

NEWCOMER OUTREACH: Practicing Gratitude

Welcoming and Retaining New Members

- Initiate one-one-one contact: “Welcome! Please come in and join us.” “Come and sit next to me.”
- Hold Beginner’s meetings (stand-alone or 30-60 minutes before regular meeting) using the Guideline for Beginner’s Meetings (G-2).
- Get the newcomer’s phone number and reach out to them between meetings.

Question: How do your groups welcome newcomers?

Practices of Healthy, Thriving Groups:

- Members are committed to their own recovery, enthusiastic, prompt, friendly, listen attentively, and keep the Al-Anon focus when sharing.
- Groups set appropriate boundaries to keep the Al-Anon focus, encourage enthusiastic participation and include all members, have regular business and group conscious meetings, greet new members warmly, promote safety and deep trust between members using our Traditions, avoid the “Three Obstacles to Success,” and place principles above personalities.

Question: In what ways are your groups healthy and thriving?

Welcoming New Group and District Representatives to Our Area Assembly

1. Participation in Area Assembly is a critical link to sustain the worldwide fellowship of Al-Anon. *“By spreading responsibility widely, we ensure the well-being of Al-Anon as a whole.” –Tina Barna, Chairperson 2015 World Service Conference*

- Accountability—Being part of the larger Al-Anon community helps members keep in touch with Al-Anon as a whole and provides access to new resources such as the Conflict Resolution Kit
- Responsibility—Keeping group information updated with the Area and WSO is vital so that newcomers and Al-Anon members alike can find a meeting whenever and wherever they need one.
- Participation—Attending Area Assembly provides additional opportunities to participate in recovery, wider experience and information to guide and inform the group conscience, and ensures inclusion of group information in Area and WSO meeting listings.

2. How can we make newer representatives feel welcome?

- Initiate one-one-one contact: “Welcome! Please come in and join us.” “My name is Bob. I’m your Area Archives Coordinator. Come and sit next to me.”
- Hold orientation meetings for newer representatives.
- District and Area meetings that embody the spiritual principles of the program create a safe environment for sharing concerns and gaining experience, strength, and hope.
- Buddy system: look to other meetings, districts, and areas as group "sponsors" to provide experience, strength, and hope.
- Congratulations! You are on your way to greater spiritual growth!

Question: What are your ideas for welcoming new representatives to Assembly?

Bring your answers and ideas to the July 11th Assembly!