

CMA you are receiving this newsletter to distribute to your group in the manner determined per your group conscience so that all have an opportunity to see this information. For more information please visit our Al-Anon/Alateen Members' Web site at: <http://www.al-anon.org/members/groups/group-resources/item/41-group-e-news>

## First impressions matter!

### How does your group welcome newcomers?

As it states in the [Beginners' Meeting Guideline \(G-2\)](#), "The manner in which they are welcomed should reflect the understanding, love, and peace of the Al-Anon program. It may not be welcoming to tell newcomers that they are as sick or sicker than the alcoholic."



Each Al-Anon group has but one purpose: to help families of alcoholics. In their efforts to practice Tradition Five, Al-Anon and Alateen groups welcome and give comfort to newcomers in a variety of ways. Their experience, strength, and hope has been compiled into the recently updated *Beginners' Meeting Guideline (G-2)*.

Whether your group holds a separate beginners' meeting, or incorporates newcomers into the established meeting, the guideline offers suggestions and tips for conducting beginners' meetings, or for sharing Al-Anon's purpose when a new member joins the group. It offers suggestions for meeting topics, Conference Approved Literature (CAL), and a one to six week meeting format for beginners.

To access the G-2 and all of our guidelines, go to the Al-Anon Members' Web site: [al-anon.org/members](http://al-anon.org/members). Enter your password (group name followed by AFG), select the "Service Structure" tab, "Group Resources/Guidelines" and select the G-2.

## Al-Anon, social media, and anonymity

Al-Anon does not have to be a secret on social media. In fact, social media is a tool for increasing awareness of Al-Anon.



Yes, members can help carry Al-Anon's message of hope to others on social media without breaking their anonymity. Tradition Eleven is upheld as long as members do not reveal that they are members of Al-Anon when they share and like our posts.

The WSO provides safeguards for your anonymity with disclaimer statements on each of its pages. These disclaimers note that participation or following the WSO social media does not mean that individuals are Al-Anon or Alateen members.

The WSO has three social media sites for the general public:

- Facebook: "Like" or "share" posts on the [Al-Anon WSO page](#)
- Twitter: "Follow" and "retweet" posts [@AlAnon\\_WSO page](#)
- YouTube: "Subscribe," "follow," and "post" comments on the [Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc.](#)

The WSO has a LinkedIn page for professionals, Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc. Refer to the "Anonymity" references in the index of the *2014-2017 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual* for more information about Al-Anon, anonymity, and public outreach.

## Is your group considering creating a



## 2015 Membership Survey – Most participation in Al-Anon history!

While the results are being tabulated, the WSO would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to the record number of Al-Anon members who took their time to complete the 2015 Membership Survey. Information gained from this survey will help in bringing about greater awareness of Al-Anon among professionals and the general public, for the benefit of those who are still suffering from the effects of a loved one's alcoholism.

We thank you for your service!



## We have a challenge for you!

This challenge is extended to *every member, in every group* in the U.S., Canada, Puerto Rico, and Bermuda.

Invite one member in your group who hasn't yet participated in Twelfth Step service to distribute a few of our annual public outreach magazines, *Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism*, anywhere in your community that is accessible to the public. If every member in every group extends the invitation to feel the joy of giving back, imagine what a win-win situation we could create! Someone who is still suffering might read *Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism* and decide to go to their first meeting and every member could put the Twelfth Step into action.

## group e-mail address?

Al-Anon groups now have the option to create a group e-mail address or use the group's Current Mailing Address (CMA) personal e-mail address to receive WSO electronic mailings. A group e-mail address allows groups to keep a permanent e-mail address to avoid any disruption of communications when the CMA changes. The revised [Al-Anon Registration/Group Records Change Form \(GR-1\)](#) and 2015 Al-Anon Annual Sheet include the newly added group e-mail address field.

## [Forum and Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism: Two different purposes](#)

Although *The Forum* is an excellent recovery tool, and deserves to be recycled among members, it tends to presume knowledge about alcoholism and recovery that many people in the general public may not have.

*Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism* magazine, on the other hand, is designed to educate the general public about the effects the illness has on the families and friends of alcoholics. Our public outreach magazine is also designed to help potential newcomers overcome the obstacles many face before they are ready to reach out for help.

So, please remember...use *The Forum* for recovery and *Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism* for public outreach!

## Check out the March issue of your *Forum*...

Included in this issue is a very thought-provoking Step Three sharing:

*"... In time, I felt ready to make the decision. I found that the real power of this program exists in the surrender of my will and my life. Doesn't that sound contradictory? How can it be that we gain real control of our lives by giving it up?"*



Many of us have struggled with making the decision to turn our will and our life over to our Higher Power. Read one member's struggle and ultimately, growth, as she shares her experience, strength, and hope with *Forum* readers.

*If you have received this e-mail you are listed as the Current Mailing Address (CMA) for your group. If you are uncomfortable with receiving this in the future, please ask your group to choose a new CMA or get an e-buddy who is willing to receive your electronic mail from the WSO. If this e-mail was forwarded to you, please contact the member who forwarded it if you want to be taken off their distribution list.*

[Contact Us](#) | Phone: 757-563-1600 | [www.al-anon.org](http://www.al-anon.org) | [www.al-anon.org/members](http://www.al-anon.org/members)

If you accept this challenge, let us know! Tell us about it at [wso@al-anon.org](mailto:wso@al-anon.org) attn: Al-Anon Success

## Anonymity in the Electronic Age



The pamphlet *Why Anonymity in Al-Anon?* (P-33)

now includes all-new wording to help members find practical ways to apply and maintain anonymity on the Internet. It also covers other aspects, including anonymity among members, at the public level, and as an important spiritual principle that we place above personalities. The revision is easily identifiable, as its cover has the new pamphlet design. It remains eight pages long and sells for 35 cents (US).

**Remember—When you buy from your local Literature Distribution Center, you support your local services.**



Share with Al-Anon members from around the world in Al-Anon workshops on Friday, July 3 and Saturday, July 4, 2015 at the A.A. International Convention in Atlanta, Georgia. For a link to registration visit the Al-Anon International Convention site at [www.al-anoninternationalconvention.org/](http://www.al-anoninternationalconvention.org/)

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