

Lifelines – Rhode Island

Your Monthly Newsletter
May 2013 Edition



*The next AWSC meeting
will be 6/1, 10 AM –
12PM at the Rolfe St
Office in Cranston*

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DELEGATES CORNER

I had the honor to represent our Area as delegate at the 53rd Annual World Service Conference April 14-18, 2013 in Virginia Beach, Virginia. The Conference serves as the fellowship's largest representative group conscience. My general duties were two-fold:

1. Represent our area. Be the voice for Rhode Island on any issues or discussion items that were presented. I shared our area's strengths and challenges.
2. Work for our area. Listen, gather ideas, and transmit that information back to the area structure, groups, and members.

My specific responsibilities included:

1. Participation in and presentation with a Task Force of suggestions of a literature piece to identify service opportunities for dual members;
2. Presentation on how a small area is dealing with the freedom for structural changes;
3. Assignment to a thought force to create strategies on the importance of a home group. This thought force will work throughout the year, and present its work at the 2014 Conference.

Information on literature matters included discussion of the first trial e-book, *Having Had a Spiritual Awakening*. Sharings from members are still being requested for the new piece of literature being developed with the working title of, *Intimacy in Alcoholic Relationships*. The Conference also voted in favor of WSO developing a new pamphlet to address parents and grandparents whose children (teenagers and young adults) are problem drinkers. Sharings are also requested from members on this topic.

Policy changes approved, which will appear in print in the next *Service Manual*, were to pp. 88-91 on Anonymity, and to pp. 107-109 on Public Relations.

If you want to know more about the Conference, what's it like, what was discussed, what's new, then please come to the Area Assembly June 15 where I will be presenting my delegate summary and answering questions. OR, contact the area office and I will be pleased to stop by your group and speak and answer questions if your group would like that.

David G. : Delegate

Groups without GRs

Is your group without a GR? If so, here is what you can do to provide your group with a vote at the assembly and to receive the most current information about RI AFG and WSO.

If both the Group Representative and Alternate GR are unable to attend Assembly, or if a group does not have an elected Group Representative, a member may be elected by the group as a Proxy Vote to attend Assembly on behalf of the group, to vote on behalf of the group and bring information back to the group.

In such cases, the member must bring a note from the group that he/she is authorized to vote for the group during the Assembly.

Member serving as proxy may not also be a member of Alcoholics

Anonymous

.....
Dear GR's and CMA's of RI AFG District 3 - ALL DISTRICTS WELCOMED,
GR TRAINING

We would like to have a meeting of the Group Representatives prior to the Area Assembly (June 15).

Karen (our District Representative) would like to meet on **Thursday, June 6th, 6 to 7:00 pm**, just prior to the regular meeting at St. Paul's. *Karen has NOT confirmed the space yet and we will send a follow up email when we get confirmation.*

The June 2012 Assembly--GR Orientation Participant's Guide is what we will be primarily discussing at the GR Training on 6/6. If you are interested in attending and would like a copy of the guide, please email me at Sandy. This document will provide you with details on the GR position and how it works, both at the assemblies and at your meeting.

Hope to see you there!

Sandy M

If your group needs literature, you can email your order to Deb deb.anon@yahoo.com by June 13th and your representative can pay for and pick up the order at the Assembly.

Updated Literature Catalog

The Literature Catalog has been updated and is available on the RI AFG Web site (<http://www.riafg.org/>). As you'll see, many of the items are available for *free download* from the WSO. All items are available at the RI Area Office/Literature Distribution Center (LDC).

Please note that, due to projected budget deficits, the Finance Committee and the Board at WSO approved to increase the price of some literature effective May 1st. This increase includes previously free items. These new prices are reflected in the updated catalog.

