

Springfield Annandale District Report
Fall Assembly
Due: 10/10/20

This has been an amazing year of changes, but thanks to our higher power, and each other, we have been pulling through it. Our meetings have been going strong, even higher than normal attendance at some of the day time meetings. Because all of our meetings are still virtual, they have included members who have moved out of the area.

Within the first week of the shutdown, all meetings within our district moved to an on-line setting. One meeting is using the Web Ex platform provided by the Area. Two meetings had members with personal Zoom accounts. Those members immediately stepped forward to offer those platforms to their home group. The other group's GRs met together in an impromptu district meeting and decided to obtain a zoom account for the rest of the district.

Security to protect anonymity of group members was a concern. These matters had already been addressed by the Area Web Ex account and by the members who had the personal zoom accounts, because these people had prior experience on their platforms. Within the first 2 weeks the District had a second impromptu meeting to resolve these issues for the District zoom account.

Both Web Ex and zoom have a call-in option for those individuals who were without web access. Even so, we do have members that were unable or unwilling to attend the virtual meetings. Individual members have been able to contact those members to alleviate their isolation. But this situation is difficult for most and we hope to go back to in person meetings soon.

It is an understatement to say how much of a lifeline this Al-anon District has been for their members during this period of isolation. We have been blessed by our technology and personal support that the members give to each other.

There have been very little movements at churches to allow for on-site meetings in our district. At this time, only two of the churches we use are allowing for on-site meetings. Both of the churches have cleaning and information gathering requirements. Both of which are understandable, but for an anonymous program the information required seemed too invasive. Those meetings are choosing to remain on-line.

The only annual workshop this district produces is the *Hug & a Cookie*. Last year we had more than 50 attenders. This year this workshop has been moved to the Web Ex platform. It will be on the first Friday in December with 2 or 3 speakers. We will have sharing time. It should be a great time for all.

We have also started a new group in our Springfield Annandale district on Friday nights. This group was started because we had wanted a meeting that focused on the spiritual principles of the 11th step (such as hope, patience and humility). This group has started with a regular crew of 5. It has not registered with the World Service Organization yet, but is planning to do so. We will most likely be physically located at Messiah Methodist, when we feel comfortable enough to meet together physically.

We look forward to see which opportunities the new year will bring. As soon as our groups feel it is safe to move back to their physical spaces, I am sure they will do so.

Submitted by,
Joanna Charlton, DR