

Ask It Basket Questions/Answers
(from Assembly October 2015)

Q. When and where are the WSO yearly Conferences?

A. The World Service Conference takes place (usually) in March in Virginia Beach. You can find out more about the Conference in the annual Conference Summary available for free on the WSO website: www.alanon.org

Q. Can you take a Group Conscience about the Room Temperature?

A. Not really. At any given time the temperature in the room fluctuates depending on how many people are in it, how the hotel units are running, etc. Our best bet is to continue to stay in touch with the Hotel staff and make adjustments as we can. And individuals are encouraged to wear layers and bring a coat if you tend to feel cold. If you feel too hot, please feel free to get up and move around, get some ice water, and do what you need to take care of yourself.

Q. I Googled “Sergeant At Arms” origin at lunch time. I believe we need a new term. The definition is “someone to remove disruptive persons from a legislative body, usually a retired soldier or police officer, someone with security experience.” Perhaps something like Facility Liaison or Comfort Liaison.

A. We put this question out in a Thought Force survey at the February 2015 AWSC. There was no clear consensus on changing the name. Many people thought the term was fine. There was some discussion about the other possible names. I believe this will remain under discussion.

Q. Do Districts list Groups in their published Meeting List without the Group’s permission?

A. We weren’t sure of the question. I believe there is an assumption that if you are an Al-Anon Family Group then you are listed in a District Meeting List. This is one of the ways that people needing Al-Anon find Al-Anon. I’m not sure if there is a specific permission. If this was your question, perhaps you could contact one of the Officers to clarify what you were looking for specifically.

Q. How does a member at the Group level become a member of an Area level Task Force.

A. There are three ways: (1) contact the Area Chair and ask to be placed on a Task Force (2) contact your District Representative and ask them to refer you to the Area Chair to be placed on a Task Force or (3) fill out the survey on the Home Page of our Area Website (www.AFGArea9.org) and the Area Chair will place you on a Task Force.

Q. I think the Treasurer's Report should cover more than one month, maybe the 6 months since Spring Assembly? Why just the month of August?

A. If you go to the Area Website and look on the Budgets and Minutes page, you will find updated Treasurer's Reports and Spreadsheets for all of 2015 and the beginning of 2016. We are having an election for a new Area Treasurer at the May Assembly, and the new Treasurer will have a chance to look over the request for information.

Q. Are Groups creating Group Email accounts and if so, in what ways are they using the address?

A. This is helpful for sharing Group e-news that is delivered electronically from WSO to the Group Representative. It is also helpful if there is closure at the location of the meeting to get the word out and to share updates and information from District and Area. Some Groups keep this list confidential, it is only used by the GR.

Having a Group Email also allows it to be placed on flyers and websites without creating any anonymity issues.

Q. At the Convention we were asked how many years we've been in Al-Anon. I was in it at 22, 35 and the last 2 years. Have I been in Al-Anon 4 years or 25 years? (I'm 47 years old).

A. There is no rule in Al-Anon about membership, it is up to the individual. On service resumes for WSO they ask for continuous years of Al-Anon membership, as a reference to years involved. At the Area (for Election and Alateen Safety & Behavioral Requirements issues) we use continuous years.

Tradition 3 states *how* we are considered members: "the only requirement for membership is that there be a problem of alcoholism in a relative or friend." And Tradition 5 states *what* we members of Al-Anon do: "We do this by practicing the Twelve Steps of AA ourselves, by encouraging and understanding our alcoholic relatives and by welcoming and giving comfort to families of alcoholics."

In the Service Manual on p. 40 there are two paragraphs about membership in Al-Anon and this might be helpful to look at as well.

Thank you for your questions – please feel free to continue the conversation!

Yours in service,

Cindy J.

Panel 55 Chairperson

Ask It Basket questions asked at Assembly October 2015