

# AL-ANEWS

VOL. 1 DISTRICT 7 NO. 4

## DISTRICT INFORMATION

### NEW ADDRESS

DISTRICT 7 AFG, INC. 4604 49<sup>TH</sup> ST, SUITE 1294 ST PETERSBURG, FL 33709

### DISTRICT LEVEL SERVICE NEEDED:

- **District Treasurer**
- **District Information Services Liaison**
- **DISL Secretary**

### DIS Chair - Open Positions

- **Alateen Meetings Chair**
- **Archives Chair**
- **Group Records Chair**
- **Institutions Chair**
- **Hospitality Chair**
- **Gratitude Luncheon/Dinner for 2024 Chair**

### AREA 9 ASSEMBLY

#### NFA-AFG Spring Assembly

Fri May 3rd 4pm - Sun 5<sup>th</sup> 12pm

Hilton Altamonte Springs,

350 Northlake Blvd,

Altamonte Springs, FL 32701

#### Registration

Begins March 19 Closes April 19

Register through [afgarea9.org](http://afgarea9.org)

Hotel is \$132 a night

double occupancy

Register with roommate's name

Each group provides its GR with sufficient funds to fulfill the GR duties including participation in the Assembly. Expenses may include meals, transportation, lodging, and registration fees.

### Al-Anon Declaration

Let It Begin with Me—

When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help,  
let the hand of Al-Anon and Alateen always be

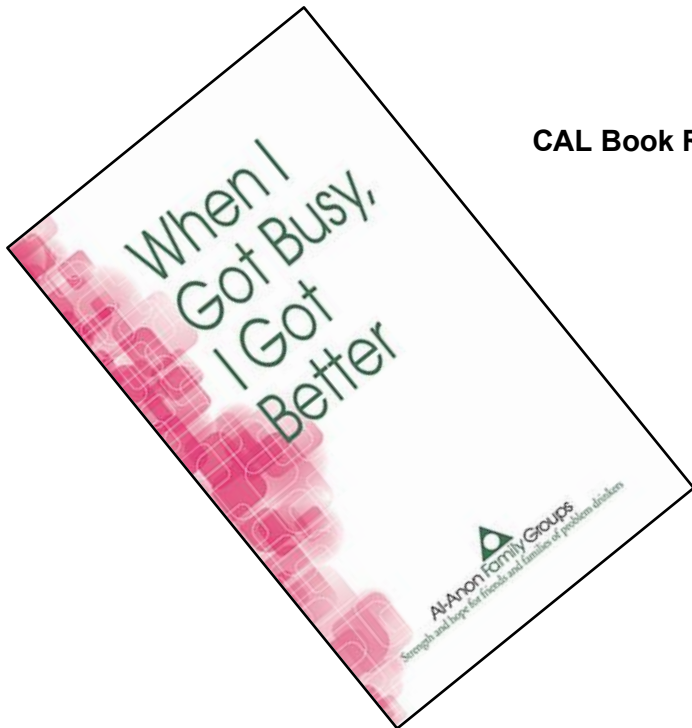
there, and

Let It Begin with Me.



*God,*  
grant me the  
**serenity**  
to accept the things  
I cannot change,  
the **courage**  
to change  
the things I can,  
and the  
**wisdom**  
to know the  
difference.

# INFORMATION ABOUT LITERATURE



## CAL Book Review: "When I Got Busy, I Got Better" Review by Ashley M.

I have been in Al-Anon for several years now, but I've only just started getting more active in service in the last year or two. The first reading in this book, **Facing Our Fears**, really speaks to the apprehension that I had with getting involved in service at any level.

I can recall the first time I was asked to chair a meeting in my home group years ago. I was so nervous I kept stumbling over my words, and I didn't keep track of the time when a member was "over-sharing" so when we finally did close the meeting everyone bolted out of the room in frustration. The Group Representative talked with me after about what we could do differently to respect everyone's time, and that a group conscience discussion would be beneficial. Eventually, I got over my fears and I began to understand the unity of the Al-Anon program. The idea that I alone am not in-charge, and I alone am not responsible for the well-being of the group, it's a conscious group participation and adherence to the principles that keeps the meeting together.

When reading some of these chapters, such as, **A New View of Recovery**, Concept four comes to mind: Participation is the key to harmony. Getting involved in service has had a big impact on my own recovery and the harmony that I feel with other members in the Al-Anon program by doing so. It has also had a big impact on the harmony of the meetings I attend at the group level or at the district level, in the sense that there are service positions that need to be filled to support each level of Al-Anon. If I am willing and capable of participation, it helps to promote unity, harmony, and leadership. I also feel a great sense of responsibility to adhere to the legacies and principles of the Al-Anon program. If I am not living and working the Steps, Traditions, and Concepts, then I risk doing a disservice to the volunteer position I am fulfilling.

