

AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP HEADQUARTERS, INC.

1961 PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE GROUPS

Early 1962
Dear Fellow Members of Al-Anon and Alateen:

We, here at Headquarters, are starting our 12th year of operation. In reviewing these past years, there is so much to be thankful for. First, we can thank God for Bill who has given AA to thousands and made so many persons feel that living is a glorious thing, especially the AA and Al-Anon way. Then, we can give thanks for the inception of Al-Anon, even before the Headquarters was formed. And lastly but not least, we can thank God for Lois, who has been such an inspiration to so many families of alcoholics and has given so much of herself to set up this Headquarters, without which Al-Anon could not operate successfully as a unit.

We have grown from 50 groups in 1951 to almost 2,000; new group registrations now average well over one a day; we have grown from two volunteers, Lois and myself, to six paid staff, an auditor and numerous dedicated volunteers. Although the office staff is extremely willing, and most appreciative of the continued enthusiasm and splendid efforts of all volunteer committees, the need for an additional staff member, particularly to work with our General Secretary, is most pressing.

On the advice of our accountant, in 1961 the bookkeeping system was revised from a cash to an accrual basis. This more complicated system, coupled with the fact that there was a 32% increase in cash receipts, have resulted in considerably more work in that department. Upon request by any group, Headquarters will send a financial statement outlining our receipts and expenditures.

There has also been a parallel increase in the volume of detail handled by the publications, group records and filing departments and in correspondence relating to group problems and conference matters. There were 3,611 more packages mailed in 1961 than the previous year and a 6% increase in the number of Forums mailed. Book sales held up well and a new reprint has just been ordered. Our only major purchases of office equipment were a new mimeograph machine and Kardex unit.

The first year of a trial conference has done much to increase communication between Headquarters and the groups and all evidence seems to point to great benefits to Al-Anon if and when the Conference becomes permanent in 1963. Even though we had to subsidize the 1961 Conference and expect to do so in 1962, we have been able to keep our balance in the black.

By constructive thinking and applying the 12 Steps, I am sure Al-Anon will forge ahead with much success and fill the needs of so many in distress because of alcoholism.

Each of us at Headquarters sends warmest greetings for a year of peace and joy.

Cordially,

Anne
Anne H. Bingham,
President.