your group’s Action Committee, please select an Action Committee that interests you and attend. If your group is not a member of any Action Committee, the Chair may assign you and other new GR’s to an Action committee.

How long am I a member of an Action Committee?

It is our hope that you are so involved in the work of your selected Action Committee, you will choose to stay a member of that committee for a full three years. If for any reason however, you feel the need to select a new/different Action Committee... that’s okay, too. You always have choices. We do ask that you make at the least, a one year commitment to whichever committee you choose.

Do Action Committees only meet at Assemblies?

No ... Action Committees should be working on projects via e-mail, phone, and sub-committee meetings (where-ever and whenever possible) between Assemblies. Be sure you have the name and contact information for your Action Committee chairperson and that they have yours too.

How do the Action Committees work with the Assembly?

As progresses on projects is made or as projects are completed at the Action Committee level, the information is then reported to the Assembly. None of the Action Committees are a decision-making body; they make recommendations to the assembly, sometimes for a vote.

What are Work Group, Thought Forces and Task Forces and how do I get on one of them?

A Work Group may be formed to respond to an ongoing need of our Area and may make recommendations resulting from any work it is doing or considering.

A Thought Force is a temporary unit of people established to research ideas and possibilities on a single defined task or activity. Sometimes they offer recommendations resulting from their findings. They are “thinkers,” not “doers.” A Task Force is a temporary unit of people established to work on a single defined task or activity. A Task Force may fulfill the recommendations made by a Thought Force. Task Forces are the “doers.”

To become a member of one of these groups or forces, the Area Chairperson will often ask for volunteers or contact you directly based on their personal knowledge or experience with a GR or other Al-Anon member.

The Agenda:

The Agenda is drafted by the Assembly Chairperson, through meetings with the AWSC (Area World Service Committee) in the months prior to each Assembly. Members who wish a topic or discussion item be added to the Agenda, contact the Assembly Chair at the Assembly or by mail/email. Typically, these can be added to the Agenda at the first available opportunity. If the agenda is full for the assembly, the topic or discussion item will be added to the next Assembly Agenda.

Other Materials of use for Assemblies.

Your *2010-2013 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual* and the Colorado Area Guidelines are your most valuable sources of help and information. Also, you can find the, Bylaws of Al-Anon Family Groups of Colorado Area Assembly, Inc. on the Colorado Area 5 Website at www.al-anon-co.org.