Service in Al-Anon has also given me a sense of purpose and has helped me to build my confidence back up.

I spent many years keeping everyone around me at arm's length and isolating whenever I felt unsafe or uncomfortable. Participating in service work has pulled me out of my comfort zone and has taught me better lessons in letting go, keeping it simple, and practicing patience. I could very much identify with the reading

**Learning to Do the Footwork.** For many years of my life, I

worked in landscaping, and I studied Horticulture in college, so the gardening analogy really speaks to me and brings me back to a time in my life where I could really be proud of the hard work I was accomplishing. The

intangible results of working the Al-Anon program are more difficult for me to see and recognize, but today I have more clarity, a better perspective, and more miracles in my life, and for that I am eternally grateful.

# DISTRICT HAPPENINGS

 <p>AFG North Florida District 7 <b>Day of Workshops</b> "Al-anon's Butterfly Garden of Transformation"</p>		<p>AFG North Florida District 7 <b>Day of Workshops</b> "Al-anon's Butterfly Garden of Transformation"</p> <p><b>Deadline to Pre-Register is Wednesday May 22nd!</b></p> <p><b>Pre-Registration Form</b></p> <p>Mail in your check, money order, or cash with your Pre-Registration Form to: DOW Treasurer: Sharon Clawson 4100 62nd Ave. N. Apt 19 Pinellas Park, FL 33781 Make Checks out to: Sharon Clawson</p>								
<p><b>Sat. June 1st</b> 8AM-3:30PM Deadline to Pre-Register is Wednesday, May 22nd!</p>	<p><b>Register Now!</b> \$10 Pre-Registration Price \$15 Day of Price Preorder Lunch for \$10</p>	<p>Pre-Registration is \$10 per person if mailed in advance. Day of registration is \$15 at the door. Payments can be sent in form of check, money order, cashiers check, or cash.</p> <p>Name of Attendee 1: _____ Phone Number : _____ Email: _____</p> <p>Name of Attendee 2: _____ Phone Number : _____ Email: _____</p> <p><b>LUNCH OPTIONS</b></p> <p>Catered lunch will be provided for an additional \$10 per person, but must be purchased in advance. Catered lunches will not be available to purchase the day of. To pre-order catered lunch, please select the following options:</p> <table><tr><td><b>Attendee 1 Lunch \$10:</b></td><td><b>Attendee 2 Lunch \$10:</b></td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Standard Sandwich/Wrap</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Standard Sandwich/Wrap</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Gluten Free Sandwich/Wrap.</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Gluten Free Sandwich/Wrap</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Vegetarian/Salad option</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Vegetarian/Salad option</td></tr></table> <p><b>PAYMENT INFO</b></p> <p>Total amount enclosed: \$ _____ Paid in the form of (circle one): Check Money order Cash If paid by check, list check number: _____ Date sent: _____</p> <p><i>Get questions? Contact DOW Treasurer Sharon at <a href="mailto:clawson50@yahoo.com">clawson50@yahoo.com</a></i></p>	<b>Attendee 1 Lunch \$10:</b>	<b>Attendee 2 Lunch \$10:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Standard Sandwich/Wrap	<input type="checkbox"/> Standard Sandwich/Wrap	<input type="checkbox"/> Gluten Free Sandwich/Wrap.	<input type="checkbox"/> Gluten Free Sandwich/Wrap	<input type="checkbox"/> Vegetarian/Salad option	<input type="checkbox"/> Vegetarian/Salad option
<b>Attendee 1 Lunch \$10:</b>	<b>Attendee 2 Lunch \$10:</b>									
<input type="checkbox"/> Standard Sandwich/Wrap	<input type="checkbox"/> Standard Sandwich/Wrap									
<input type="checkbox"/> Gluten Free Sandwich/Wrap.	<input type="checkbox"/> Gluten Free Sandwich/Wrap									
<input type="checkbox"/> Vegetarian/Salad option	<input type="checkbox"/> Vegetarian/Salad option									
<p>ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA CATHOLIC CHURCH 1955 S Belcher Rd, Clearwater, FL 33764 EMAIL: <a href="mailto:dowchair@d7afg.org">dowchair@d7afg.org</a></p> <p><b>WORKSHOPS   RAFFLES   BOTIQUE   FOOD   FELLOWSHIP</b></p>										
<p><i>Cut and detach pre-registration form to mail in.</i></p>										

**Raffle baskets needed  
Boutique items needed**



## Day of Workshops

"Al-Anon's

Butterfly Garden of  
Transformation"

Saturday, June 1, 2024

St. Catherine of Siena, Clearwater, FL

## Call for Boutique Items!

Now accepting boutique donations including  
totes, book covers, bookmarks, scarves,  
jewelry, artwork, plants, garden items,  
trinkets, etc.  
No holiday or religious items, please.

