

Greetings North Florida Area 9 Al-Anon members!

**In the Public Outreach arena, the most important thing you can do for our efforts is to read the Proposed Public Outreach Project in the To Be Voted on section of this web page.**

This proposal is the result of many, many volunteer hours put forth by myself and the rest of my team. We affectionately call ourselves PORB, for Public Outreach Review Board, and my deepest thanks to Heath H, Mike F, and Charon C.

As I have shared in previous reports, we have used Al-Anon Spiritual Principles, Knowledge Based Decision Making, and all of our combined service experience to develop this project. After our Spring Assembly, we included comments and suggestions made by many of you who reached out to me directly to further clarify our project proposal.

I submit for your consideration the following updates that have been identified as they relate to the Area Public Outreach efforts since our Spring Assembly:

- I am happy to report the addition of a team member to the Public Outreach Review Board (PORB). During our June Assembly, Roger B reached out to me with great enthusiasm for the work we had reported on. He expressed a willingness to be of service. At our next monthly meeting, it was unanimously agreed that we would invite him to join our efforts. He will begin at our next meeting. Thank you Roger! With his inclusion, we now have a full group.
- I attended the district meeting for District 11 in July and have scheduled to attend District 4 in September. These presentations are to highlight the materials that are easily obtainable from the World Service Office and North Florida Area websites. Through the technology of screen sharing, it is possible to demonstrate step by step how to obtain these materials for local public outreach purposes. I stress that any group or member can do service in this way. This brings the total number of districts visited to seven, with requests out to the remaining six.
- Six districts have Public Outreach Coordinators, 1 has not responded to the question and six districts do not have those positions filled.

You may recall that during the Knowledge Based Decision Making Process, I was gathering information about several projects our group was considering. In reaching out to the Department of Corrections, a request for information was misinterpreted. The result was that four Chaplains in the Prison System called me to request material about Al-Anon. I have been working to meet those requests by coordinating with the Districts and Areas where the requests were made. To that end, the following actions have been taken:

- The South Florida Area Public Outreach Coordinator has confirmed that they sent 10 copies of How Al-Anon Works to the Everglades Correctional Institution. They also sent a letter offering volunteers and did a follow up as well.
- The Panhandle Area Delegate has confirmed that they were able to provide books to the Walton County Correctional Facility and that, as of this month, they now have a Public Outreach Coordinator for their area who is willing to coordinate with me in the future.

- Our District 1 Representative has confirmed that they were able to provide literature to the Jefferson Correctional Institution and is working to see if an Al-Anon meeting would be possible there.
- A very motivated District 5 volunteer has been in communication with the Chaplain at the Hernando County Correctional Facility and has formed a good relationship there. Books have been provided and they are working together to see if a meeting can be created for the inmates. Also, she has been through the prison's required fingerprint screening process. In a related development, one of the meetings in District 5 that is closing has donated their literature supply to this effort, as well as cash donations.
- I had a conversation with the World Service Office Public Outreach Coordinator about whether or not they did anything with Prison Outreach and he confirmed that this was left up to Areas and Districts to handle. I also asked for his cooperation in checking to see if it was feasible to offer prisoners in Florida a copy How Al-Anon Works on their tablets and he is researching this complex question.

Yours in Service,

Diane M

Public Outreach Coordinator for North Florida Area 9, Panel 61