

## **Al-Anon Participation at AA's 61<sup>st</sup> Florida State Convention (FSC) July 24 – 27, 2017 at the Hyatt Riverfront Downtown Jacksonville**

In early February at our District 3 meeting Freddie and I (Roxanne) volunteered to co-chair the Al-Anon portion of the 61<sup>st</sup> Florida State Convention. We attended the February 18<sup>th</sup> FSC planning meeting. We found the Convention Committee to be warm and receptive. They were extremely cooperative and any requests we made were considered and ultimately met. Ruth, the Convention Chairperson, was kind enough to meet with us after the meeting. She confirmed that Al-Anon registration monies would pay for the Al-Anon speaker and the balance would be returned to Al-Anon, District 3. She also caught us up on what Al-Anons were asked to do for this convention.

This included:

- Taking a two hour time slot in the hospitality room (We chose Friday from noon to 2PM)
- Workshops (We had three Al-Anon workshops per time slot. We also had meetings in an Alateen room that included one open Alateen meeting.)
- Literature (set up outside the Orlando room/we had a key and could lock the literature up)
- Finding an Al-Anon/AA couple willing to host the Al-Anon speaker and her husband who would be an AA speaker. The hosts would arrange transport from the airport to the Hyatt and introduce the speakers. Harriet and Alan Ficket were the hosts. Susan H. provided transportation to and from the Airport.
- We were also asked to provide the welcome basket for the Al-Anon speaker. Susan H. volunteered to put the basket together and to help with transportation for the speakers if the hosts couldn't get them.
- We were asked to attend and report at each Convention Committee meeting. Reports were emailed to the Secretary prior to each meeting. No report was acceptable when we didn't have anything to report.
- We chose to use this as an opportunity to display all our Public Outreach banners and our Legacy banners. Carolyn brought our pictures of Lois and Ann. All were displayed in the well traveled hallway outside the Orlando room, by the literature.
- Carolyn was already working with the AA Archives and our Area Literature Chair.

Before the next meeting in March Freddie, Carolyn and I had a planning meeting to discuss details and what actions to take next. Carolyn volunteered to be the Workshop Chair, Freddie volunteered to be the Hospitality Chair, and I volunteered to be the Literature Chair. We continued to attend the Florida State Convention meetings and met in between as we felt it was necessary. Reports from each chair will follow.

### **Literature Report**

I am the District 3 literature chair and we have a well stocked literature room. So providing for a large sampling of literature was fairly easy. I did secure a square for credit card purchases that is tied to the literature account.

We sold \$585.00 worth of literature, gave out AFA's and Just For Today bookmarks for free, and more importantly connected with many members of AA who were interested in Al-Anon for themselves or for a loved one.

## HOSPITALITY

This was my first experience with the AA FSC and when I learned that we were being asked to feed 1,000 people I wanted to know how that had happened in the past. I tracked down the previous Hospitality Chairperson and she explained. It was a piece of cake for someone whose Mother owned a catering service. She shared lots of wisdom and I'm grateful she did. She encouraged me to plan for 400 people and offered some money saving suggestions. I also gathered information from our last Funday chair who shook things up and ordered sandwich rings from Publix. Roxanne found a Publix that would deliver for free and things just started coming together. We gave out envelopes at the next business meeting and asked for donations and volunteers. Our goal was \$1,000. We collected almost \$700 and the Group Representatives voted to fund the balance to reach \$1,000. We spent \$997 and did not run out of food even though we were asked to start serving a half hour early.

I ordered 35 sandwich rings (two veggie, one with and one without cheese). Publix agreed to deliver and set-up with no delivery charge and no tip for their employees. From Sams: I purchased 430 individual bags of chips, popcorn, pretzels. I also bought 5 watermelons, 5 pineapples, baby carrots, salad dressings, and cheddar cheese, From Wal-Mart: I purchased ½ and ½ spring greens and spinach in 8 large plastic tubs, 8 bags of baby spinach, carrot sticks, salad cucumbers, black olive slices, green olives, radish sticks, celery, more salad dressing (for variety) and onions.

One member donated 400 individually wrapped servings of cookies. Another member brought chips and 4 containers of 7-layer dip. She also donated pickle spears. I donated boiled eggs.