Donations can be delivered to your meeting,  
Group Rep, District meeting and  
St. Catherine on Friday, May 31,  
12-4pm or the morning of the event.  
Start "planting" those ideas!

Interested in helping in the Boutique? One hour or two hour shifts available.  
Contact co-chairs Donna S. 727-289-5287 or Rosalie 781-686-4122.



## DOW Looking for Raffle Baskets



Bring to DOW  
Have someone bring to DOW  
Any questions call/text  
Joy C. @ 727-409-1425

# GROUP HAPPENINGS

PLEASE SEND YOUR GROUP HAPPENINGS TO

[alanews@d7afg.org](mailto:alanews@d7afg.org)

DEADLINE IS FIRST FRIDAY OF MONTH

If you can, send in an editable format. No jpeg. png or pdf.



Friends of Lois  
is Having An  
Ice Cream Social



**JOIN US  
MAY 30  
6:00PM**

**SPACE BRETHREN  
CHURCH  
6300 62<sup>ND</sup> AVE N  
PINELLAS PARK**



**ST. PETERSBURG  
BEGINNER'S AFG**

*47th ANNIVERSARY  
POTLUCK LUNCHEON*

*WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26TH*

*10:30 AM*

*ST. LUKE'S UMC  
4444 5<sup>TH</sup> AVE N  
St Petersburg, FL 33713*

*Raffle, Speakers,  
Bring a dish to share*

**Dunedin Women's**, is having a speaker meeting on Tuesday, June 18th. There will be both an AA and Al-Anon speakers. **Usually the meeting starts at 6:30pm, but this meeting will get going at 6:15 pm and run till 7:30.** We must vacate the room at 7:45. **"Summer Serenity"** is the theme for the evening. Raffle will be held. **Refreshments will be served.**

# District Information Service at Work

Reception at Juvenile Welfare Board(JWB) of Pinella County  
March 14, 2024

Donna S,  
Cooperating  
with the  
Professional  
Community (CPC)



Shira P,  
Public  
Information

Great Reception for AIAnon at the Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County, Grandfamilies Game Day. This was coordinated between the organizational staff and Donna S. in her position as CPC Chairperson. Held in Clearwater on March 14th, the over 100 attendees included the heads of over 9 non-profits and agencies working on behalf of the over 16,000 children in our county. Donna S. and Shira P. as Public Information set up a literature passing out over 50 brochures including *When and Where* and beginner's packages. Over a delicious lunch and entertainment, they met some of the grandparents and other family members being honored. Siblings, uncles, aunts and friends who have stepped in to take over when parents are no longer doing so for these precious minors. Our AIAnon district members made many new contacts including a woman working with intercultural advocacy, 211 (whose directory we are now in), educators, attorneys and school board members. It was a receptive social event that allowed our organization to bring a message of hope to those who are advocating to end childhood hunger, early childhood development/school readiness, preventing child abuse, neglect and serving to strengthen community and family relationships. Our message of support and help to families and friends of these incredible humans was timely.

# ALATEEN HAPPENINGS

## ***District 7 Alateen Meetings***

**Beacon of Hope Alateen\***

**Tuesday 8pm**

**Christ Lutheran Church**

**3451 30th Ave N.**

**St Petersburg, FL 33713**

**\* AA and Al-Anon meet at same time**

**Countryside Friday Night Alateen\* Friday 7pm North**

**Northwood Presbyterian Church Rm#8**

**2875 SR-580**

**Clearwater, FL 33761**

**\* Al-Anon meets at same time**

### **WSO Alateen Resources**

**Teen Corner (Alateen) - Al-Anon Family Groups go to:**

**<https://al-anon.org/newcomers/teen-corner-alateen/>**

Alateen meetings on the Mobile App are for young people aged 13 to 18 who have been affected by someone else's drinking. We are invited to share experience, strength, and hope with other teens.



