

## District 3 AWSC Report August 2017

As we approach the end of the panel, I have been looking over my role during the past three years. I came into this panel expecting to be the Alt DR. When the DR resigned 9 months into the term, I got a new role. It was a rocky start. We also had issues with our Treasurer and several chairperson positions have changed through the panel. Our most recent resignation was Monday. We have also had a few people volunteer for positions and then never do anything. On the flip side, we have also had many hardworking dedicated members who have done some fabulous work for Al-Anon. It has been a struggle for me to let go of the negative and trust that my HP has a plan. This position has been a wonderful opportunity for me to work on letting go of perfectionism and control. I'm hopeful that as we approach district (and area) elections that HP will bring people to the positions who truly want to do the work.

Recently, we have been busy working to revise our Election Guidelines. We had a Task Force which met twice, but was unable to come to a consensus on the guidelines. Instead, we are using two District meetings to go finalize the procedures prior to our election meeting in September. We didn't make much progress during our June Meeting. Hopefully our August meeting will be more productive. If not, we will have either very long August meeting or very interesting September elections. Maybe we'll even get both!

Our District meetings have been held in the same location for years. While we are grateful for the space, it is small and there are no tables for people to use for taking notes (or holding coffee). We have tried out a new meeting location for our last two district meetings and it seems to be going well. Our first time there, not many people showed up, but last month there were a few more. Change is hard for us Al-Anons and I am hopeful that we will have even more at the August meeting. Just to keep it interesting, the September election meeting will be held in our old location. I'm keeping my fingers crossed that people remember to come to the old location!

Our District recently hosted the Al-Anon portion of the AA Florida State Convention in Jacksonville. Three members volunteered to coordinate everything and did a wonderful job. There were lots of workshops and we hosted the hospitality room for lunch on Friday from noon to 2:00. HP was in charge. The Hospitality Room hosts before us ran out of food at 11:30 and asked us to come early. The organizers were concerned that we too would run out of food, but we were able to provide food to everyone for 2 ½ hours!

District 3 members had opportunities to support two health fairs in June and July. In June, we supported a booth at a special Health Fair at a local hospital focused on substance abuse issues. We also connected with the hospital's educational staff who agreed to distribute AFAs in the facility. In July, District 3 once again supported a booth at the Clinical Overview of the Recovery Experience (CORE) Conference, where more than 500 addiction specialists attended educational seminars. We

distributed more than 400 AFAs, 20 Al-Anon Referral Pads (Item M-77) and miscellaneous merchandise that was left over from the 2016 convention. Special thanks to the SOS Fernandina Beach AFG, as their members provided the majority of the support for all four days of the conference. Their zeal for service was inspiring!

District 3 also plans to test hiring a company to distribute AFAs at medical offices and facilities throughout our community. The cost is minimal, the literature will be placed in racks the company maintains. We would appreciate hearing about any experiences other districts have had with similar services in their communities.

Next month, as part of our agreement with Clearly Jacksonville, our digital billboards will reappear at select locations throughout the area to recognize National Recovery Month. We will have an update on them for the October Assembly.

See you soon,

Gage – D3 DR

Mark – D3 AISL