

Group Representatives Opening Session Agenda

“Recovery through Service”

Saturday, May 19, 2018

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Virginia Area Website: www.vaalanon.org

WSO Website: www.al-anon.org

I. Resources:

1. Welcome New and Returning Group Representatives!

2. See the Area Website for what we covered in our first 4 Opening Sessions; the “GR Guide to Assembly;” the agendas for previous GR Opening Sessions, and the WSO Guideline sheet “Group Representatives,” G-11, and the “Informed Group Conscience.”

3. See also your 2018 – 2021 Service Manual (SM): pages 60 - 61 for GR duties, and pages 141 – 143 for GR duties as Assembly members.

II. Review of Fall 2017 Opening Session

1. Group Problems:

- 3 Obstacle to Success – Discussion of Religion, Gossip, Dominance
- Money problems
- Violating Anonymity
- Service positions left vacant
- Use of non-CAL

2. Possible Solutions:

- Study of Traditions and Concepts
- Group Conscience
- Group Inventory
- CAL – *How Al-Anon Works, Paths to Recovery, Conflict Resolution* packet
- Experience, Strength and Hope of other Al-Anon members – DR, Area Officers

3. Round Table Discussion:

Last time your assignment was to connect with 2 other GRs and discuss your group’s problems and solutions that have worked, or brainstorm other possible solutions.

At your table, discuss the following questions:

What Al-Anon solutions did my group apply in tackling our group's problems?

What worked? What did not?

What's next? Problem solved or ongoing? Does my group need a new approach?

Share the highlights of your table's discussions.

III. Stretch Break

IV. From WSC on Group Problems

1. 2017 World Service Conference Summary, page 26

Board of Director's Big Question – *"How can we empower our members in the use of our Legacies and policies when seeking solutions to issues with the Area, District and Group?"*

Available resources include:

- Al-Anon's 3 Legacies with their guiding spiritual principles
- The Service Manual, which contains "Groups at Work," "World Service Handbook," and "Digest of Al-Anon and Alateen Policies."
- Members' website, which contains WSO *Guidelines*.

V. Moving on in Service

1. SM page 171, Chart of World Service Conference Structure

Concept 1 – "The ultimate responsibility and authority for Al-Anon world services belongs to the Al-Anon groups."

2. Elections within your group before the Oct. 2018 Fall Election Assembly

Your next step in service:

- Other positions within your group
- District Representative
- Other offices within your District
- Service Center, if you are within one of our 2 Service Center areas.
- Convention Committee

3. Election within your District, also before next Assembly

Outgoing DRs hold election meeting for new DR and District Officers, see p. 141 for more info on this.

SM, p. 140 – 144, “Links of Service,” for info related to offices and elections.

Written Assignment: Get contact information from 2 of your fellow GRs from districts other than your own.

1. _____

2. _____

Set a time to connect at least twice between now and the Fall 2018 Assembly to discuss your group's and district's elections.

Next time: For the Fall 2018 Assembly, we will be looking at the Elections for the Fall Assembly. Please read the “GR Guide to Assembly,” p.5, Section VII, on Election Assemblies. In the Service Manual, read also “Elections,” p, 149 – 154.

Tonight 8:15 to 9:15 – GR Chat Room: Panel Discussion and the Ask It Basket. You can write down any question you may have about your GR position, what we discussed this morning, the Assembly, your group, the voting issues, or any other matter that comes up today. Our panel will address your question. See you tonight!