***Teens come together to share experiences to find effective ways to cope with problems.***

**Online Alateen meetings are only available through the WSO and teens can download the Al-Anon Family Groups Mobile App to find time for these meetings and attend them.**

**The meetings are only in English, and the times currently are:**

**Monday 6 pm ET**

**Monday 10 pm ET**

**Wednesday 7 pm ET**

**Wednesday 9:30 pm ET**

**Thursday 7:30 pm ET**

**When looking for a meeting, they will be displayed in local time for your area.**

# WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE FORUM



Go to <https://www.al-anon.org/forum>  
to subscribe online or print out form in any Forum you see at a meeting.

## The Family Situation Can Improve

One morning I was riding my bicycle with a group of friends and really enjoying the beautiful day. I have found that little “Aha!” moments sometimes happen unexpectedly when I’m on my bike and my mind is in a peaceful and serene place.

For so long I had felt, as so many do, that I needed to “help” my son get sober. After being in the Al-Anon program for a few years, working the Steps, Traditions, and Concepts of Service, and trusting my Sponsor, I finally understood that my “helping” was hurting him, and my son needed to get himself sober. He needed to want it. I am so grateful that that miracle has happened!

I shared in meetings that I had nothing to do with my son getting sober, that it was all his doing, which to a very large extent is true. However, on my bike ride that day, it came to me that I *had* helped—just not in the way I was trying to or thought I should or would.

Here’s how I actually helped: 1) I started getting help for myself; 2) I always let my son know I loved him no matter what; 3) I stopped enabling him like I had been doing; 4) I prayed and still pray for him every day; and 5) I let him make his own decisions and choices even though they might cause me a degree of anxiety.

To accomplish those five things, I had to learn deep down to “Let Go and Let God.” I’m so grateful for the insight that the family situation can improve when I apply the Al-Anon ideas.

*By Sally M., Iowa  
The Forum, April 2024*

**Feel free to reprint this article on your service arm website or newsletter, along with this credit line: Reprinted with permission of *The Forum*, Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc., Virginia Beach, VA.**

*Send in your favorite article*

Al-Anews District 7 (Pinellas County) FL North Area 9, Panel 64 \* April 2024



# WHAT IS HAPPENING AT WSO

## How Al-Anon Serves Your Group and You

Members	Recovery & Service Tools	Awareness	Financial Sustainability	Global Engagement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Answers the toll-free meeting line in English, Spanish, and French</li> <li>• Supports all registered Al-Anon Family Groups by answering questions; maintaining group, meeting, and trusted servant records; sending complimentary CAL and other service materials; and providing registration dates</li> <li>• Builds and maintains the <i>Al-Anon Family Groups Mobile App</i></li> <li>• Performs thorough research and responds to members' questions regarding CAL and <i>The Forum</i></li> <li>• Supports Inmate Correspondence Service</li> <li>• Supports Alateen groups and encourages Al-Anon members to serve through their Area process</li> <li>• Supports Al-Anon Information Service Centers (AISs)</li> <li>• Maintains the Al-Anon Family Groups archives and manages historical document repository</li> <li>• Coordinates the Al-Anon Convention with A.A. participation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collects member sharings, edits, translates, designs, and publishes CAL</li> <li>• Prepares, edits, designs, and distributes <i>The Forum</i></li> <li>• Translates, designs, and distributes <i>Le lien</i> and <i>Al-Anon y Alateen en acción</i> magazines</li> <li>• Develops service tools to educate the membership on the structure</li> <li>• Consolidates and maintains public outreach tools and service materials</li> <li>• Edits, designs, and distributes <i>Alateen Talk</i> quarterly newsletter</li> <li>• Builds, designs, translates, and distributes <i>In The Loop</i></li> <li>• Facilitates, coordinates, and publishes revisions to the <i>Service Manual</i></li> <li>• Builds and translates <i>Mobile App</i> premium content</li> <li>• Processes requests to translate CAL and coordinates reviews of translations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepares, designs, translates, and distributes <i>Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism (AFA)</i> magazine</li> <li>• Develops service-wide PO campaigns, including public service announcements (PSAs), and collaborates with media</li> <li>• Shares the Al-Anon message with professionals, including providing complimentary materials and attending professional conferences</li> <li>• Supports and encourages Areas, members, Al-Anon service arms, and service entities in public outreach efforts</li> <li>• Creates content for and manages blogs, podcasts, and social media pages</li> <li>• Builds, translates, and actively maintains the website, including international and WSC Structure meeting searches</li> <li>• Conducts internal research and collaborates with researchers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manages AFG, Inc. financial matters and operations</li> <li>• Receives and processes member contributions</li> <li>• Manages inventory, processes, and distributes literature orders for members, groups, and Literature Distribution Centers (LDCs)</li> <li>• Receives and processes magazine and premium content subscriptions</li> <li>• Grants permissions and processes reprint permissions for WSC Structure and the international community</li> <li>• Maintains and defends copyrights and trademarks</li> <li>• Oversees Staff implementation of the Strategic Plan</li> <li>• Recruits, grows, and retains WSO Staff to support our primary purpose</li> <li>• Maintains AFG Connects and the Online Store</li> <li>• Evaluates emerging technologies to determine benefits for AFG, Inc. and the fellowship</li> <li>• Prepares and translates an Annual Report of WSO activities and projects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides leadership and support to trusted servants including Delegates, Area Chairpersons, District Representatives, and Coordinators</li> <li>• Coordinates the World Service Conference (WSC) and produces the <i>WSC Summary</i></li> <li>• Provides leadership and support for trusted servants globally across national and evolving international structures</li> <li>• Coordinates the International Al-Anon General Services Meeting (IAGSM) and produces the summary</li> <li>• Supports Al-Anon Members Involved in Alateen Services (AMIAS) and facilitates the annual Alateen recertification process</li> <li>• Coordinates Staff and World Service Office (WSO) Volunteer participation in international and Area events</li> <li>• Facilitates the WSO Volunteer application process to ensure consistency in candidate selection</li> <li>• Supports WSO Volunteers on committees and in executing oversight responsibilities</li> </ul>