Remember, there are 3 ways to purchase CAL from the Area and support local services:

1. Pick it up at the Area Office/LDC—we welcome walk-in customers. Please contact the office for current hours.
2. Pick it up at an Area Event—E-mail your order to deb.anon@yahoo.com up to the Thursday before an Assembly, Workshop, or Convention, and you can pick up your order and pay for it at the event.
3. Have it mailed to your group—The Area Office will mail literature orders. Just fill out the order form at the back of the catalog and send it with payment to the Area Office. All orders are shipped via Media Mail. Allow a week or so for processing and delivery.

Has Your Group Ordered Literature from the Area by Mail?

As you may know, this service was made available for a trial period. I plan to report on the success of this trial and whether we will continue the service at the Assembly on June 15th. Your feedback will greatly help me to make this decision:

How quickly did you receive your order?

How did you find the shipping costs?

Would you order from us again?

Would you recommend ordering this way to another group/member?

What would make this service better/add value?

Do you think we should continue the service?

Any other thoughts/suggestions?

In service,

Debbie E. deb.anon@yahoo.com

RI AFG Literature/LDC Coordinator

Remember, when you buy from your local LDC, you support your local services!

RI AFG Spring Assembly June 15, 2013

Where: West Greenwich Community Center, 280 Victory Hwy (rte 102), West Greenwich, RI

Time: 8:30 (registration) 9-3:30

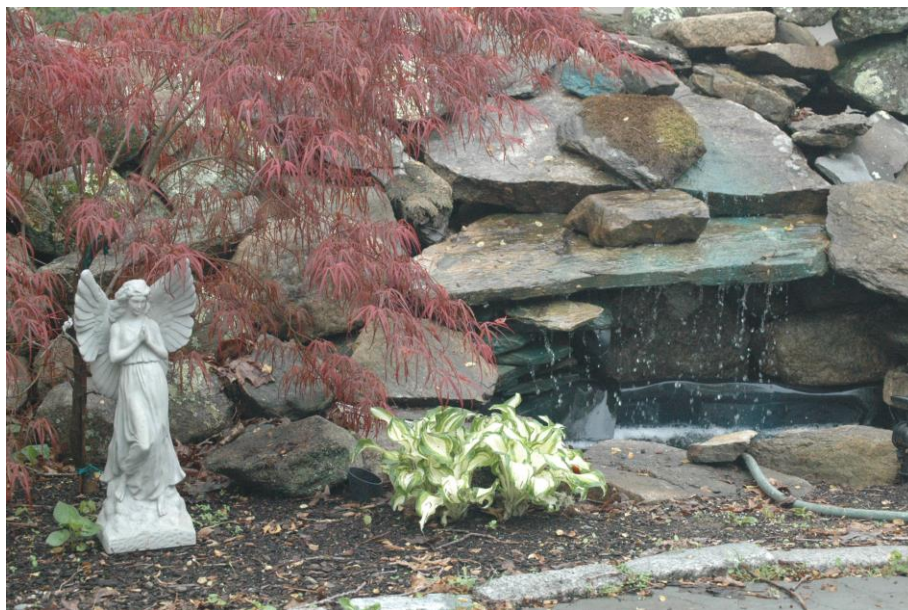
All Groups are requested to support their GR or (GR proxy-Al-Anon only member) cost \$5.

All members are encouraged to participate in area assemblies!

Sneak peek-----The Spring Assembly includes.....World Service Conference (WSC) information (provided by delegate), Area Restructure Task Force, a Service Workshop and Writing Workshop breakout groups. Presentations on Area Financial Guideline, ESH and voting on Area Matters. Please consider attending even if you aren't a voting member of the assembly, come to hear about WSC and contribute to the breakout groups. The Area restructuring and Financial Guideline Task Forces have been hard at work since November. These Task Forces are monumental to moving our area forward in progressive times.

So be part of the solution and listen, learn and share your ESH with your assembly members. See you all soon! Watch for email on Website updates....Assembly handouts will be posted soon!

