

VA Area Coordinator's Report

Area Public Outreach Coordinator

Fall Assembly, October 17 & 18, 2026

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Updates since last meeting:

1. Actions taken/working:

- a. Fairfax District has received approval to put several Al-Anon Books in Circulation through their Libraries. Great job in recording this effort in the September 2026 Forum, "From Empty Shelves to Open Doors".
- b. Fairfax District has also supported the State-wide distribution of Al-Anon Bookmarks in the Food Bank packages. Virginia Al-Anon provided 10,000 Bookmarks for this effort.
- c. Peninsula District supported the three day State Summer Institute of Addiction Studies in Williamsburg, Virginia, July 20-22 with volunteers to man the Virginia Al-Anon table.
- d. Eastern Shore District shares their Meetings in the Local Newspaper.
- e. Discussing continued plans to bring Outreach Workshop/Dinner to Assembly.
- f. Obtained new Virginia Outreach Tablecloth with QR Code to Virginia Area Al-Anon site. This Tablecloth can be used in events across Virginia.
- g. Developing up to date Informational Public Outreach PowerPoint for DR, District PO Coordinator
- h. Monitoring AFG Connects – Public Outreach
- i. WSO Public Outreach Meetings: July 13, Results of informal Survey to PO Coordinators, 2026-2029 Service Manual, PO Toolkit & Al-Anon Guidelines, August 10, National Recovery Month. Next Meeting is October 12, Unpacking Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism.
- j. September National Recovery Month
 - 1) September 1-30: Local Health Fairs, Workshops and Open Houses across public and private facilities.
 - 2) September 20: National Addiction Professional Day, honoring the hard work and dedication of treatment providers and support staff.
 - 3) September 30: International Recovery Day, marking a global celebration of long-term recovery and community resilience.
- k. Participated in the Employee Assistance Professionals Association (EAPA) Expo with WSO in Norfolk, Virginia, October 9 & 10, 2026.
- l. AFA's are now available in September 2026.

2. Future Plans:

- a. Workshop at Fall Assembly – Open to District Outreach Coordinators, District Officers, GRs and all interested members – Flyer
- b. Discuss with the Peninsula District possibly transitioning the New Comers Meeting & support, "Tuesday Newbies" from the Peninsula District to the State Outreach since many of the attendees are not in the that District.
- c. Follow-up on contacts made at the Summer Institute of Addiction Studies
- d. Discuss collaboration ideas with United Way and Salvation Army.

- e. Statewide Outreach Project
- 3. Request from Districts & Service Centers
 - a. Work hard to establish Public Outreach Coordinators and send me contact information
 - b. Stir excitement in your Districts for Public Outreach to reach out to the hurting families affected by Alcoholism
 - c. Please let me know your concerns & Successes

Healthy Thoughts:

- 1. Celebrate 75 years of Public Outreach, bringing hope to families and friends of Alcoholics.
- 2. Not here to manage the outcome, this is a Service opportunity for our Recovery.
- 3. Remember our best Public Relations Policy is Attraction and Cooperation rather than Promotion and Affiliation.
- 4. Our Virginia Area will be most Successful in reaching out when every member comes together and takes little actions to put our arms around our hurting neighbors.
- 5. I look forward to many heartfelt Public Outreach stories over the next three years in Panel 65.
- 6. No one should face the family disease of Alcoholism alone. Let it begin with me.

Thanks for all the outstanding Outreach Projects going on around the State and reaching out to me & bringing hope to the struggling people in your neighborhoods and community.