Updated September 2022

# WHAT IS HAPPENING IN AREA 9

**AREA9AFG.ORG**

## NFA AFG, INC. INFORMATION



### Vision Statement

Supporting the needs of Florida North Area 9 AFG as it carries the message of help and hope for families and friends of alcoholics.

### Mission Statement

Managing the assets, business, and legal affairs of Florida North Area 9 AFG as it serves its membership, in a manner that is transparent and grounded in Al-Anon's spiritual principles.

ALL you need to know about the NFA Convention. Scan QRcode or go to website



The poster features a background image of a sailboat with a multi-colored sail (red, yellow, blue) on a clear blue sea under a bright sky. The text on the poster reads: "SAILING TOWARD SERENITY" in large blue letters, followed by "2024 FLORIDA NORTH AFG CONVENTION" in smaller blue letters, "SEPTEMBER 6-8, 2024" in red, and "HILTON DAYTONA BEACH OCEANFRONT RESORT" in blue. Below this, it says "GET ON BOARD!" and "RESERVE YOUR CABIN TODAY!" in red. A QR code is provided with the text "Scan QR Code:" above it. At the bottom, it says "Or Sail to:" followed by the URL "https://www.afgarea9.org/convention2024.html" and a list of activities: "Workshops Speakers Raffles Banquet Boutique Serenity Room".

# NEED TO CONTACT SOMEONE?

Position	Name	email
District Representative	Heather D	dr@d7afg.org
Alternate District Representative	Victoria P	altdr@d7afg.org
District Treasurer	OPEN	treasurer@d7afg.org
District Secretary	Lisa D	dsecretary@d7afg.org
District Information Services Liaison	OPEN	disl@d7afg.org
DISL Secretary	OPEN	Disl_secretary@d7afg.org
Literature Distribution Center	Kimberly H	literature@d7afg.org
AA Liaison	Danielle C	aalison@d7afg.org
Al-Anews	Laurie L	alanews@d7afg.org
Alateen	OPEN	alateen@d7afg.org
Archives	OPEN	archives@d7afg.org
Cooperating with the Professional Community (CPC)	Donna S	cpc@d7afg.org
District Alateen Process Person	Sharon C	dapp@d7afg.org
Group Records	Patty	grouprecords@d7afg.org
Information Line	Carolyn L	infoline@d7afg.org
Institutions	OPEN	institutions@d7afg.org
Public Information	Shira P	publicinfo@d7afg.org
Spanish	Fanny	spanish@d7afg.org
Speakers List	Jenny	speakers@d7afg.org
Technology/Website	Ed Mc	webkeeper@d7afg.org
When and Where	Stephanie	whenandwhere@d7afg.org
Hospitality	OPEN	hospitality@d7afg.org
Raffle/Registration	Lisa M.	raffle@d7afg.org



**NO MAY MEETING**

**Next District Meeting**  
(monthly meeting for GR's, District trusted servants  
and any interested members)

**Saturday June 8, 2024**

Door open at 8am. Meeting starts at 9am.

CENTRAL CHURCH OF CHRIST

Fellowship Hall: 1454 Belleair Rd. Clearwater 33756