With love for our program, Barbara M., your Area Chair



ps...Don't forget to bring a brown bag lunch! Lite snacks and refreshments will be available...

CURRENT OPEN POSITIONS:

Office Coordinator - The Office Coordinator ensures that our Area Office on Rolfe Street runs smoothly, making sure it is fully stocked with office supplies and coordinating the volunteers who man office hours, answering the phones, following up on messages, and filling literature orders. The Office Coordinator attends the AWSC meetings as a voting member.

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). The Archives Coordinator attends the AWSC meetings as a voting member.

Public Outreach Coordinator - The Public Outreach Coordinator informs the general public through the media, professionals, facilities, and organizations about who we are, what we do, and how to get in touch with us. Our goal is to attract to our program those whose lives are or have been affected by someone else's drinking, so that those who need our program can find the help and hope we offer. We also strive for name recognition and credibility as a community resource. The Public Outreach Coordinator serves as a communication link between the WSO and the Area, making presentations or holding workshops at events in the Area and the general community; distributing service projects and information from the WSO to Area Assemblies, Districts, and Groups; encouraging the Area, Districts, and GRs to carry project ideas and information to the groups; and continually educating the fellowship about the need to attract those who are still suffering to our program. The Public Outreach Coordinator attends the AWSC meetings as a voting member.

Forum Coordinator - The *Forum* Coordinator encourages groups and members to submit sharing's to the *Forum* magazine and to subscribe. The Coordinator carries Al-Anon's message of recovery as it is printed in the *Forum* to the GRs, who are the *Forum* Representatives at the group level. This coordinator's duties include, but are not limited to, being available to GRs and DRs for assistance in conducting workshops or outreach activities. Coordinators can ask Area World Service Committee members to assist by subscribing to and sharing the value of the *Forum* as they conduct their service activities. They may also bring sharing sheets, blank order forms, and copies of the *Forum* to workshops, assemblies, etc. Display boards may also be made to use at these events. The *Forum* Coordinator attends the AWSC meetings as a voting member.

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. The DRs attend the AWSC meetings as voting members.

Workshop Committee Chair - The Workshop Committee Chair heads the Workshop Committee, which plans our annual Fall Workshop. The purpose of the workshop is to allow members to participate in giving back to the program (Participation Is the Key to Harmony) while enjoying a day of recovery. All proceeds help the Area as a whole, which allows us to be self-supporting. Duties include chairing periodic committee meetings and securing volunteers who take on responsibilities for registration, decorating, hospitality, master of ceremonies, speakers, treasury, meetings, food, craft table, Alateen participation, AA participation, Literature table, and Public Outreach table. This committee chair also troubleshoots and supports these tasks as necessary.

RI Al-Anon/Alateen Events

MAY

17th Hope for the Family Disease Anniversary with AA 7-9PM St. Theresa's Church, Tiverton, RI

22nd Gift of Hope 24th Anniversary Party – 7PM at the Church of the Redeemer, 655 Hope St, Providence, RI

JUNE

6th - GR TRAINING 6P-7P St. Paul's Episcopal Church Hall, 2679 East Main Rd. (across from Portsmouth Library) –

15 - Area Assembly, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. registration begins at 8:30 a.m.

West Greenwich Community Center, 274 Victory Hwy (route 102),
Approximately 3 miles from I-95 (exit 5B).

As the voice and vote for the individual Al-Anon Groups, all GRs are encouraged to attend.
All Al-Anon members are welcome to attend (but do not have a vote at the assembly).

21, 22, 23 - 37th AA Serenity by the Sea Ocean State Young People's Conference (OSYPC) with Al-Anon Participation

"Young-means you still have some growing to do" • June 21, 22, & 23

Salve Regina University • Newport, RI Come for the weekend or come for the day: meetings, fellowship, and recreation!



Lifelines e-subscription: Email to: RI_Al-Anon@hotmail.com (type "Mailing List" in the subject line) or email lin2169@hotmail.com

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.