

District 7 AWSC Report

January 28-30, 2022

Hello Florida North and greetings from District 7, covering all of Pinellas County. Currently, we are blessed to have 38 Al-Anon groups registered with WSO, one of which meets in-person and on Zoom separately. Twenty-five are meeting face-2-face, six are hybrid and seven are strictly zoom. Roughly three-quarters have Group Representatives and we average around 18 attending our district meetings. In addition, there are 2 Alateen meetings that meet in person and we are looking to find a group that's willing to sponsor another.

A return to in person district meetings was put on hold last September. We've extended our Zoom gatherings indefinitely for safety's sake. The difference of opinions surrounding this issue can be challenging, sometimes highly charged. I have chosen to exercise my "Right of Decision" as a trusted servant, with consideration of everyone's input, as to when and where the district will meet in the months to come. A few have seen this as non-democratic, but I see it as an excellent opportunity to discuss the concept of "effective leadership" and "carefully defined authority." Besides, any debate on the status of Covid could result in disharmony among our members.

Our Thought Force on how to involve Al-Anon members who are also members of AA (Al-Anon/AA) in Al-Anon service has shared their findings with the membership. Their report was steeped in information referencing numerous sources to consult. The resulting discussion, again, was a chance to dive deeper into the principles of Al-Anon. Participants were encouraged to focus on the facts at hand and do their best at putting emotions aside. The ultimate objective of this process was to examine how (Al-Anon/AA) members can be involved in Al-Anon Service, rather than focusing on what they can't. Our District Information Services Chairs reserve the right to vote on matters affecting District 7 Al-Anon groups (and by nature, Al-Anon as a whole), therefore, exempting Al-Anon/AA members. However, any member may involve themselves in supporting the activities of the committee or in district-wide activities. Autonomy has its limitations.

In spite of not having a Public Information Chair we have managed to take on public outreach events one by one. A member is heading up our effort to be present at The Awakening Into the Sun Festival, March 5-6, 2022 at North Straub Park in St Pete. Another member has agreed to organize a table at the TampaBay Women's Expo at the St. Pete Coliseum on April 16.

There seems to be little hope of having our annual Day of Workshops while the presence of Covid is still prevalent. Perhaps a virtual event is yet to be determined. We are still in need of a DISL to head the Information Service Committee, as well as open chair positions for Alateen Processor, Archives, Institutions, and Public Information. It's all in our Higher Power's hands.

Many blessings,
Shelly F.
District 7 Representative