

Notes from Storage Unit #186

Greetings to all @ May 20-22, 2016 Assembly Florida North AFG Area 9 from Michael D.!

As I sit at my home computing, scanning and productivity station, my first thought (courtesy of my Higher Power) is to write: *Thank You.*

Thank you for offering me the opportunity to serve as your Area 9 Archives Coordinator. Though my H. P. obviously knew I was embarking on a journey of introspection, learning, growth and love of service, I was ignorant. In 17 months I have come from a fearful place unsure I could do this to a much deeper knowing that I am not in charge and through Trust in a Power greater than myself, I can do anything. More importantly, I have learned WE can do anything. I am grateful to a part of the spiritual fellowship of Al-Anon Family Groups International. WE are never alone in our service and membership.

- Our Florida North Area 9 AFG archives committee has been busy. H.P. has provided 2 members, NANCY G. and SANDEE S. who have been tireless and inspiring in their service to the Area Archives. We are continuing our inventory while sorting through items to organize, scan, catalog and preserve our holdings in our 5' by 10' storage unit in Ocala. Organization in the storage unit is by year while online digital holdings are by year_month_date_file name.pdf.
 - We are preparing Convention books for scanning with the target of having all Convention books up to 2015 scanned for online use by end of year.
 To scan we must reverse order of sections with first page at the back as the scanner feeds from back to front. Some items due to thickness or size must be placed on the printer bed to print to page for scanning. To date

- we have scanned 1990 and 1991 Conventions with another 10 lined up in my closet at home to be scanned during the coming weeks.
- Similarly we are scanning Treasurer documents and books from prior
 Panels up to Panel 49. The Treasurer documents are also in the queue.
 Secretary documents for those Panels have been scanned.
- Our intent for storage unit organization is to be able to have all materials ready for transfer to the Panel 58 Archives Coordinator by December 2017. Higher Power willing I intend to be on hand when moving day occurs to assist the new Archives Coordinator.
- Prior to October Assembly 2016, I will begin work and play on creating a guide book to give my successor during our Turnover Meeting in October 2017. Like the reports I read in our Convention Books by those responsible for chairing various aspects of the event, I am inspired to pass on how we worked and had fun with Area 9 Archives during our three years.
- I am thankful for the G-30 Area Archives Al-Anon Guideline which begins with these words: "One of the best ways to protect the future of the Al-Anon fellowship in an Area is to look to the past. Of course, our primary purpose remains—to carry the message of hope to the families and friends of alcoholics. The collection and preservation of our past renews our sense of purpose and serves as the thread that links the generation of stories that are to follow.
- PURPOSE: The purpose of an Area Archives is to preserve the experience, history, and memorabilia of the Al-Anon fellowship from the beginning of the family movement in that locale. This history should be preserved so as to be available to the membership and the serious researcher, within the framework of our Traditions, for the good of Al-Anon as a whole.

Inspiration from Lois Remembers, page 195:

"I deeply believe that it is love that makes the world go 'round...It inspires us to greater endeavor in all fields of activity....The well of love refills itself. The more one gives of love, the more one has to give."

May the understanding, love and peace of the program grow in us one day at a time.

