

Fellowship Communication Action Committee Minutes, Area 5
Summer Assembly 2005 (Steamboat Springs)
Submitted by Kara L.

Old Business: from Assembly Spring 2005 (Denver)

Audio Literature Committee

There was a request from members for literature in audio form for the sight impaired. Eighty percent of the sight impaired do not read braille. After further polling, we discovered a need for audio literature for those lacking the ability to read in English as well as the sight impaired. In addition, members requested audio literature for their long commutes. District 12, Area 5 (Central Denver) is heading a project to prepare Paths to Recovery recorded in audio format. District 12 has recorded all of the Steps section in the book. Most of this material has been edited. When the editing is completed, District 12 will send a CD to WSO with a letter offering their support in this project, the willingness to finish recording the book and providing it to WSO for production and sale. Courage to Change is coming out on CD-ROM, but it will not be an audio version.

Getting the word out about the Forum

This sub-committee's goal is to inform Al-Anon members that we can contribute our own writings to the Forum. In addition, we remind everyone that GRs are Forum representatives. They have the responsibility of letting everyone in their groups know 1) what the Forum is, 2) how to subscribe to the Forum, and 3) that we can all contribute our ESH to the Forum.

Some ask it basket questions were written up and given to Terri B. to send to the Forum.

We should have contact information for each Action Committee in the Butterfly.

There is an anomaly in the Service Manual on pages 165 and 168.

Statement of Purpose was written up by Loren.

New Business: Subcommittee reports Assembly Summer 2005 (Steamboat Springs)

How do we maintain continuity between assemblies? (Jill is heading this up)

We need to have subcommittee heads who will maintain contact with the subcommittee between assemblies. We need accurate minutes so everyone knows what we are working towards/on. We talked about maintaining a traveling notebook with this information, but instead decided to post the minutes, action items, and old business (tabled items) to the Fellowship Communication page of the Area 5 website (<http://www.al-anon-co.org/members/action-fellowship.html>).

We need an action committee chair and an alternate. Kathy will be our alternate. (Since assembly, the chairperson resigned and Kathy is now the chair of the action committee. We need to elect a new alternate.)

The Contact person to work with Website coordinator (website@al-anon-co.org) to get things onto the website for our Action Committee is Rick R.

Kathy volunteered to compile the action committee member list and send it to everyone, to facilitate keeping in touch between assemblies.

Continuity subcommittee members are
Jill P., Rick R., JC, Dan G., Kathy S.

Literature subcommittee to redesign and make new pamphlet holders (Literature coordinator is heading this up)

Playing well with AA subcommittee (Kara L. is heading this up)

Since this was the committee I was on, I have more comprehensive notes on this.

Good ways to get AA and An-Anon working well together include planning events together – Full day events like an intimacy workshop and Assemblies, for example. If you want to host assembly, work with your local AA district and get them to put in a bid for the assembly.

Also, having speakers meetings with both an Al-Anon and an AA speaker can encourage the entire family to attend because there is something for everyone. And, with good fellowship, people will meet people from the other program. We need to work on generating a list of AA speakers to invite to meetings. Dist. 12 has one if you need a speaker recommendation.

COLOR DAZE needs support!! Speakers include Tom B. and Marilyn B. !!
AA had a hard time contacting the local Al-Anons. We need to let AA know who the DRs are for all our districts. Prepare a contact sheet – like the Butterfly.

Get the word out about AA functions – pick up the fliers at Assemblies. Contact the local AA DCM (DR equivalent) and ask to be kept informed. Plan to go to an event with a few friends - it is more likely to happen that way and it is not as scary.

In Parachute, AA does reach out, but there has been a poor Al-Anon response and the AAs do not believe the Al-Anons are reliable.

This is a larger commitment, but we know it works (JC's ESH). Attend an open AA meeting on a consistent basis so the AAs know who you are. This way, they have you as a resource to refer the families of newcomers (AA) and for other things. Also, you will have a great chance to have a fresh view on the same steps that we work (Kara's 2 cents).

How to contact AA . . . Talk to your DR first. Ask your DR to talk to the local DCM. Call their central office, most numbers are in the local phone book. Go to an open AA meeting. Use assemblies as a time to meet the DCM who is paired to your district – and some of the GSRs (GR equivalent).

Suggestions from Dennis when he came by (he is not on this committee) – we should keep Tom B. (our Area 5 chair) up to date on what we are doing in this committee. Also, it is good to have the input of a past delegate. How do we want to accomplish this? Tom B. is meant to be moving from committee to committee when action committees are meeting... Dennis is a past delegate, though.

If your group is resistant to the idea of AA speaker meetings, ask your DR to come to the meeting and speak to this issue.

Increasing participation in Al-Anon . . .

Ask speakers from different parts of the state to come speak. Often, these people will bring program friends with them.

How do we get members over the hurdle of inactivity and group isolation? Suggest the Traditions as meeting topics. Have your DR come as a speaker or just as a member.

Ask someone who has done a lot of service to attend the meeting a few times and work the gift of service into her/his sharing. You can do this yourself, too.

Playing well with AA subcommittee members are

Kara L (Dist 12 DR), Laura K. (Dist 5 GR), Medine T (sorry if the spelling is wrong, Dist. 1 GR), Dennis G. (Dist 14 GR), Ruth S. (Dist 9 GR), Marilyn (Dist 2 GR), Judy H. (Dist 16 GR), Marcia C. (Dist 16 GR), Louanne J. (Dist 21 GR), Kathy B. (Dist 16 GR), Ellen D (Dist 2 GR), Linda W. (Dist 20 GR) and Laurie V. (Dist 16 GR).