

DISTRICT 12 DR/DISL REPORT AUGUST 2020

District 12 is grateful for our Al-Anon principles, which have guided us, and provided us with the tools to cope with our ever-changing public health situation. We are reminded that, like alcoholism of those we love, we did not cause, cannot control, and cannot cure COVID-19, and the changes in our lives caused by it. We have been able to respond, not react in fear, and using our group conscience, each autonomous group has been able to decide if and how to meet, and know that we have the freedom to change our minds as the situation changes as we are led by our Higher Power, through group conscience to make a different choice. As such, some groups are meeting virtually, some in person with physical distancing and following safety guidelines, some a combination of both, and some have temporarily closed. Some of those have since reopened. One benefit that has been noted is that many of our "snow birds" have been able to attend our virtual meetings, and some members have found new virtual meetings in the home communities of some of our "snow birds". Many of our groups that would be very small "off season" in June and July have flourished as a result!

Groups have gotten creative to ensure that we remain self-supporting, and have created PayPal buttons on our district website for individual group donations, are using Venmo, PayPal and other electronic banking apps, and are sending donations directly to group treasurers through the mail.

Our March, May and July district meetings were held virtually, thus preparing our Group Representatives for our virtual Area Assembly, which was by all accounts very well organized. At the May and July District Meetings, in preparation for rotation of service as the Panel changes, the outgoing Chairs have been presenting what is involved in each Chairperson's role. The project is to inspire members to accept new challenges in Al-Anon service. The district officers discussed their roles at our January and February district meetings.

Our Group Liaison, Mary I., has attended many meetings on Zoom, as have the district officers, some of whom have also visited some in-person meetings. While the Zoom meetings would not replace the fellowship (and hugs) of face-to-face meetings, virtual meetings offer a growth experience through sharing the program with members from around the globe demonstrating the worldwide fellowship of AlAnon.

Our Helpline chair, Dianne D., reported that calls have been fewer since the virus outbreak, but the Helpline remains an important service to those who use it to find a meeting. The Helpline has volunteers scheduled through September and continues to offer this service opportunity to build the volunteer list.

Our Public Outreach Chair, Kathy K., reports no activity since our May District meeting due to COVID-19. Where and When has not been printed as meetings are in flux with many groups meeting virtually, some groups meeting in person and some are temporarily closed, as reported by our Where and When Chair, Jessica M.

Our district Webmaster, Amy T., reports that the district 12 website is current and busy! The meetings list, be they electronic, in person or a combination of the two, changes weekly. A "Donate" tab has been added where members can donate directly to WSO, NFA, District 12 or to various local meetings through PayPal buttons. The site averages 450 different users weekly according to Google analytics.