

Lifelines – Rhode Island

Your Monthly Newsletter
July 2012 Edition

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Literature
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*The next AWSC meeting
will be July 21st 11 AM -
South Kingstown at
David's*

We need
thinkers for
our thought
forces!!!!

Call the office:

401-781-0044

SPRING ASSEMBLY - JUNE 9, 2012

Barbara M, Area Chair conducted the June 9th, RIAFG Area Assembly from 9:00 - 3:30 at the Anchor Recovery Community Center. During the assembly, GR orientation was held focusing on Links of Service and Trusted Servants.

We received news from the World Service Conference delivered by our delegate, David G. The conference used knowledge based decision making, discussion of all the issues surrounding a topic, then a motion and vote.

The WSC voted to have a task force identify potential area positions that may be appropriate for dual members of Al-Anon and AA and David G. was assigned to this task force.

Conference Summaries will be available at the Open House in September.

Group registrations can now be done on line by the group themselves by going to the Al-Anon Members Website.

Area's may formulate and implement a structure in their geographical area for a trial period that would enable their groups to have full communication, participation and representation.

Our assembly decided to form a thought force on the topics of non-performing state service position holders and attracting and serving a more diverse community. • A Thought Force is a temporary unit of people established to research ideas and possibilities on a single defined task or activity. Sometimes they offer recommendations resulting from their findings. They are "thinkers," not "doers."

Positions filled:

Maura D - Workshop Coordinator
Bonnie M - Office Coordinator
David G - Delegate
Yael - Area Secretary
Robin D - DR 1
Karen M - DR 3

12th Step Commitment Opportunity for RI Al-Anon Groups!

The annual RIAFG Workshop with AA Participation will be held in late October – we are finalizing date and time details. The theme this year is: **Lois & Laughter**

We will weave **Lois Wilson's story** into the event, and by popular demand from last year, humor will reappear to provide some hearty **Laughter!**

. Please email riafgworkshop@gmail.com if you are willing to share your talent, time and energy!

Maura D

*Our Literature Coordinator,
Deb E and her band of helpers
have organized not only our
literature order form but the
WHOLE LITERATURE ROOM!*



TEAM - Together Empowering Al-Anon Members

When I learned about New Hampshire's planned TEAM event in June, I knew that I wanted to be there. I wanted to do this for two reasons, first of all because I had never attended a TEAM event and I was curious about what it was and second because the woman who took me to my very first Al-Anon member 26 years ago was going to be one of the WSO presenters. I hadn't seen her in several years and I was excited about seeing her again.

A TEAM event is an Al-Anon service event that partners one or more Areas with the World Service Office (WSO) to create a unique service event geared to the interest of local members. There are certain presentations that WSO includes in every TEAM event: "Giving, Our Spiritual Link to Gratitude" and "Trustee Search". However, it is up to the Area sponsoring the TEAM event to select the primary topic for the day. New Hampshire chose "Introduction to the Concepts" as the primary focal topic for their TEAM event.

For me, this was perfect since lately I have been toying with getting to know the concepts better and how I can integrate them into my life, as I have with the steps and traditions. There were three WSO representatives who led the discussion and guided us through the process. They began by demonstrating the process using the first concept as an example. We then were divided into 11 groups, one for each of the remaining concepts, and went into break-out sessions to discuss our individual concepts. After the break-out sessions we regrouped to share our discussions with the group as a whole. It was wonderful to meet with Al-Anon members from other areas (NY, NJ, CT, MA, NH, etc.) and to explore how the concepts can be translated into useful tools for us as individual Al-Anon members.

I was part of the group discussing Concept Two "The Al-Anon Family Groups have delegated complete administrative and operational authority to their Conference and its service arms." To begin with, the WSO handout gave us a sentence to build on that transformed this concept into a personal statement. "I am not alone, and I don't have to do everything by myself." We were tasked with coming up with several principles to illustrate this concept and examples of those principles. Principles that we identified were reliance, trust, teamwork, interdependence, support, and let go and let God. As a group, we discussed examples from our personal lives that illustrated these principles. It was great to share my experience and to hear other's sharing too.

For me the day in New Hampshire was a wonderful experience. I met lots of wonderful Al-Anon members, reconnected with an old friend in the program, learned about TEAM events, and explored the concepts with like-minded people.

I am hoping that in the future we can sponsor a TEAM event in Rhode Island.

Love in Service,

Phyllis H., District 4 DR

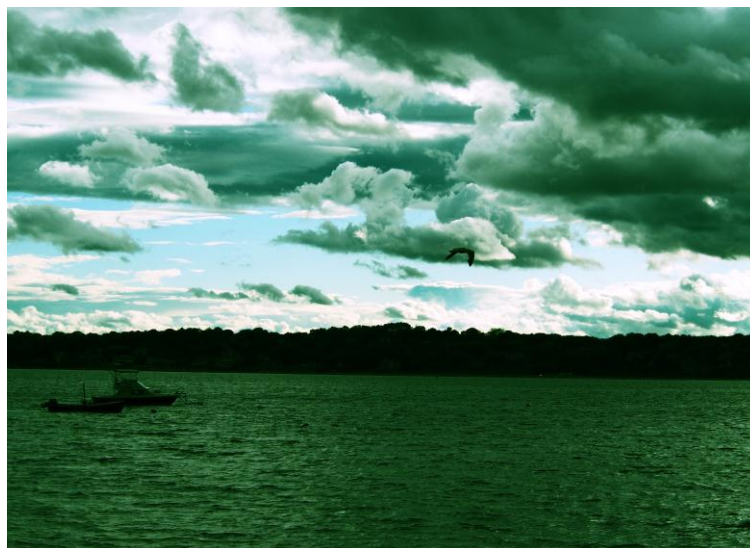
The office hours vary depending on volunteer hours. The phone message is changed every Sunday to reflect the availability. Please call before going to the office (401-781-0044).

