

Literature Coordinator Report Assembly June 2022

Sandra F.

Area 9 Literature Coordinator

Panel 61

OUTLINE

1) New Service Manual

- a) Online only for now
- b) Hard copy - later this summer

The 2022-2025 edition of the *AI-Anon/Alateen Service Manual* (P-24/27) replaces any previous editions.

2) Updates from WSO

- a) Thank you - for writing contributions
- b) Updates - entire posting provided below

3) CAL quotes for calendars

“... The only stipulation is that you include the attribution to the quotation immediately following it, and that somewhere in the body of the calendar you include the following credit line:”...copyright by AI-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc. ...”

4) BANNERS - request

“..... For those who want the large banners, your group, District, or Area can request reprint permission to create its own banners using a local print shop, provided that it is a one-time printing and the banners are not to be sold or distributed”

5) New arrival !

6) Follow up from Red Light Green Light “Reference to God as male in 12 Steps”

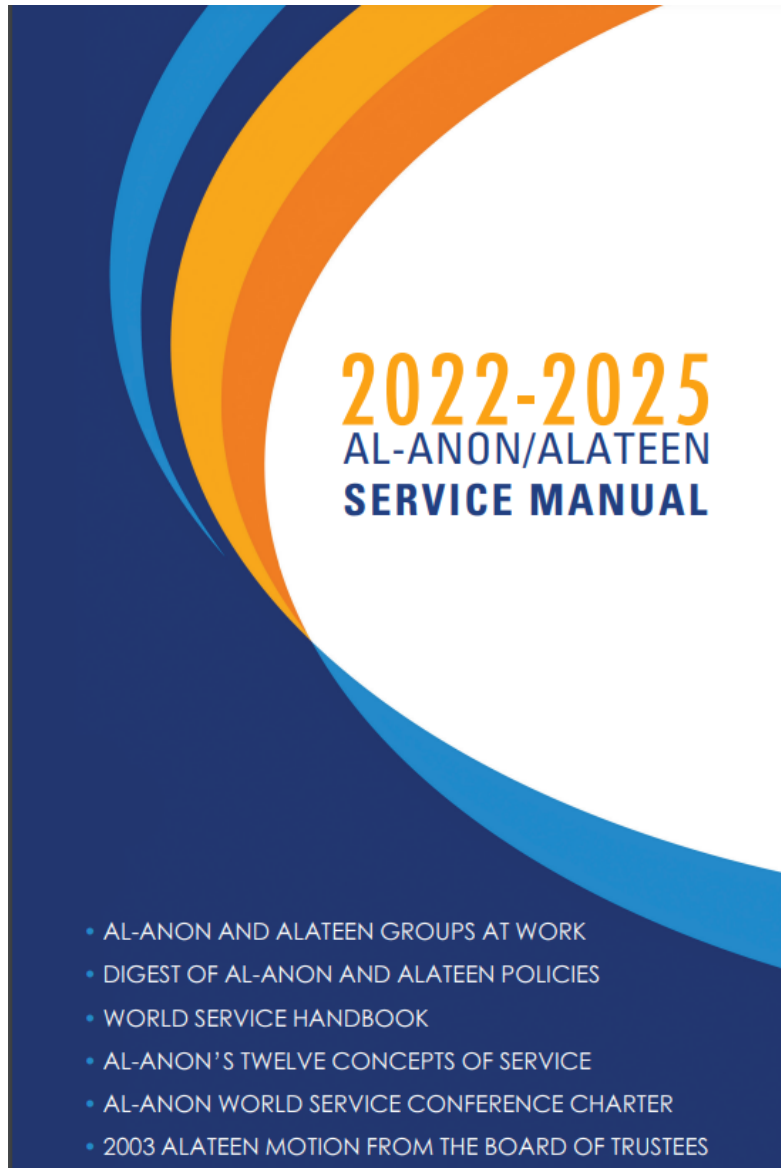
- a) Original post (entire post provided below)
- b) 3 personal responses (not provided here)
- c) Response from WSO (entire response provided below)

“.....In reviewing the descriptive or introductory text of AI-Anon literature, the Literature Committee has given much attention for more than 30 years now to be reflective of our diversity by using gender-neutral references whenever possible in the creation of new literature and in the revision of older materials.....”

1) NEW SERVICE MANUAL -

Online only for now; hard copy in preparation

<https://al-anon.org/pdf/P2427.pdf>



2022-2025 **Al-Anon/Alateen** **Service Manual**

The 2022-2025 edition of the *Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual* (P-24/27) replaces any previous editions.

