

*Please read aloud to your
group during announcements*

Spring 2023

Dear Fellow Al-Anon Members,

As y'all know, the Covid-19 pandemic has forced many Al-Anon groups and service arms to make changes that normally would not have taken place. At the state level, we shifted from having Area Assembly weekends meet in-person to holding these meetings using online conference software. We “gathered” with other members from around Louisiana in our own homes (some of us with our house cats!), without the much-needed loving interactions we usually experience when serving our fellowship. Another change included separating from Louisiana Alcoholics Anonymous by not holding our Assemblies at the same time and place as the AA Area Assembly. This allowed us the freedom to choose the dates that are most convenient for Al-Anon members to meet, rather than depending on AA to make the decision for us.

Just as we began mastering the ins and outs of online conference Assemblies, the world started opening back up. Venues started accepting reservations for events with larger attendance, and the Louisiana Area Assembly decided to start meeting again in person. Our first face-to-face meeting was last November, when our Group Representatives (GRs) elected a new panel of Area Officers, including a new Delegate to the World Service Conference (WSC). The out-going GRs also decided last year to continue meeting online, reducing the number of in-person events we hold, which has helped us save money. This year, we are holding two face-to-face Assemblies in Lafayette (in April and November), while holding the other two Assemblies and all Area World Service Committee (AWSC) meetings online. This allows our trusted servants to meet and greet each other with hugs, while allowing both Al-Anon groups and the Area to save money by only footing the cost of two Assemblies, down from four per year. This experiment seems to be working pretty well so far—we recently met in Lafayette on April 15th, and it was such a boost to our spirits and recoveries to bond and work together in recovery!

So, this leads us to the point of this letter. The new GRs did vote in April to accept our Budget & Finance Committee's proposed budget for 2023*. The budget was based on pre-pandemic contributions and the cost of serving Louisiana Al-Anon over the past few years. Separating from meeting with AA has given us the opportunity to carry out Tradition Seven by being fully self-supporting, but since the costs are no longer shared, we have seen an increase in our expenses for each Assembly. As a result, we have approved a deficit budget, with expenses

exceeding contributions by about \$3,300. All of our funds ultimately originate from Al-Anon members in Louisiana, so we are reaching out to you for help. With everything rising in cost lately, we know it may be difficult to give a little extra, but please remember: Al-Anon could not exist without all the hard work of its service arms.

Contributions can be mailed directly, by check or money order, to the address listed below. Perhaps your group could pass an extra basket at the next couple of meetings to assist with our costs. You can even make a contribution directly online, using PayPal (<https://www.la-al-anon.org/online-contributions.html>). Either way, we encourage you to contribute in gratitude for *what* Al-Anon has given you.

Thank you,

Rachel B.

Rachel B.,
Area Treasurer

Make checks/money orders payable to: **LA Area Assembly**

Mail to: **LA Area Assembly**
518 S. Jefferson Ave., Apt. 601
Covington, LA 70433

P.S. If you have any questions or concerns, please talk to your GR or District Representative (DR), or you can contact me directly at treasurer@la-al-anon.org. Feel free to contact any of our Area servants by email; email address information is available here: <https://www.la-al-anon.org/awsc-email-contacts.html>, password: serenity

* Our 2023 budget is available to view on our Area website, at <https://www.la-al-anon.org/financial-reports.html>, under "Area Assembly Panel 63 Financials". The member password is **serenity**. Double click on "Budget & Finance", then double click "Panel 63 B&F Revenue, Expense, Reference". Double click "2023 Budget Tracker (Sorted 3 sheets)" to open the budget spreadsheet. To toggle between projected income and expenses, click on the corresponding tabs at the bottom of the spreadsheet, labeled "B&F Revenue" and "B&F Expenses".