



## **VA Area Coordinator's Report**

### **WEBSITE COORDINATOR**

**Date of Assembly or VAWSC Meeting:** Spring Assembly, May 14, 2022

**Area Coordinator:** WEBSITE

**Name and Email:** Bruce B., Becky D., Sheryl L., Sue V. (webcoordinator@vaalanon.org)

#### **Informational Items:**

Updates since last meeting

- **Actions taken:**
  - Requested an estimate from 3 Waves Agency to move the DONATE button. Received an estimate of \$6,300 to move our website from DRUPAL V.7 to DRUPAL V.9 (vendor support to DRUPAL V.7 will end mid-November 2022). & \$xxx to move the DONATE button.
  - Drafted Statement of Work (SOW) to present to several vendors to solicit bids to rebuild the website on an updated web-builder platform.
  - Conducted an evaluation of alternative web-builder applications to determine feasibility of developing the Area website on a less expensive platform.
- **Meetings held:**
  - Two virtual meetings with Sue V. to transfer knowledge of group records update process, calendar posting process & document upload process for various web pages.
  - Held a preliminary meeting with NVSC representatives regarding feasibility of consolidating the Area website with the NVSC website to take advantage of overlapping functions (group records updates, meeting

finder app, calendar of events). Determined that consolidation is not feasible & would likely compromise organizational autonomy.

- **Outcomes, struggles, successes:** Continued making calendar updates, group records updates and posting documents to relevant web pages.
- **Important action items accomplished or to do:**
  - ACCOMPLISHED: Held a meeting with several experienced web developers in the Vermont Area and Maritime Provinces Area to discuss alternative approaches to our current website; learned about the inexpensive WordPress application. Examined WordPress via YouTube tutorials & determined that developing a new, replacement website is feasible without the services of a software engineer.
  - TO DO: Continue to work toward development of a replacement website on WordPress (an advanced web-builder platform) by the Web Coordinator & at least one other member (preferably two) of the fellowship willing to provide technical assistance. The GOOD NEWS is: if successful, we can cut our annual website expenses; if not successful we can stay with our current service provider (3 Waves Agency). BOTTOM LINE: current functionality will continue & will show improvement.

### **Agenda Items to Add to the Meeting Agenda**

- Any thought force ideas? No
- Any issues of concern? We request one or two volunteers within the Al-Anon fellowship with technical website building skills willing to work with the Web Coordinator over the next 6 months to develop a replacement website using WordPress. (Time estimate: 8 hours spread over 6 months.)
- Any wins or wows that have occurred? Due to resolution of the 2018 tax issue, maintaining the current website support is possible, and if development of a replacement website with the same functionality succeeds, the Area can reduce website expenses significantly from about \$4,000 annually to about \$1,000 annually.