

District Archives - Info about 1st World Al-Anon Conference
April 23 + 24, 1961

January 21, 1961

San Marco Family Group

Friends:

This letter is written to acquaint you with the results of the pre-assembly meeting held January 15, 1961, by the Miami Area Al-Anon Groups, at the Al-Hi Club, in Hialeah, to discuss our representation at the first World Wide Al-Anon Conference, in New York City, April 23rd and 24th 1961. Enclosed you will find a copy of the minutes of the meeting, which should be self-explanatory. Mrs. Nan Smith, of the Flagler Group, was ratified as the temporary chairman, her selection being based on the manner suggested on page 7, Step II (A) of the Al-Anon World Service Conference Manual, dated October 1960.

Since West Palm Beach is more centrally located for the Florida Groups, it was decided that the State Assembly would be more conveniently held there. It has been arranged, through the help of the West Palm Beach Al-Anon Group, to hold this meeting at their Club Rooms, at 2020 Broward Ave., on Sunday February 5, 1961 at 2:00 P.M.

In considering the finances, all eight groups represented in this area agreed, that the fairest method of meeting our quota of \$260.00, required by the delegates, was to ask each member of Al-Anon to donate \$1.00. It would be appreciated if you would, in your reply, on the enclosed card, indicate the amount of contribution that can be expected from your group at the time of our West Palm Beach meeting.

In writing this letter, we assume that you have the above mentioned manual. If not, write immediately to - Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, P.O. Box 182, Madison Square Station, New York City 10, N.Y.

If you have any questions please contact the undersigned, either by phone or letter. Please fill out and return the enclosed card, as soon as possible. Our time is limited and we need your cooperation in seeing that Florida is well represented at the New York conference.

Cordially yours,

Sus DeMain

New Hope Al-Anon Family Group
5500 W. Flagler St.
Miami, Florida

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cc:

A pre-assembly meeting of the Al-Anon Family Groups in The Miami area was held on Sunday, January 15, 1961, at Al-Hi in Hialeah, Florida. Present were duly elected group representatives and their alternates for eight of the area groups.

The meeting was called to order, by Nan Smith temporary chairman of the Panel I area, at 2:30 P.M. The meeting was opened by saying the Serenity Prayer.

The meeting was then turned over to Jean Milligan, former secretary of the Flagler Al-Anon Family Group. This group had been designated as the oldest active one in Florida, by the New York Headquarters, who stated that this was the reason it had been selected to be the Panel I Group. Jean read aloud her first letter of contact from headquarters and explained, briefly, her selection of the temporary chairman, how this meeting came to be and what was hoped to be accomplished.

Nan, then read of suggestions, from the service manual, regarding the duties of the group representatives and there was informal discussion of the subject.

Nan, next, read of suggestions from the manual regarding the financing of

- a) the group representative to the Assembly Center
- b) the trip to New York, for the chosen delegate from this State

It was decided to leave the financing of travel to the Assembly Center to each group representative, who could either pay for it out of his own pocket or ask his group to help with expenses.

Headquarters set the figure of \$260.00 as the necessary amount for each state to pay to finance the expenses of its delegate to New York. Each Group is expected to pay a sum, within its means, for such travel expenses. The \$260.00 is due in Hialeah, by February 1, 1961 and headquarters suggested that the representatives, of each group, take the money with him to the State Assembly Meeting. Discussion was lively about the various ways for individual groups to raise this money, realizing not many had the necessary treasury, from which to take this sum. The shortness of time was also considered. Gus suggested that an assessment be made, from each group, of \$1.00 per person, money to be made available immediately for headquarters use. Therefore, the following action was taken:-

Motion was made, by Jean, to accept the suggestion that each group be assessed \$1.00 per person, to go toward the fund to send a delegate to New York. Bob, seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously. It was also agreed, each group is to send its money to Nan Smith, 3128 S.W. 63 Ave., Miami, Florida, as soon as possible, for her to transmit to the permanent chairman, when she is elected at the Assembly Center.

This means that the money will probably not get to New York until around February 15th, but it was felt this was all that could be done, under the circumstances.

A member, from Ft. Lauderdale, made the suggestion that each group could be visited by someone familiar with the plans for the coming assembly and explain it to them in further detail. She felt that better informed groups would have more enthusiasm. Thus, a motion was made by Gus, to advise the groups around the state of what had taken place at this meeting, including the assessment, for the purpose of creating more enthusiasm and keeping them fully informed. It was seconded, by Mary, and carried unanimously. It was further agreed to set the time and place of the assembly meeting and incorporate them in the letter to be sent statewide. Tentatively, the meeting was scheduled at West Palm Beach on the first Sunday in February, the 5th.

Nan then went further into the mechanics of electing the delegate at the Assembly Meeting. Headquarters sent her a map, dividing Florida into districts. The group representatives, within each district, elect a committeeman to serve for three years. Then from these committeemen is selected a delegate and an alternate to be sent to

New York this year.

A volunteer collection was taken up at this meeting, of \$10.21, for the purpose of meeting various expenses of postage, phone calls, etc., of the temporary chairman. Any monies on hand at the time of the election of the permanent chairman, will be turned over to her.

The meeting closed by saying the Lord's Prayer.