

# VA Area District Representative Report

## 2020 Fall Assembly

**Date of Meeting:** October 10-11, 2020

**District Name and Number:** Albemarle District, #001

So much gratitude for all of the GRs and District Officers, they have persistently been engaged and dedicated, they are doing an amazing job and I feel so fortunate to serve with them.

This report includes news and information that has occurred since last fall's assembly.

Our district, traditionally, has meetings every day of the week and there are currently (10) active virtual meetings. One of our usual meetings is a Newcomer's meeting on Monday night, which has been suspended for the time being. Of the (12) non-Alateen meetings, (3) do not have GRs, and I hope we can get GRs for each of those meetings. In the interim, we stay in touch with these meetings via CMA email addresses, and the CMAs sometimes even attend our district meetings. We have district meetings once a month, and it is generally impossible to fit all of our business into the hour to which we strictly adhere.

Since the last Assembly, Another of our new GRs initiated and we have substantially completed a public outreach project in which the district donates (2) CA books to each of the (9) libraries in Albemarle County. Although our Public Outreach Coordinator Position has been vacant since the beginning of the panel, I am so happy to report that there is a strengthening interest in public outreach from the GRs for our Area, as they get their bearings amidst the pandemic and want to share recovery with the community around them.

For many years now we have hosted (2) district workshops per year, one in the spring and one in the fall. One of our new GRs led the workshop planning committee for last year's fall workshop, which was a wonderful success. It was so awesome that we were delighted when he signed up to lead this past spring's workshop committee. Unfortunately we had to cancel our spring workshop due to the pandemic, but we look forward to our next opportunity for workshop, even if virtual.

At the beginning of the year our Alateen program was stronger than it has ever been. We have (6) active AMIAS and generally 3-6 attendees each week at our virtual Alateen meeting. Our district is very dedicated to our Alateen program, and has committed to supporting it however it can, including sponsorship of any Alateen's conference registration in the event that they wish to attend a conference and cannot for financial reasons. Our district treasurer, Ginny, initiated and saw through a district-wide Alateen Conference appeal, in which appx. \$1800 was donated by individual members and groups for the express purpose of sponsoring our Alateens' conference attendance. We are so grateful to our district for this support and I am very grateful to Ginny and the GRs who made it happen.

I want to acknowledge that service is its own challenge. Each of our GRs and officers is a growing, rich person with a very full life, most if not all with hefty family or work responsibilities. We have lost a couple of GRs due to these things, and I know that others work hard to balance this position within their lives. I am deeply grateful for every GR and officer, past and current.

Since the beginning of this panel, the attention of our district has been drawn rather pointedly towards the issue of safety in meetings. We have repeatedly referred to the CAL that was distributed at the start of this panel, "Safety in Al-anon Meetings". In two separate circumstances, while we were still meeting in person, our new GRs faced repeated meeting situations in which disruptive or intimidating visitors were present, and as a district we are really working hard to work our program and find the balance between being a gentle, welcoming, open program and one that protects our primary purpose and the members who are committed to it.

I am so encouraged by and grateful for the willingness of all of our GRs, officers and those filling the rest of our service positions to love, help and support one another.