

AL-ANON guidelines

The Shared Experience Of Al-Anon and Alateen Members.

Area Forum Coordinators

G-32

Area Forum Coordinators encourage groups and members to submit sharings to The Forum and to subscribe. They carry Al-Anon's message of recovery as printed in The Forum to group representatives (GRs), who are the Forum representatives at the group level.

ACTION IDEAS:

- Set an example! Use *The Forum* yourself.
- Write regular articles about *The Forum* for your area newsletter.
- Suggest the election of district Forum coordinators/chairpersons.
- Maintain personal contact with district and group Forum representatives.
- Offer to help with *Forum* workshops or skits at district/area level.
- Develop and distribute a suggested list of ways to use *The Forum* at meetings.
- Schedule writing workshops for Al-Anon members at regular intervals.
- Report at area functions about articles or photos in *The Forum* that came from members in your area.
- Send district and group representatives information pertaining to *The Forum*, including promotions and needs for special articles or photos.
- Keep *The Forum* visible at group, district and area levels.
- Be available to GRs and DRs for assistance in conducting workshops or outreach activities.
- Ask area world service committee (AWSC) members to assist you by subscribing to and sharing the value of *The Forum* as they conduct their service activities.
- Inform the WSO Forum Coordinator of exciting area activities.
- Preserve a record of your efforts, both successful (and less successful), to pass on to the next coordinator. Keep copies of WSO Forum Coordinator letters and announcements to share with future coordinators.



INCREASING READERSHIP

- Encourage each group to have their own subscription.
- Maintain a supply of order blanks and complimentary copies.
- Offer *The Forum* as a raffle prize or door prize at Al-Anon events.
- Work with the district to supply a complimentary subscription to *The Forum* chairperson. Send new groups a warm welcome letter plus *The Forum* subscription order blanks.
- Cooperate with Public Information, Cooperating with the Professional Community and/ or Institutions Coordinators to sponsor subscriptions or to distribute copies of *The Forum* to libraries, institutions and professional offices.
- Encourage GRs to present *The Forum* so that others in the group will want to read and have their own issue. Create a list of ways the GRs or groups can introduce non-subscribers to *The Forum*.
- Use a *Forum* display board at conventions, health fairs, area assemblies, group anniversaries and other events. Provide subscription order forms for distribution and make extra copies available. (The area may want to subscribe to multiple issues for this purpose. The area archivist may be of assistance in preparing an effective display.)
- Encourage long-time members to sponsor subscriptions or donate past issues of *The Forum* to newcomers. (Some groups insert a copy with the Newcomer's Packet.)

INCREASING "WRITERSHIP"

- Distribute *The Forum* writing guidelines (see back page) at Al-Anon events and encourage members to submit their sharings. Member photos or graphic designs are also welcome. Photos may be prints or slides in color or black and white, but need to be in focus, with level horizons and without faces. We cannot publish copyrighted writings or photos.
- Demonstrate to GRs how to conduct *Forum* writing workshops.
- Share that stories are needed from all Al-Anon members, including men, Al-Anon adult children and Alateens. Humorous Al-Anon articles are needed for the "The Lighter Side" section of *The Forum*.
- Challenge Alateen Coordinators to encourage members and sponsors to send sharings.
- Encourage long-time members to write and share their service experiences as well as how they cope with being a long-time member when faced with a problem.
- Write and submit something yourself!

