

HISTORY OF AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS

June 30, 1935: Start of AA with Bill W. & Dr. Bob's sobriety.

1939: Big Book of *Alcoholics Anonymous* published.

June 1940: First family gathering of AA family members occurs while AA members holding their closed meetings at their clubhouse in NYC. These could be considered the first Al-Anon meetings, although Al-Anon was not yet a separate program from AA. Some of the groups were called 'coffee and cake groups' or AA Auxiliaries. Early family members consisted mostly of wives of AA members.

March 1, 1945: First non-alcoholic Family Group registered with AA General Services. Group was in Long Beach, California. Subsequent groups registered with AA general services and became generally known as Non-Alcoholics Anonymous groups or AA Auxiliaries.

1949: Lois's home group has its first meeting in Mount Kisco, New York.

1951: 87 family groups on record registered with AA. There is a fellowship wide group conscience, and the early family groups agreed to organize as Al-Anon Family Groups. The World Service Office was then known as the Clearing House. Lois acts as temporary chairperson, an advisory committee is formed, and they open a PO Box in NYC to coordinate the dissemination of information. This is the generally accepted as the **FOUNDING OF AL-ANON**.

1952: After writing all the registered groups, the majority of group responses favored "The Al-Anon Family Groups" as a permanent name, with the word 'Al-Anon' coming from a contraction of the words, 'Alcoholics and Anonymous'.

June 1952: 300 groups.

1953: 441 groups worldwide.

Oct. 26, 1954: The Clearing House incorporated as Al-Anon Family Groups Headquarters Inc.

1956: First meeting for teenagers takes place in Pasadena, Calif. **Alateen** is then formed in 1957. By 1958 there were 45 Alateen groups.

1960: At the AA International Convention, 400 Al-Anon members at a workshop approved a plan for a service conference modeled after AA's general service conference.

April 21 & 22, 1961: First Al-Anon Conference takes place in NYC, coinciding with the dates of the AA Conference. There were 12 Delegates, plus other representatives and advisory board members. 82 people in attendance, and only 7 were men.

1962: 2,000 groups.

1971: 6,200 groups.

1981: 15,000 groups.

1991: 32,000 groups.

See reverse side for early history of Al-Anon in Rhode Island

EARLY HISTORY OF AL-ANON IN RHODE ISLAND

1953: (source WSO) First time Rhode Island is listed in the World Directory.

January 18, 1955: (source RIAFG archives) Letter from Anne B. to W.M.J. acknowledging a new meeting starting in Providence.

July 25, 1955: (source RIAFG archives) Letter from Harriet W. to Lois W. notifying them of a new meeting in Apponaug.

March 7, 1957: (source RIAFG archives) Letter from Lois W. to Harriet W. acknowledging a group starting up again and information on teen-age groups.

October 6, 1965: (source WSO) Holly C. at WSO sent letter to Germaine S. about information that was sent to the Round Top Al-Anon meeting in Providence regarding forming an Area Assembly and sending a representative to the 1966 WSC.

1966: (source WSO via RIAFG archives) Rhode Island sent first representative to the World Service Conference.

1967: (source WSO) Rhode Island has 2 Al-Anon groups (per November 24, 1970 letter).

April 28, 1970: (source WSO) Letter from Ann P. to WSO states that Rhode Island has 8 Al-Anon groups.

November 24, 1970: (source WSO) Letter from Virginia L. to WSO states that Rhode Island has 10 Al-Anon groups.

March 4, 1971: (source WSO) Letter from Holly C. (WSO) to Katherine H. confirming that Ann P. will attend WSC as Rhode Island representative.

April 1971 and April 1972: (source WSO) Ann P. goes to WSC in New York as Rhode Island's representative.

April 1973: (source WSO) Rhode Island joins the World Service Conference and sends its first Delegate, John C., who is assigned to panel 13 (1973-1975).

1973: (source WSO) Virginia L., is Rhode Island's first Area Chairperson.

1975: (source WSO) Beverly S. is elected as Rhode Island's second Delegate, panel 16 (1976-1979).