

REPORT OF POSITION GUIDELINES TASK FORCE (revised)
District 7, Panel 58

We requested input from current position holders within District 7 and awaited feedback. We made global changes replacing Al-Anon Information Services (AIS) with District Information Services (DIS) in alignment with the decision made at Assembly.

We reviewed the WSO Guidelines in conjunction with each position and added any additional guidelines, not previously included, to the Tools Recommended for each position.

Removed from the Alternate District Representative items being handled by the District Representative (group sharings, concerns and anniversaries) and the District Hospitality Chairperson (solicit hostess group to provide refreshments prior to monthly District/DIS Meeting). Inserted *encourage group sharings, concerns and anniversaries* into guidelines for District Representative.

We added Tools Recommended and Tips sections as follows:

Day of Workshops Guidelines

Tools Recommended:

- Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual
- Service Sponsor
- Computer
- Refer to Al-Anon Guidelines G-13

Tips:

- Maintain open lines of communication with District and workshop chairpersons

Gratitude Luncheon/Dinner Guidelines

Tools Recommended:

- Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual
- Service Sponsor
- Computer

Tips:

- Maintain open lines of communication with District and workshop chairpersons

We then considered opening the District Information Service (DIS) Chair Positions by removing from eligibility requirements the wording: *...and who are not also members of Alcoholics Anonymous...* We discussed the fact that members of other fellowships; for example, Overeaters Anonymous, Narc-Anon, are not currently excluded from serving at District; therefore, is this wording equitable to this day and age? The three of us were not against opening the DIS Chair positions to members of Alcoholics Anonymous for the following reasons:

- DIS Chairs do have a vote in the context of chair meetings, but do their votes affect Al-Anon as a whole?
- DIS Chairs have a voice, but do not have a vote at District Meetings or at Assembly.
- Opening up DIS Chair positions to members of Al-Anon who are also members of Alcoholics Anonymous (and other support fellowships) may allow more members to serve, who may wish to serve, at the District level.

However, see http://www.alnwfl-al-anon.org/pdfs/Dual_Member_Timeline.pdf for WSC current policy as to service by members of AA who are also members of Al-Anon.

The following is an excerpt.

Current Policy

“Because of the unique nature of both programs, Al-Anon/Alateen members who are also AA members do not hold office beyond the group level, as these positions could lead to membership in the World Service Conference (WSC). The need to focus on the Al-Anon program, and possibility of a conflict of interest at assembly and world service levels, led the WSC to its decision not to seat Al-Anon/Alateen members who are also members of AA. For these reasons AA members do not serve as group representatives (GRs), district representatives (DRs), area coordinators, newsletter editors, delegates and/or any of their alternates, nor do they sit on the WSO in-town or standing committees, whose chairpersons can be Conference members.” (1998-2000 *Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual*, pp. 63-64)

See also *2018-2021 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual*, pp. 86-87.

Also read *Al-Anon Guidelines*, specifically G-3. *What offices can Al-Anon/A.A. members hold in Al-Anon?* (See <https://al-anon.org/pdf/G3.pdf>.)

We also considered dilution of the Al-Anon program.

Read pamphlet S-40, *Attracting and Cooperating*. (See <https://al-anon.org/pdf/S40.pdf>.)

...singleness of focus is what keeps the fellowship of Al-Anon strong. It will not be diluted with factionalism; it will not be divided through enlistment in other causes, as long as groups observe this Tradition and have no other affiliation. *Al-Anon's Twelve Traditions Illustrated*, p. 8

[**Factionalism** refers to arguments or disputes between two or more small groups from within a larger group.]

Al-Anon is *cooperating* when it works with others, rather than alone. In working with others, our scope and contacts are broadened, and we reach many more of those in need. *Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual*, see “Public Outreach.”

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Change wording from Al-Anon Information Service(s) (AIS) to District Information Service(s) (DIS) throughout the position guidelines.
- Add any pertinent guidelines to “tools recommended and tips” sections, which may also be helpful.
- Remove unaffiliated items from Alternate District Representative that no longer pertain, and add language to the District Representative items being handled by the District Representative (i.e., *encourage group sharings, concerns and anniversaries*).
- Add *Work with Group Records Chair to maintain up-to-date contact information for distribution of monthly minutes, etc.*, to District Secretary guidelines.
- **With regard to the Webkeeper Chair position guidelines, under “Duties:” Remove *Write HTML to develop or update pages on websites* and replace with *Maintain the WordPress site including develop or update pages, links, etc.***
- Make no changes to eligibility requirements in the position guidelines of District 7.

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Yours in service,
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