

Chairperson's Report Fall Assembly October 6-8, 2017



What a fantastic feeling it is to be here – at our last Assembly for Panel55! I hope each of you has a sense of accomplishment and joy in the completion of the Panel – whether you were here from the beginning or joined us part of the way through.

I believe we have lived our motto: “Participation is the key to harmony.” And it is evident in the wide variety of things we have done together. Each year of the Panel we have had several Thought and Task Forces that were open to members beyond the AWSC and covered topics that the membership asked for – from Alateen and Area meetings to Technology and the Website; from Guidelines and Policies to Sponsorship and Spirituality. In addition we have done several successful Area Events: Conventions, Alateen Conference, TEAM event and had a Trustee visitor give us a Conflict Resolution workshop. Each of these required cooperation, mutual support and lots of loving interchange. ☺

Your AWSC Panel has worked hard to:

1. Create a living Archive through a combination of digitization and careful attending to the historical materials we have collected. These archives are available to the membership and inform us in ways that provide stability and consistency, as well as encouragement to make necessary changes.
2. Support hosting two Alateen Roundups and an Alateen Conference. In addition to having active Alateen participation in both our Area Al-Anon conventions and the AA conventions in Florida. Reaching out, continuing to certify AMIASes and building on the strong foundation encourages young people to find help and hope in our fellowship.
3. Digitize and share Group Records information freely between Groups, Districts, the Area and the WSO. We have made many changes in the way we track and support these important connections, making sure that when people reach out there are healthy meetings to welcome them.
4. Create Writing Workshops and CalChat podcasts that have connected members in an important part of Al-Anon recovery – creating new literature based on our individual experience, strength and hope. With our help the WSO will be creating literature on intimacy, on service and a pamphlet specifically for grandparents. The Forum continues to connect us all – and it is such an inspiration to see our fellow members published!
5. Cover our Area with beautiful tablecloths and banners allowing us to make a professional and cohesive statement about our fellowship and the hope and help we offer to anyone suffering from the effects of someone else's drinking. Our outreach posters have been seen in far flung Areas and we have had

Districts and Groups making such a difference with the tools they are given through Public Outreach.

6. Reach out to our Spanish-speaking members and assist them in reaching out to their communities to provide Al-Anon information, literature and a connection to our service structure. We have had active participation in our Conventions and Alateen events as well. There is more work to be done, and many willing members who work tirelessly to bring the message where it is needed.
7. Create an active, member-focused website that is available to everyone in our Area. We have focused on Knowledge Based Decision Making and providing everyone with the opportunity to know what is going on, how various topics are being discussed, and with the tools of technology we are able to work together across the Area to provide even the smallest Groups the opportunity for members to be heard and give input. The website will continue as a living archive of our work together on Panel 55 and for that I am so very grateful.
8. Increase our knowledge about the Area Corporation (NFA AFG, Inc) and how it works on behalf of the members.
9. Increase our knowledge about the Service Structure and how it helps support the work we do in keeping the rooms of recovery open to those who need it.

There is always more work to be done. And there is also plenty of time to rest in the love that is our Al-Anon fellowship. To me, service work is not drudgery. It has been a spiritual journey in the company of all of you – and I have learned and grown more than I could have imagined.

It has been a pleasure and an honor to serve as your Chairperson. Thank you for the opportunity and thank you for letting me share.

Keep an eye on the website (www.AFGArea9.org) and click on the Assembly October 2017 page for the most up to date information on the hotel, registration, meals, and all the reports from your Trusted Servants.

As always, if you have any questions, comments, concerns or suggestions please let me know.

Love in service,

Cindy J.
Panel 55 Chairperson
chairperson@AFGArea9.org
850-556-9858 (voice or text)