

## District 8 Report - Assembly October 2-14

It is with gratitude and joy that we (Diane M, DR and Jody S, AISL) share the following report concerning our district activities.

- Finance - Our District continues to work through issues regarding finances. We started the panel in a position that we did not have a prudent reserve or the assurance that monthly fixed expenses would be covered that a comfortable bank balance can assure. Initially, we determined that there would be no spending until we could rebuild our prudent reserve and maintain those fixed monthly expenses. We are now in a knowledge based decision making mode, looking at ways to decrease rent, storage and answering service expenses. We are also gathering information about what each area can do and what financial needs there are. Built into these discussions is a push to see new ways to do our work.

As we have worked through this process, we used a consensus tool to name our priorities for spending, once the prudent reserve had been accumulated. The result was

1. Public outreach
2. Print Where & When Meeting Guide
3. Alateen
4. Seed Money and Supplies for Events
5. Print monthly newsletter, Serenity Messenger
6. Support small groups

Once our priorities were determined, we prepared figures needed for the months of September through December. Using this approach, we were able to unanimously pass our 2015 Budget and lift our spending freeze.

- Alateen - Our district was able to send 7 kids to the Alateen Conference and we are grateful to everyone for their donations and support. The kids themselves held fundraisers to help pay the way. On a day when we had a district meeting followed by a budget meeting, they provided food for donations. They also hosted a hosting a picnic at Rowlett Park for funds.

Our Alateen Chair is actively recruiting for new AMAISs as we have 4 schools asking for support and have not been able to meet their needs. We continue to work to add AMAISs and are proud to say we now have 7 in our district.

- AA – Our cooperation with AA continues to yield positive results. We participated in the AA Fall Round up, providing a literature table and facilitating both Alanon and Alateen meetings. (Our open Alateen meeting had 9 teens new to District 8 events). We are actively involved with Soberstock and have recently been invited to coordinate on a retreat held in Ellenton.
- Events - The 2015 Recovery Weekend was held April 10-12, 2015 at the Bethany Center in Lutz, FL. The theme of the weekend event was “Growth in a Spiritual Life” using workshops and discussion meetings focusing on Al-Anon Recovery. There are 53 rooms at the facility and this event registration totaled 29 members, utilizing 13 single and 9 double rooms. Of the \$1,281.05 in Profit, the event is responsible to make an upcoming \$500.00 deposit on our contract,

resulting in a carryover operating fund of \$781.05. Also, our Events Chair position was open for many months and has now been filled. Our volunteer is busy gathering information about her resources, events that we may hold and finding groups who wish to sponsor those events. Our Gratitude Dinner is scheduled for November 14 and we are looking forward to it with DEEP gratitude.

- Group Records - Our Group Records chair is working diligently to ensure that all of our district's groups have completed the GR1 form. To support her efforts, a Meeting on the Move movement has been created and the groups visited are those who have not yet completed those forms.
- Newsletter - One of the outcomes of having financial issues has been very beneficial. The Serenity Messenger, our district newsletter is now produced in two different formats. One version is distributed via email to all group representatives with contact information included. A second version is obtainable from our web page for download and that version provides contact information that is generic. (Such as [DR@tampabayalanon.org](mailto:DR@tampabayalanon.org) rather than the district representatives name and phone number.)
- Meeting list - Our district meeting list, the Where & When, is another area in which we are doing evaluation of our needs. For many months, they have not been available in print format, only web version. We expect this to change very soon.
- Group Representative Training – our new group representative training was very successful and we continue to offer training as a part of our district meetings through the Service Manual Spotlight.
- Web Page – Our website has had up to 1000 hits in one month. He is receiving emails from people asking the locations of meetings, so he has worked on improving to show where meetings are. Work was done to allow iPhones to show the meetings by the day of the week.