

ASK-IT-BASKET QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS SPRING ASSEMBLY 2016

1. Dual Membership- In the Service Manual pg 82 it says “Al-Anon membersalso members of AA do not hold office beyond the group level. My question is when it says a member of AA, does this just mean “active” AA members? If I haven’t been a member of AA for 10 yrs, does this mean I cannot serve beyond group levels at Al-Anon? I need clarity?

Answer: (from the 2010-2013 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual pg 82, 83, 126 revised April 2014)
Digest of Al-Anon and Alateen Policies. Service Participation by Members of Al-Anon Family Groups Who Are also Members of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Tradition Five defines Al-Anon’s single purpose. Tradition Six encourages cooperation with Alcoholics Anonymous, maintaining that Al-Anon is a separate entity that ought never affiliate or create the appearance of affiliation with any outside enterprise. Putting these principles into practice maintains a separation between the service structures of Al-Anon and AA. This separation helps avoid the appearance of a conflict of interest and safeguards Al-Anon’s singleness of purpose. Accordingly, Al-Anon’s policy is that members who are also members of AA do not serve as Group Representative, District Representative, Area Delegate, World Service Conference member, alternate to any of these service positions, or on any committee of the World Service Office.

This policy on service participation by members of Al-Anon who are also AA members protects Al-Anon’s viability as a program dedicated to helping the families and friends of alcoholics. It ensures that Al-Anon’s service structure represents the unique perspective of families and friends of alcoholics, recognizing that the alcoholic’s perspective is represented in AA’s service structure. Members honour this policy out of respect for Al-Anon unity and the group conscience process, in accordance with Tradition One and Tradition Two.

2. Our group would like to advertise our meeting time and location in local papers. Is there an approved Al-Anon format that can be used for this purpose and where can it be found?

Answer: On the Website under the Members tab, click on Public Outreach, then The Best of Public Outreach. At the bottom of page 3 it says...

The purpose of Public Outreach is Step 12- Having had a Spiritual Awakening as a result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to others and to practice these principles in all of our affairs.

This step encourages us to work and practice the 12 steps of Al-Anon ourselves and to share the Al-Anon message of recovery with others. From Lois Remembers-“If....Al-Anon groups do not let the public know of our presence, perhaps by announcing the time and place of meetings in our local newspapers or by some other means, we block ourselves off from those in need” (pg 194)

The guide for Public Outreach is Tradition 11. “Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion. We need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, TV and films. We need guard with special care the anonymity of all AA members.”

As long as there is not a member name and personal phone number, meeting time and place can be printed, and I encourage everyone to do this.

3. Ok, is there a way to change the practice for Alateens with picking them up and dropping them off if parents can't, even if an Al-Anon member is close to family?

Answer: The Saskatchewan Alateen Safety and Behaviour Requirements state-There must be two AMIAS at every Alateen meeting. If this is not possible the teens will be invited to attend the Al-Anon meeting.

-An information and permission form (Form A) and medical care (Form B) must be signed by a parent/guardian for every Alateen member attending an Alateen meeting.

-An information and permission form (Form A) must be signed by a parent/guardian (in the presence of an AMIAS) if the teen is transported to a meeting by "Al-Anon Members Involved in Alateen Service".

-An Alateen member is required to arrange with the AMIAS how they will arrive and depart from a meeting. It may be by a parent/parent arrangement or if they will be walking, a phone call will be appropriate.

-Al-Anon sponsors must avoid one on one interactions with teens.

The Saskatchewan Alateen Safety and Behaviour Requirements were written to protect the Alateen, the AMIAS and the Al-Anon members.

4. How do we reach Alateens? And get them to meetings?

Answer: One way to reach Alateen is looking into our own families. Even if sobriety and recovery has always been present in our children's lives, the "ism" still affects all of us. Our children can benefit from this program too.

We can also reach Alateens by doing presentations at schools, reaching them where they are. It is important to create awareness that Alateen meetings are not meetings for teens who drink too much, but for those that have been affected by someone else's drinking.

Addressing getting them to a meeting is making sure there are AMIAS available to host Alateen meetings when they choose to attend.