

message. The explanation under “Speakers from the Helping Professions” applies equally to the use of films.

Members sometimes plan special meetings to show the five films approved by the World Service Conference: *Lois’ Story*; *Al-Anon Speaks for Itself**; *Alateen Tells It Like It Is**; *Walk This Path of Hope**; and *Lois W. and the Pioneers*. These special meetings are held in addition to a group’s regular meeting.

Membership and Group Meetings/Conventions

Conventions and Other Events

Al-Anon and Alateen events attract many members, drawing them to celebrate and share their experiences. These events can vary in size and content.

Conventions

Among common Al-Anon/Alateen events are Area conventions, bringing together members from across the Area to celebrate recovery, often for a weekend. Conventions hosted by Areas for Alateen are often referred to as conferences. (See the Guidelines *Area Conventions* [G-20] and *Alateen Conferences* [G-16] for more specific suggestions on selecting organizers, planning the program, finances, etc.)

Workshops

An Area, District, Al-Anon Information Service (AIS) or one or more Al-Anon/Alateen groups may host a weekend, day, or evening of workshops and meetings, luncheons or banquets. These activities are planned in keeping with the spiritual principles of the Twelve Traditions to address various topics of interest to members or for public outreach purposes. Weekend events often combine workshops and speaker meetings.

Alateen Participation

Alateen is part of the Al-Anon fellowship. Alateen members are to be included in Al-Anon activities wherever possible at the Area and local levels. It is within the autonomy of the Planning Committee to make the decision whether or not the Alateen members have a separate agenda. All events that include Alateen must be in com-

* No longer available from the WSO, but may be available in your Area.

pliance with the Alateen Safety and Behavioral Requirements of the Area in which the event is held. (See “Events with Alateen Participation” in the “Alateen Policy” section of the *Service Manual*.)

A.A. Events with Al-Anon/Alateen Participation

Alcoholics Anonymous (A.A.) may invite Al-Anon/Alateen to participate in conventions or conferences at the Area or local level. It is within the autonomy of the Area/local service arm to participate or not. (See the Guideline *Participation in an Area A.A. Convention* [G-7].) An A.A. event must have Al-Anon participation in order to have Alateen participation.

Al-Anon/Alateen Events with A.A. participation

Al-Anon service arms may invite A.A. to participate in an Al-Anon hosted event. (See the Guideline *Cooperation between Al-Anon and A.A.* [G-3]).

Distribution of Proceeds

Excess funds are often used to establish the next convention’s “seed” fund. Since accumulating large sums of money is discouraged, in keeping with Al-Anon’s Traditions and Concepts, excess funds over and above a seed fund for the next event can be donated to the District, Al-Anon Information Service (AIS), Area, or the WSO.

Videos

Sometimes videos are shown at events for entertainment and education. Because of the Sixth Tradition of non-endorsement, only Conference Approved videos are shown.

**Maintaining Anonymity at Events
Video Recording or Filming**

Video recording or filming in any format does not occur at conventions, workshops, or other events since it is a violation of Tradition Eleven in safeguarding anonymity. (See “Anonymity” in the “Digest of Al-Anon and Alateen Policies.”)

Announcing Events

Various types of events are held for Al-Anon and Alateen members to gather for fun and fellowship, to celebrate recovery and enhance their understanding of the Al-Anon/Alateen program.

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It may be helpful for members to consider the following spiritual principles when announcing these events:

- Cooperation
- Participation
- Responsibility
- Singleness of Purpose
- Unity or Common Welfare

What to Announce at Meetings

Al-Anon/Alateen recovery and service events cultivate a sense of community. Recognizing this spiritual need to belong, the principle of participation links the membership to these events.

Members often wonder if a particular event is appropriate to announce. The following should be considered when deciding what to announce at meetings:

- Generally, those events put on by or connected to Al-Anon service arms are announced at meetings, in our newsletters and on local websites. These events bring members together to connect through experiences and discussions.
- Areas, Districts and AISs often plan program-related activities for fun and fellowship, to encourage participation in service and sometimes fundraising. These gatherings unite groups within the District and neighboring Districts and often improve the health of the groups and lead to the growth of Al-Anon and Alateen as a whole. These events can be announced at Al-Anon meetings and communicated in our publications.
- Al-Anon is often invited by A.A. to participate in recovery events. Almost from its beginning, Al-Anon has taken part in these events. Such participation often led to the growth of Al-Anon and an enhanced spirit of cooperation between both fellowships. While we remain a separate entity from A.A., we cooperate whenever possible. When Al-Anon participates in an A.A. event with speakers or workshops, these events may be announced at meetings, in our newsletters and on our websites.

Outside the Fellowship

Al-Anon does not affiliate with other organizations; neither endorses nor opposes any other philosophies, therapies or spiritual

programs. Our experience suggests that confusion arises when such events are announced in Area newsletters and Al-Anon/Alateen local bulletins, on Al-Anon websites and at group meetings.

The Al-Anon/Alateen name, therefore, cannot properly be used to identify or publicize any retreats, events, or activities sponsored by others. This applies when most or even all of the participants are members of Al-Anon/Alateen. Otherwise there could be a misunderstanding of Al-Anon's purpose and function. In order to avoid any appearance of Al-Anon/Alateen affiliation, it is important to keep promotion of such events outside of Al-Anon/Alateen meetings and meeting locations.

Autonomy of Service Arms When Announcing Events

Whether to announce a particular event is a matter of autonomy, keeping in mind other groups, the District or the Area may have different criteria. For example, an Area may choose to only make announcements at Assemblies of events sponsored by Al-Anon service arms.

Just as we have no opinion on outside literature, we have no opinion on events outside of Al-Anon. Members may read or attend whatever helps them in their recovery; but we keep our events focused on Al-Anon principles and topics.

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Avoiding Commercialism

Raffling various articles at meetings or other gatherings is a matter of autonomy but to avoid commercialism in the fellowship, it is suggested that these items relate in some way to our spiritual principles. Items such as Al-Anon or Alateen books, subscriptions to *The Forum*, or the donated products of the creative efforts of individual members are suggested. In keeping with our principle of self-support we do not solicit or accept items from outside the fellowship. (Also see "Raffles/Lottery Tickets.")

Selling Products at A.A. Meetings

In keeping with Tradition Seven and our principle of self-support, Al-Anon and Alateen members should refrain from soliciting or selling any products at A.A. meetings.