We are always in need of more volunteers to keep the doors of the office open.

Looking for volunteers for the Policy Committee, the Workshop Committee and the Assembly Guidelines Committee - Interested? Call the office!



Please Note: The RI Area office is only used for Al-Anon Family groups in accordance with Tradition 3 and Tradition 6.



Al-Anon Web Sites

- ▲ Your local, Area 49 web site
<http://www.riafg.org>
- ▲ The Al-Anon Members' Web site
<http://www.al-anon.alateen.org/members>
- ▲ Podcasts <http://al-anonfamilygroups.org/Podcasts/FirstSteps/>
- ▲ Online meetings and outreach
<http://www.ola-is.org>
- ▲ Public Al-Anon/Alateen site
<http://www.al-anon.alateen.org>

Just for Today:

By **Denise C**

I lost my son to his addiction a month ago. We, whose loved ones are addicted, must learn to keep hope balanced with the possibility that their addiction might get the best of them. If we are lucky, we have walked through the doors of Al-Anon and have come to learn that lesson. Like others, when I came to Al-Anon I could barely get through the day because I was so bogged down with fear, worry, and guilt. Through meetings, reading, and the priceless sharing of others in my group, I was eventually able to let go of my son's addiction and have a life apart from it. I believe that detachment has helped me to deal with the tragedy of his death. Although it is still very early on in the grief process for me, I know I can find comfort and understanding in the program and especially in my group. Having Al-Anon is like having another family. My group has been there with me to share the tears, the joys, the hopes, the disappointments, and even my son's funeral. I believe Al-Anon has saved my life. There is a page in one of our conference approved books that says "Just for today I will have a program." I find great comfort in knowing that the program will be there for me each and every day.

CURRENT OPEN POSITIONS:

Alateen Process Person - The Area Alateen Process Person (AAPP) serves as the Area's designated Alateen contact with the WSO Group Records Department regarding Alateen forms. Since 2004, every Area has Alateen requirements and has a process to certify Al-Anon Members Involved in Alateen Service (AMIAS), register Alateen groups, and implement the Alateen Behavioral and Safety Requirements at all events in the Area that have Alateen participation. The Alateen Process Person works closely with the Alateen Coordinator; for example, the Alateen Coordinator may be responsible for the training and certification of AMIAS, and the AAPP for submitting Alateen forms, recertifying AMIAS, or verifying certification of members serving Alateen for Al-Anon conventions and other events with Alateen participation.

Archives Coordinator - Enjoy scrap booking? The Archives Coordinator preserves the experience, history, and memorabilia of the RIAFG. The Coordinator may head up an Archives Committee, which would be responsible for researching the history of Al-Anon in RI. Our archive materials are currently at the Area office. They need to be organized, dated, catalogued, and preserved using archival methods (e.g., acid free paper, boxes).

District Representatives for District 2, 5 - The DR is usually any incoming, outgoing, or active past Group Representative who is willing to represent the district at Area World Service Committee meetings and Area Assembly. The DR conveys information to the GRs from the Area World Service Committee, listens to group concerns, and takes any questions or concerns to the Area World Service Committee meetings.

Group Representatives - Many groups in Rhode Island currently do not have GRs. The GR receives information from their District Representative to share with their individual groups and attends the RIAFG Assembly meetings to vote on area issues. The GRs are the voice of RI Al-Anon.

Alternate Area Delegate - The Delegate attends the annual Al-Anon/Alateen World Service Conference (our world-wide group conscience) and brings to the Conference our Area's viewpoint on matters affecting the entire fellowship. The Delegate then returns to the Area with a broader perspective of Al-Anon worldwide. He/she is the bridge of understanding that links the groups in the Area with world Al-Anon/Alateen to help us continue to function in unity. The Delegate is the servant of Al-Anon as a whole.



Service (planting the seed) -
Recovery blooms.

The only way the meetings stay alive is by service, we do this by chairing meetings, taking group positions, and taking area positions. The only way to keep what we have is to give it back.

RI Al-Anon/Alateen Events

July 20 - 22, VT Al-Anon Convention, Sheraton Convention Center, Burlington, VT
For more information check out <http://www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/Alanon2012>.

July 29, AA Bilingual Sharing Day “United With One Purpose”; Masonic Temple, 112 East Main St., Meriden, CT 9:00 am to 3:00 pm; for more info email rompiendofronteras@ct-aa.org.

August 5, The Sunday Morning Group that meets at Pawtucket Memorial Hospital is holding their 25th anniversary from 10-11:30 with guest speakers and refreshments

August 17 - 19, 21st Annual Maine Al-Anon/Alateen Convention with AA Participation
Visit www.maineafg.org to download registration form.

September 21-23, Ridin’ into Recovery; 29th New Hampshire Al-Anon and Alateen Convention with AA Participation - updates to follow.

JULY 5-7, 2013 Al-Anon International Convention, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.. A flyer with details is found on the members’ web site.

THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ONLY HAPPENS EVERY FIVE YEARS. Vancouver is beautiful. WSO will provide registration information to the state and also on its web site by the fall 2012. WSO has set aside blocks of hotel rooms, so the conference and hotel registration can both be easily completed at the same time through the WSO.



Lifelines e-subscription: Email to: RI_Al-Anon@hotmail.com (type “Mailing List” in the subject line) Web: www.riafg.org

An area newsletter is a vital link in keeping groups and members informed. The purposes of *Lifelines* are to: encourage attendance at service events; communicate local, area, and Al-Anon Information Service news; and attract Al-Anon members into service.

Editor: Linda S. at lin2169@cox.net or 401-855-6009 (it’s safe to leave a message).