We used the aluminum containers from the dollar store and Sam's, so we could just throw them away. The ones with lids worked well for storing watermelon and pineapple in coolers overnight. I purchased salt/pepper and serving utensils from the dollar store. I brought a folding table and all my purchases to the Orlando room Thursday night. My daughter and I cut and packaged everything and filled all the coolers. I was as prepared as I could be.

Then Friday came along with God's plan. The valets lost my car and the decorations were in my room. I can't be in two places at once and needed the easels out of my car. God sent an Al-Anon in the door with arms wide for a hug, a big smile and an offer of help. I gave her my key and she took care of the decorations. The valets found my car just in time for me to catch the Publix employees who had arrived an hour early. Before I could find a place to store the sandwich rings, Publix had talked the Hyatt into storing them in their big coolers. Then Publix hung out until it was time for them to set up. By then it was almost 11:30AM and I was getting a bellhop to help take everything to the hospitality room for our 11:45 AM set-up time. Someone found me to let me know the group before ours had run out of food and there was a long line of people so Lisa wanted us to go ahead and start our time slot. I know God was laughing his butt off at this time. I hadn't even thought of how this was going to work – but it did work. Before I

knew what was what – there were volunteers lined behind the table and everyone was pitching in to get everything out. That included those people in that long line. Soon everything was out and we began some minor switching to help the flow. Then we greeted people and just kept refilling everything.

The AA's provided paper goods and utensils.

We set up a salad bar, fresh fruit, dip, chips, pickles, sandwiches, and cookies. When the next group came, we still had some salad makings, fruit, pickles and chips left. We moved it all down and left it in the room.

God's plan was a success and we got lots of compliments. The salad bar was well received. The 7-layer dip and cookies were a big hit! Thanks to all the volunteers who made this a successful endeavor.

### **AL-ANON WORKSHOP REPORT**

Finding leaders: The theme of the AA Convention is "Love in Action" which became our theme, too. I asked potential workshop leaders to think of a song or Al-Anon slogan that had the word LOVE in it. It was an easy task and everyone quickly picked a topic that was dear to them. Another room came open for 6 more workshops. This time a flyer went out to our district for leaders for a specific time and topic. The workshops were between Speaker meetings at 8:30 am, 11:30 am, and 4:00 pm on Friday and Saturday.

Signage: I knew we were to put our own signs in front of the workshop rooms, but I didn't realize we had to make them ourselves! After a quick run for supplies, they were not professional, but they got the job done. After I got over the shock, the signs throughout the convention were very creative and I like the idea of making our own.

Setting up: We set up 42 chairs and placed blue tablecloths on each table in three rooms. We amended the Al-Anon Suggested Opening to include the fact that these were open meetings and included the anonymity paragraph recommended in our manual. Closing Prayer was leader's choice. One workshop left 3 L.O.V.E. posters so I placed one in each workshop room for an unexpected and delightful addition. For leader love gifts, I found bridal boxes which I filled with candy and turned them into God Boxes.

What happened: Attendance was about one-half dual members and ranged from 3 to 52 participants in each workshop. For the closing, most meetings used the Keep Coming Back rather than the Declaration. I recommend for next year have table cards with the Anonymity Statement, Hats, and the Declaration Statement. I had a back-up leader on-call in case a leader didn't show, but I didn't need to call her.

Summary: Many came by and told me how much they got out of the workshops and how glad they were to have Al-Anon participation. I send my thanks to all the Al-Anon and dual members for leading workshops and attending them. I realized that Al-Anon IS all about LOVE.

### **ALATEEN**

Our District 3 Alateen Chairperson already had a trip planned for the weekend of the Convention. After a call for help, two AMIAS's stepped up to facilitate Alateen meetings on Saturday. One was able to take off from work in time to facilitate the 4PM meeting on Friday as well. Since we had no AMIAS for the 11:30AM meeting on Friday, we made that an open Alateen meeting. No Alateen meetings were held during the 8:30AM time slot.

Convention Forms and an Alateen Program were in each teen's registration package. There were only 8 Alateens registered in advance. We had a notary on-site for anyone who needed their forms notarized.

