

ASK-IT-BASKET QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS – Area 89 Fall Assembly 2013

1. Huge kudos to everyone doing Ask-it-Basket. Been there done that! Probably the biggest growth in the shortest time frame for me. Sill love to hear them. Question: Are we not to have them in the “News & Views or only as space allows?

Answer: Motion 06/13; Jane D./Chris W. that the Ask-it-Basket Questions and Answers be recorded by the Secretary, to be published in the Assembly Minutes. Copies to be sent to the Newsletter Editor and Website Co-ordinator to have available in our News & Views and Area Website. **Carried**

Space is limited in our Newsletter and will be published when space is available.

2. Members giving advice to Newcomers!! (Inappropriate advice)

Answer: Many groups have had success with holding a Group Inventory, information in Service Manual pages 50-51; “Taking a Group Inventory of the group helps to keep it healthy and invigorated. Groups are encouraged to make periodic review using the Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts of Service as the guiding principles of the inventory. Members can use the inventory to discuss new service opportunities and address minor or major concerns before the group’s unity is disrupted. The guideline “Taking a Group Inventory” (G-8) is a useful tool that can aid in this process (all guidelines are available on the Al-Anon Members Website).” A useful tool could also be using the New “Conflict Cards using our Traditions”.

3. Should an Al-Anon Group have regular Treasurer’s books? Should they have a book (bank?) account? Should there be an audit of the book yearly too, like at higher levels?

Answer: Refer to Service Manual pages 53-55, regarding Group Finances/Budget; “Some groups choose to have a bank account... Remember Group Autonomy. Encourage the person who wrote this question to speak with other Group Reps, to find out what their groups do.

4. I am trying to start a new group that is not registered with WSO. Can the District pay for promotional posters to distribute advertising this meeting? Can I announce an unregistered group in Al-anon and open AA Meetings?

Answer: An unregistered group is no an Al-Anon Group, therefore is an outside issue. No, the District would not pay for promotional posters. WSO encourages all groups to be registered. Refer to the Service Manual pages 30-31; “When your group is registered with the WSO, a group number is assigned and a packet containing introductory materials will be sent to the groups’ Current mailing address. See

“Things to Consider when starting an Al-Anon or Alateen Group”. Reasons for Registration; Registration with the WSO is important as it provides, through the WSC, a link to worldwide Al-Anon and Alateen that assures unity of purpose... Registration is quick through our Alternate Delegate who has access to and looks after Group Records, contact your District Rep who can assist you with the process.

5. When should business meetings be held, after the meeting or during meetings, or in place of weekly meetings? We have ours after the meeting and only 2-3 members stay. We were told that only members (regular members) can vote on how to spend our money or how we handle issues or business at the program.

Answer: Answer is found on pages 49-50 of the Service Manual; Group Business Meetings and Group Conscience; “Group business meetings are held to share information and to include all group members in the activities and concerns of the group. Decisions in a group are determined by an informed group conscience.” “When making decisions about the meeting, many groups request that only members who regularly attend vote at the group business meeting. Members who attend more than one meeting may want to consider at which meeting to vote on District or Area matters. Keeping in mind that our principles are spiritual.” “The manner in which a group business meeting is conducted ... is as varied as the groups themselves... “ group autonomy.

6. How should our group organize what each meeting topic should be?

Answer: Answer is found on page 41 of Service Manual; Meeting Ideas; “There is no rigid formula for an Al-Anon or Alateen Meeting. The general pattern is to have the chair person or leader open and close the meeting, announce the meeting topics, or introduce guest speakers or members who share their experience, strength and hope as a result of working the Al-Anon Program. See “Meeting Format” for details. Experience suggests that more can be accomplished when members share on a single topic during the meeting and all members have the opportunity to share.” More ideas are on pg. 41 of the Service Manual. We also encourage the member that asked this question to ask other members about how their group addresses meeting topics.