



Virginia Area Al-Anon Alateen Assembly
P.O. Box 2583
Midlothian, Virginia 23113-8583

August 25, 2021

Dear Area Members;

On behalf of the Area Officers, Panel 59, it is our pleasure to invite you to join us for the 2021 Virginia Area Fall Assembly, on 16-17, October 2021 via WebEx.

The Area Officers, with the help of the Virginia Area World Service Committee (VAWSC) continue to navigate the challenges and opportunities that have developed over the last 18 months because of the coronavirus epidemic. As a result of a WebEx poll sent to Area members in July the VAWSC decided to hold the Fall 2021 Area Assembly virtually via WebEx to ensure the safety of all members. The epidemic has forced all of us to adapt to new ways of meeting to share our experience, strength, and hope. Naturally, the Area Officers have been busy addressing a variety of questions related to continuing our meetings in this virtual or hybrid environment. The theme of our Assembly, *"Moving Forward with Unity, Courage and Perseverance"*, reflects the theme of the 2021 World Service Conference. I encourage each of you to continue to move forward in all aspects of your lives.

This Assembly will be very busy with a full agenda for Area members to work through. First and foremost, this Assembly will be the last for Panel 59. The primary business action of this Assembly is the election of a new Panel of Area Officers. The WebEx Team is working through the protocols needed to conduct a smooth election via this virtual platform. The Officers want to take this time to remind you to consider service opportunities as together we move to the next Panel rotation. So, I encourage you to consider what your next service position will be.

As this is the last Assembly of Panel 59 I find myself in a reflective state of mind. I have been blessed to be able to serve each of you over the past 3 years as the Virginia Area Chairperson. I have met so many wonderful individuals throughout the Area. We've worked hard, accomplished more than I ever anticipated and along the way created new and deepened existing friendships. As I step down I wish to extend my gratitude to all for your support and encouragement – thank you.

As always, I want to take the time to extend my gratitude to each of you for your service to the fellowship. Each act of service is critical in furthering the recovery of our current and future members. The Al-Anon fellowship needs our 'Links of Service' to carry our message. Thank you for all you do in service.

The Area Assemblies are the business meetings for the Groups. We have a very full program planned for this Assembly that will allow members to conduct Area business, grow in the

fellowship, gain new perspectives, strengthen links of service, and make or renew friendships. We hope you will have a productive and fun time at this year's Fall 2021 Assembly. This virtual Assembly reflects our growing comfort meeting in this virtual environment and I'm truly grateful to all in the Area who help ensure we can meet in this virtual environment. I'm excited and looking forward to a great Assembly and I hope to see you there - virtually.

- Tom S.
Virginia Area Chair, Panel 59, Area 57