2) Updates from WSO

May 23, 2022

Dear Literature Coordinators,

Thank you so much for getting the word out regarding the "CAL Corner" sharings we needed! We received an abundance of sharings for *Living with Sobriety* (P49) and *Reaching for Personal Freedom* (P-92), and just in time. Unfortunately, we don't have a single writing about *The Al-Anon Focus* (P-45), which is celebrating its 45th year in print. Please ask members in your Area to share 200-400 words about how this pamphlet helped them.

Send sharings by July 1 to *The Forum*, 1600 Corporate Landing Parkway, Virginia Beach, VA 23454-5617, Attention: "CAL Corner"; to wso@al-anon.org with "CAL Corner" in the subject line; or submit online at al-anon.org/forumshare

Many, many thanks for your help,

April Literatures Coordinator update

Posted 04-12-2022 13:39

Reply

Dear Literature Coordinators,

Here's the latest update of literature news. Please feel free to pass this info on at Assemblies and via e-mail to District Representatives, Information Services/Intergroups, Website Coordinators, and Newsletter Editors. Establishing an e-mail list of these members/service arms makes it easy to forward this information.

Alateen Just for Tonight Bookmark: Many thanks for your help in getting the 125 sharings we received from Alateen members for a new Just for Tonight Alateen Bookmark by the March 31 deadline. The Literature Committee will now begin the process of developing the bookmark based on the content of these sharings.

New Introductions to ODAT and Dilemma: As mentioned last April, the 2021 WSC carried motions for new introductions to the books *One Day at a Time in Al-Anon* (B-6) and *The Dilemma of the Alcoholic Marriage* (B-4) that would place them in historical perspective. These have both been written, and have now been approved by the Literature Committee, the Policy Review Task Force, and the Executive Director. They will be included in the next printings of the books, and I will post you a notice when these are available.

"CAL Corner" Topics: This department is featured each month in *The Forum* magazine. It includes members' sharings on how a particular piece of our literature has enhanced their recovery. April's topic is *Opening Our Hearts, Transforming Our Losses* (B-29). In May the department focuses on *...In All Our Affairs* (B-15), and in June the topic is *Intimacy in Alcoholic Relationships* (B-33).

Sharings needed for "CAL Corner": Please urge members to share in writing about how a piece of CAL has helped them with their recovery. We are currently looking for sharings about *Living with Sobriety* (P49), *Reaching for Personal Freedom* (P-92), *The Al-Anon Focus* (P-45), *From Survival to*

Recovery (B-21), and *Alateen-Hope for Children of Alcoholics* (B-3). We have very few of these, and really need your help as quickly as possible. Please see the writing guideline for "CAL Corner" at:

al-anon.org/pdf/CALcornerSharingRevised%202018.pdf

Writing about CAL for Area Newsletters: We'd love you to use your Area newsletter to publish your Assembly reports, include members' reviews of various CAL, or sharings on how local members are encouraging the use of CAL at their groups. Please keep in mind encourage members to read a greater variety of CAL. In keeping with Al-Anon's copyright and reprint policies on pages 116-18 of the *2022-2025 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual* (found here: <https://al-anon.org/pdf/P2427.pdf>), please remember to request and receive reprint permission prior to publication. Also please note that only limited quotations of a paragraph or less can be approved.

Because your Assembly or Area World Service Committee meetings might not coincide with my postings on AFG Connects, please contact me anytime you need more information or have questions about literature content.

Thank you again for all you do to encourage your Area members to use CAL. It's more important now than ever.

Yours in gratitude and service,

Tom Coffey
Associate Director--Literature

3) CAL Quotations for Area Calendars

YOU CAN FIND IN Announcements community of AFG Connects - posted by April of previous year

The attached 20 quotations (in English, Spanish, and French) are from Conference Approved Literature. They can be used by Al-Anon service arms in 2023 calendars without completing the reprint permission request form. **The only stipulation is that you include the attribution to the quotation immediately following it, and that somewhere in the body of the calendar you include the following credit line:**

"All Al-Anon Conference Approved Literature copyright by Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc. Reprinted with permission for one-time use by Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc."

Tom Coffey
Associate Director--Literature

4) BANNERS

Greetings from your World Service Office. Thanks for your question regarding banners of the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions.

If you are referring to the large vinyl banners once carried by the WSO, they were discontinued in the mid-2000s and replaced by the Legacy Poster Set (M-75). The Legacy Poster Set is currently on back-order.

For those who want the large banners, your group, District, or Area can request reprint permission to create its own banners using a local print shop, provided that it is a one-time printing and the banners are not to be sold or distributed. We do ask that you use the correct wording of the Legacies, as found at al-anon.org/for-members/the-legacies/. The reprint permission forms are found here: al-anon.org/reprint-permission/.

I hope this information is helpful. Thanks for all you do for Al-Anon.

