



Al-Anon Family Groups
Help and hope for families and friends of alcoholics

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Please see below the list of questions left from the May 19, 2018 Area 4 Assembly:

- Q1. Website events: If Alateen events are listed (day, time, place) and anyone can read it, what security measures are in place to ensure safety of Alateens against pedophiles.
- A. Events listed on a website are informational only. They are not to contain any personal information. Contact is usually via email if further information is needed or to register. The biggest security measure is ensuring that an appropriate safety plan is in place for the Alateens participating in the event. There needs to be an acceptable/manageable ratio of AMIAS to teens.
- Q2. If all members can get into the WSO website, what prevents any member from going in and changing the group information? Is it possible to make it only possible to change information if you are the CMA?
- A. All information entered via the online portal for group changes is reviewed by the Area Group Records Coordinator first. WSO does not process any changes automatically. If the AGRC has not accepted the changes and updated the record, WSO will reach out to the AGRC to inquire as to why the change has not been accepted. This allows for the AGRC to verify if the changes are accurate through the links of service.
- Q3. Can you respond to comments that refusing to register new Alateen groups in our Area due to issues with 1 group may not have been in line with Tradition 2, Concept 1, Warranty 2 and Warranty 4?
- A. The decision to not to register new Alateen groups in California South was made by the Board of Trustees of Al-Anon Family Groups, Inc. based on the primary concern that California South was not in compliance with the Alateen Policy as stated in our *2014-2017 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual* (P24-27). This decision was not made lightly and was in response to numerous requests for information and follow up that did not take place. Once the Area Assembly was held in November 2017 and the Area Alateen Task Force was voted in with clear directives as to how to proceed, the Board of Trustees felt that trust was restored and Alateen meetings were able to register as of December 2017.

Q4. Sue, in our readings we mention anonymity in TV, radio, films, etc. Any thoughts about adding social media to this list? Wondering particularly for newcomer millennials.

A. Page 99 of the *2018-2021 Al-Anon-Alateen Service Manual* (P24-27) offers a broad statement on anonymity that can be read at meetings under the “Anonymity at Open Meetings and Al-Aon/Alateen Events” section. In order to change the language in Tradition Eleven, it would require polling all Al-Anon groups world-wide and 2/3 of them would have to approve the change in the wording. Our *Service Manual* provides the supportive text necessary to be able to explain it to all Al-Anon members. We need to be reminded that it is there.

Q5. Could you put “WSO#” in front of the group number on the website so it is understood what that number means? I thought it was the number of meetings in the Area at first!

A. The field where the group number is displayed is a custom one with limited characters. Only the numbers will fit as “labels” (like WSO ID) will not be accepted into the field as it is a software limitation.

Q6. I'd like to see more clarity on how to find salaries on the WSO Executives. Not transparent.

A. Information is found on the website by accessing this link: <https://al-anon.org/for-members/wso/financial-information/>. Executive salaries are found in the annual tax returns beginning on page 7.

Q7. Is it necessary to hire another staff for communications?

A. The Senior Communications Specialist-Search position that is currently vacant has become a hybrid of Public Outreach and webmaster duties. The position is part of the Digital Strategy team and will be involved with website content and PSA development.

8Q. If a group needs babysitting, doesn't have the necessary funds – can a District (with funds) vote and decide to contribute for that group?

A. Districts develop budgets based on group donations which are to serve Al-Anon groups as a whole within the District. To support babysitting in one group that is requesting it may lead to being diverted from our primary spiritual aim which is to welcome members to Al-Anon. Groups that have specific child care needs can consider options like taking turns watching small children or allowing children to play quietly in a corner during the meeting if that is possible. To request the District to support this venture is not in keeping with our spiritual principle of autonomy, responsibility, abundance and tolerance.

Last card was a comment: Thank you for coming all the way to Glendale, Sue! Your presentation was wonderful. I LOVE the new website design. I talk it up all the time! Great information, easy navigation, helpful information and news! Also, I love the Instagram posts. WSO is doing a great job of staying current AND staying true to our Traditions.

A. Thanks!! It was a privilege to be able to attend the Assembly and serve the members!