Panel 55 Spring Assembly 2016
Group Records/Assembly Registration
Coordinator Report

GROUP RECORDS ~ **Area 9 has 560 Groups—374 of these are ACTIVE and 186 are NON-ACTIVE:** Of the ACTIVE Groups, **19 have INVALID EMAIL** addresses, which means these groups are not receiving monthly Group E-Newsletters. Of the NON-ACTIVE Groups, **11 have NO MAIL Status**, which means their mail was returned to the World Service Office; Often these Groups are actively meeting but just haven't updated their Current Mailing Address Contact (CMA).

During Registration, we do try to let Group Reps know if their Groups are having any of these issues. But sometimes it just gets too busy. So if you think your Group is not receiving its regular mail or email, come see me anytime this weekend and we'll try to sort it out. If you need to make a change for your group, we have copies of the GR1 Form and instructions for filling it out. You can also access the Form and Instructions on our Area Website.

ASSEMBLY REGISTRATION ~ Since this panel began, I've been a part of several Thought Forces looking into Registration Procedures and no matter what else we begin with as a topic, we always wind up discussing the necessity of some kind of Pre-Registration Process. Because of this and for a while now, I've been asking other people (like Group Members, Thought Force Participants, Other Area Group Records Coordinators, and my Registration Committee) what they think about Pre-Registration and how they think it should go. I've found that just about everyone thinks we need it, but how to proceed is less clear. So I've also been doing a lot of my own research into how other Al-Anon Areas approach Pre-Registration. Here are some information and ideas I've come up with over the past few months…

- _I asked Group Records Coordinators on ECommunities how their Areas handled Registration and Pre-Registration if applicable; 6 responded:_ Unfortunately, none of them was involved with Registration in any way. But, in each case, they told me Registration was carried out by a Committee, sometimes headed by an Officer and sometimes headed by a District Rep, on a rotating basis. 2 Coordinators told me their Areas had optional on-line pre-registration. But there were no details.

- _The majority of individuals I've asked have suggested that pre-registration could follow similar procedures to that of North Florida Area Convention_: But there have also been some good arguments for making pre-registration a single process; ie, either completely on-line or by mail-in form only.

- _My own research suggests that Mail-In Forms, with a specific submission deadline, are the most common type of Pre-Registration used by other Areas_: Of the approximately 20 Areas I've found who publish their Assembly Registration procedures online, 10 have a pre-registration form posted, which can be printed out and mailed in. They're all a little different, depending on what things are offered at each Assembly, but they all ask for Name, Address, Phone, Email and District Information, and require that GRs provide their Group Name and WSO Number. Checks only are accepted by mail. Only 1 out of the 10 had a website listed where members could pre-register on-line. I did find one Area that had On-Line Pre-Registration Only, but it was password encrypted so I wasn't able to check it out.

- _From all this, I've developed a Draft Pre-Registration Form and tentative procedure that is very similar to Convention Pre-Registration, in that it can be done by mail, on-line or on-site, directly after the preceding Assembly has ended:_ The Form and Procedure will, of course, have to be reviewed and revised by a Task Force with key input from the Treasurer and Technology Coordinator and others most likely. I am hoping we'll have some kind of Pre-Registration in place by 2017.

Thank you so much for listening!!