Yours in Service,

Tom Coffey
Associate Director--Literature

5) New arrival



Harrison Pierce K.
Born March 24, 2022

6) FOLLOW UP: Red Light Green Light

- Original posting
- 3 personal responses (not included)
- 1 response from Tom Coffey

POSTED TO LITERATURE COORDINATORS COMMUNITY ON AFG
CONNECTS

Reference to God as male in 12 Steps

Posted 08-22-2021 11:18

Hello all -

My service "sponsee" brought a topic/issue to me for assistance. In essence, she expressed concern over the reference to God as a male in our 12 Steps.

On a side (personal) note - I have never given this any thought. But I feel it is my "job" as a service sponsor to assist.

First, I took the issue to my service sponsor who suggested that the topic be submitted as a "Red Light / Green Light" question for our Area Assembly. Our Area (9) has a tradition of bringing topics/questions for research, primarily using conference approved literature as a resource, and then presenting the findings at Assembly, followed by open comments from members. The question that was submitted on behalf of my service sponsee is:

"Some members find the reference to God in our 12 Steps as "Him" to be gender biased. Is there a way to address this issue to make the change (replacing "Him" with "God") to be more in keeping with the sensitivities of those who find this to be an issue? Particularly younger people and those who are more socially conscious might find this change to be removing a "barrier" to embracing our program."

Perhaps too strongly stated, but the issue remains simple. Many people do not consider God to be a male and it might be a good idea to make an effort to modify our program's "first impression" (the 12 Steps) with newcomers to be more inclusive and perhaps even more welcoming.

I am bringing this topic up on our AFG Connects forum to see if other AI- Anon Areas, Districts or Groups have addressed the same or similar issue.

I am also wondering if anyone has ever thought of producing CAL on this topic:

"AI Anon is for Believers of all faiths

and for Non-Believers too"

Is it time that we broaden our reach? Surely Muslims, Bahai, and Buddhists, etc. can suffer the effects of a family member's alcohol consumption. And agnostics and atheists, too. Is our program subtly or not-so-subtly sanctioning the Christian faith?

Do we as a program have the "Courage to Change?"

Thanking you in advance for your feedback on this delicate topic.

All my best in service to Al Anon

Sincerely

Sandra F.

Area 9 Literature Coordinator

Panel 61

Posted 09-10-2021 17:21

Reply

Dear Sandra,

Thanks for bringing up the concerns of someone you service sponsor regarding references to God as male in the Twelve Steps for discussion among other Literature Coordinators. I do have some additional information to share that was not mentioned by Coordinators who shared with you that I think might be helpful to know when considering at this topic.

The first the Al-Anon World Service Conference Charter, found on pages 224-5 of the *2018-2021 Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual*, version two (2). It states that our three Legacies, the Steps, Traditions, and Concepts of Service, can only be changed by written agreement of three-quarters of all Al-Anon groups. Any decision to attempt such a change has to be agreed to by the Conference. If the Conference should decide to propose a change, a poll would be taken of all groups worldwide. The difficulty of this process is reflective of its importance.

Of course the Steps and Traditions are not the only items in Conference Approved Literature that have references to God as male. In their personal sharings, some members of our inclusive fellowship use the pronouns "Him" or "He," while some use "Her" or "She." Others do not assign a gender to their Higher Power, or use another term to describe their idea of a Power greater than ourselves. Although stories are often edited for grammar or length, the Literature Committee has repeatedly stressed the need to retain the flavor and ideas expressed by each member. The Literature Committee has concurred in the past that when quoting these sharings, we respect the intent of the members who wrote by preserving their personal interpretations without alteration, unless it advocates a specific religious tenet or philosophy. Specific religious discussions are advised against in the "Three Obstacles to Success in Al-Anon."

In reviewing the descriptive or introductory text of Al-Anon literature, the Literature Committee has given much attention for more than 30 years now to be reflective of our diversity by using gender-neutral references whenever possible in the creation of new literature and in the revision of older materials. In the text of these newer or revised

materials, terms such as "God of our understanding, "Higher Power," or "Power greater than ourselves" are used without any gendered reference. Likewise, Al-Anon members and their alcoholic friends and relatives are not assumed to be a particular gender. However, there have been some early pieces, such as *The Dilemma of the Alcoholic Marriage* (B-4) and *One Day at a Time in Al-Anon* (B-6) that many members have asked us to not change. These members feel certain pieces, as originally written, are a useful part of our history. They want to be able to avail themselves of the words and insights of our cofounders and pioneer members as originally written. This year's World Service Conference maintained that viewpoint in motions to create new introductions to these books, placing them in historical perspective of the time they were written in, rather than revise or update their wording.

I hope this provides some additional information, Sandra.

Yours in service,

Tom Coffey
Associate Director--Literature