### **ARCHIVES**

North Florida Al-Anon Literature Coordinator put together 4 poster boards with reduced size Al-Anon literature from the beginning to today's printings. We proudly placed them among the AA Archives with copies of our Al-Anon history books. They represented us well on our beautiful blue tablecloth with gold letters HOPE and HELP. We included "Lois's Story" and "Lois and the Pioneers" DVDs from WSO for the continuous movie of AA and Al-Anon History.

Susan 10663 Lake View Rd E  
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Al-Anon Family Groups  
Strength and hope for friends and families of problem drinkers

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July 14, 2017

CAROLYN HARTMAN  
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RE: *Lois's Story (AV1)*  
*Lois W. & the Pioneers (AV24)*

Dear Members,

Please find enclosed the DVDs, *Lois W. & the Pioneers* and *Lois's Story*, that were ordered. A postage paid return envelope is also enclosed for your convenience in returning the video to us. Please return the DVDs to the World Service Office (WSO) within two weeks after it is shown.

We hope that all who have the opportunity to view these videos in your locality will enjoy them as much as those who have already seen them.

Best wishes from all of us here at the WSO on your Al-Anon event.

Warm regards,

Carla Noble  
Customer Service

Enclosures

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Family Groups**

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Order #: 394603    Order Date: 6/26/2017    P. O. #:    Terms: Net 30 days

Customer #: 10155871    Taken By: LAURICE    Invoice#: 0

Item #	Qty Ordered	Qty Shipped	Back-Ordered	Description	Unit Price	Discount Per Unit	Extended Price	
AV1	1	1		LOIS'S STORY DVD	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$25.00	
AV24	1	1		LOIS W. & THE PIONEERS DVD	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$25.00	
				July 24, 2017	\$0.00	\$0.00		
							Subtotal	\$50.00
							Shipping & Handling	\$0.00
							Tax	
							Total	\$50.00
							Less Payments	\$50.00
							Balance Due	

*CSA*  
*7-14-17*

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## **AA - Florida State Convention**

*Report from Co-Chairs (Roxanne A and Freddie S) and Program Chair (Carolyn H)  
Susan H and Risa G and Jeanne W (Committee members)*

**AFG District Meeting - April 8, 2017**

**AA's 61st Florida State Convention will be July 27 - 30, 2017 at the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville. The theme is Love in Action.**

**District 3 will be participating with meetings, a speaker and hopefully an Alateen Program. We have asked for 3 rooms and they will let us sell our literature there. They will give us Al-Anon Registration monies less the cost of the speaker and rooms. This has been about \$3,000 in the past, but will fluctuate depending on attendance.**

**We have been asked to:**

- **host their hospitality room for 2 hours - we will share their hospitality room and can go there for food and fellowship anytime we want to. We have signed up for the 12 - 2 slot on Friday and plan to have chips and sandwiches much like what was at the last Funday. We are asking for donations from our groups to finance this project. We are looking to the District to make-up any difference to get to the \$1,000 we will need. They want us to feed 1,000, however - after speaking with Sheri C who did this the last time it was in Jax, we will supply food for 200-300.**
- **We need a motion from a GR to contribute up to \$800 toward the AA hospitality room.**
- **We need group donations so that hopefully the District will not have to contribute funds. If you didn't get an envelope at the Funday - please see me after the meeting and get your envelope. All donations are to be turned into the District Treasurer, Susan H. Roxanne will also take donations and turn them in to Susan.**
- **We will need bodies during this two hour period (Friday Lunch, 12 - 2). We will make sure the food is restocked and clean-up.**
- **Note that all volunteers must register for the convention. Registration is \$35 and will be \$40 at the door.**
- **We will need facilitators for meetings and workshops. Please see Carolyn H.**
- **host the Al-Anon speaker and her AA Husband who will also speak. We are looking for a couple where she is Al-Anon and he's AA. If you know of anyone - please pass their contact information on to me, Roxanne or Carolyn H.**
- **take care of the welcome basket for the Al-Anon Speaker. Susan H has volunteered to take care of this and will work with the host to be sure no toes are injured.**
- **Register teens if we have a program for them to participate in. Beth - Any news?**