

Nov. 5, 1965

5620 Harding Blvd. N.C.
St. Petersburg, Florida
11-5-65

Dear Al-Anons ;

Al-Anon has come a long way since its infancy when two dedicated women, Lois and Anne transferred the Family Group work from Lois' home to a room in an AA Clubhouse in New York. Their devotion and enthusiasm drew other volunteers and from 1941 when it consisted of unorganized (mainly social) Family groups it grew until in 1951 there were 47 groups registered with the newly formed Central Headquarters and Al-Anon was launched ! Today there are over three thousand groups and Al-Anon has spread all over the world.

In

In Florida we have 47 registered groups, there are others NOT registered.

Central Headquarters in New York City is the source of all our literature. Books, pamphlets, periodicals and everything that helps us to know the heart of Al-Anon. Headquarters has them published. Each group buys its literature but it is shipped to them postpaid (no small idea!)

Work at Headquarters is done by a very small paid staff and a large group of volunteers. Money is ALWAYS scarce yet their only request is that twice each year every group send a donation of one dollar per member to help Headquarters with expenses. We can't go to Headquarters to help with the work, but each group CAN help by donations to ease their financial load.

In 1960 the World Service Conference was adopted on a trial basis and has continued to function successfully. The Conference is the center of information for ways and means, new ideas, discussion of group problems increasing membership, improvement and advancement.

Each State has one delegate. Her duty is to attend the yearly Conference meetings and bring the information she receives to each group in her State. The Conference lasts three or four days and the meetings are all day sessions. We all know a trip of this sort is too expensive for most of us to handle on our own. It IS the responsibility of EVERY group to help with the delegate's expense. It SHOULD be an act of gratitude. How else could we receive the direct information and close touch with Central Headquarters?

Every group should plan some money asking activity for this purpose. As a suggestion you might use one group's idea. They have a special container at every meeting. Each member puts in a minimum of ten cents, more if the can or want to ! The money collected through the year is presented to the delegate fund at the proper time.

Let us never forget Al-Anon has been built by GIVING. We must give in order to receive. By helping our delgate we really help ourselves. Let us ALL do our part willingly and with enthusiasm!

Faithfully,

Hazel Schermer
State Chairman.