

Ask It Basket Questions – Spring Assembly 2023

1. Does the Ottawa office for accepting Canadian donations for World Service Office (WSO) accept donations by e-transfers?

Mary C. answered with “not that we are aware of”. She has emailed Niketa W. at WSO to verify.

Mary C. has received confirmation from the World Service Office concerning the e-transfer option for sending a contribution to the AFG Canadian address. The answer is - **no, not at this time.**

2. Al-Anon's "Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism" is a major public outreach initiative. Is "Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism" considered Conference Approved Literature (for usage in an Al-Anon meeting)?

Answer: YES.

1) Logo on back page of booklet: "The logo without the AFG was adopted by the WSO for easy identification of stationery, service tools, and other Al-Anon/Alateen material.", p. 117*

2) Identification of Al-Anon/Alateen Publications: "Service tools carry the Al-Anon logo and indicate production by Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc. pp. 113-114*

3) Use of Material at Al-Anon Meetings: "To keep Al-Anon's message in focus, and to encourage unity, only Al-Anon/Alateen Conference Approved Literature (CAL) and Al-Anon/Alateen service tools are displayed, distributed, and used at Al-Anon and Alateen meetings; including meetings at conferences and conventions." p. 114*

*From the *2022-2025 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual, v2*. Reprinted with permission of Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters Inc., Virginia Beach, VA.

3. It was pointed out that the service manual prohibits a Delegate succeeding themselves. Is that a provision that an Area could override through Tradition 4 or would the Conference refuse to seat that Delegate?

The Adult Child Coordinator will be emailing the World Service Office (WSO) and the reply will be in the minutes to see what would happen if an Area tries to force WSO's hand?

NOTE: no information received by the Secretary at time of sending report. The Secretary will update the answer when it is provided.

August 13, 2023 – no response received from World Service Office.

4. Regarding Area 89 voting procedures, Robert's Rules states two different scenarios for majority votes and abstains. In one scenario, the number of abstains reduces total voters, thereby reducing the required number for a majority and scenario 2 the majority vote is based on total voters. In Scenario 2, abstains are technically a “no” vote. Does Area 89 have a motion on the books for which scenario we use?

No, the Area does not have a motion on the books. We will add this to the Fall Committee meeting agenda.

5. This situation: An Al-Anon event invites A.A. and Narcon to participate. Tradition 3 states: . . . may call themselves an Al-Anon Family Group, provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation. Does inviting Narcon to an Al-Anon event go against this tradition or is this for meetings only?

An Al-Anon event is an event organized by an Al-Anon Family Group or an Al-Anon service body. They are an event at which Al-Anon is spoken and the focus of the event is the Al-Anon program.

On page 126 of The Al-Anon Family Groups Classic Edition, Lois W. strongly recommends that Al-Anon members attend AA open meetings in order to learn more about the disease of alcoholism. For years, Al-Anon Family Groups have taken this to heart by inviting AA speakers to participate at Al-Anon events. This is in keeping with Al-Anon's tradition of cooperation with Alcoholics Anonymous. Conversely, AA members often find it helpful to their recovery to hear the stories of recovering family members in Al-Anon, and Al-Anon speakers are asked to participate at AA Round-ups and conferences.

Al-Anon community events typically follow an Open Meeting format. Anyone interested in hearing about Al-Anon recovery is welcome to attend, regardless of any professional, religious, or recovery affiliation they may have as individuals. All they need is an interest in learning about Al-Anon.

Because the meetings are open, members of other fellowships are welcome to participate as attendees, but they would not usually be asked to speak at such events.

2023-2025 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual p.43

The function and usefulness of Al-Anon/Alateen can be explained to a wider audience if a public outreach meeting is planned where members, their relatives and friends, A.A. members, students, professionals, and the general public are welcome to attend. A meeting held to celebrate a special occasion can also be considered a public outreach meeting.

6. Can I be a group representative for an electronic meeting and a face-to-face meeting? Can I have more than one home group (one electronic and one face to face)?

Page 143 of the 2022-2025 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual – The Group Representative (GR) is the first link in the chain that leads to the World Service Conference as each Group Representative is chosen by members of the group and may serve as Group Representative in no more than one Group at a time.

7 (1). Have raffle baskets been done away with at Spring Assembly?

At the Fall Committee meeting, the Area World Service Committee (AWSC) will be discussing if we will be moving forward with having baskets at Spring Assembly.

7 (2). Why is the Newsletter only working with Saskatoon AIS promoting less "popular" books. Should PA LDC not be included as well?

(The report said LIT Coordinator and Saskatoon AIS are bringing awareness to pieces of literature)"

PA literature depot has the Spring Assembly to sell literature and the Saskatoon literature depot gets the Fall Assembly to sell literature. It was decided to allow Saskatoon to choose a piece of literature for the Spring issue of the newsletter and for the Fall issue, PA will be invited to submit a piece of literature to be featured in that issue.

I (Newsletter Editor) did not choose the piece of literature. Rather, it was chosen by the Literature Coordinator and the trusted servant working at the Saskatoon AIS Office. I understand that the reason "As We Understood" was chosen because this is a piece of literature that does not sell as quickly as the "ODAT", or Courage To

Change” do. Both depots will be given EQUAL opportunity to feature literature in the Spring and Fall issues of the newsletter respectively.

The idea for this new corner is to highlight either new pieces of literature or older pieces that are sometimes overlooked”.

8. Would you agree that a prudent use of excess Area 89 dollars would be to cover the cost of a group inventory/conscience facilitator, mileage, gratuity, meals, hotels to any group who requires assistance from an objective and knowledgeable source?

Area 89 does not have funds available for group’s use. Groups are to be self-supporting as per Tradition 7.

Area 89 does not have a facilitator. Jean H. is an Al-Anon member of Area 89. Groups could seek assistance from your District Representative (links of service), then Delegate, if a problem cannot be solved. From the 2022-2025 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual, Page 20-21 – three obstacles to Success in Al-Anon:

Three Obstacles to Success in Al-Anon*

This passage has helped many groups to resolve group problems:

All Al-Anon discussions should be constructive, helpful, loving, and understanding. In striving toward these ideals, we avoid topics that can lead to dissension and distract us from our goals.

*This text is from the pamphlet, *Alcoholism, the Family Disease* (P-4), © Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc., Virginia, 2005.al-anon.org 21

1. Discussions of religion: Al-Anon is not allied with any sect or denomination. It is a spiritual program, based on no particular form of religion. Everyone is welcome, no matter what affiliation or none. Let us not defeat our purpose by entering into discussions concerning specific religious beliefs.

2. Gossip: We meet to help ourselves and others learn and use the Al-Anon philosophy. In such groups, gossip can have no part. We do not discuss members or others, and particularly not the alcoholic. Our dedication to anonymity gives people confidence in Al-Anon. Careless repeating of matters heard at meetings can defeat the very purposes for which we are joined together.

3. Dominance: Our leaders are trusted servants; they do not govern. No member of Al-Anon should direct, assume authority, or give advice. Our program is based on suggestion, interchange of experience, and rotation of leadership. We progress in our own way and pace. Any attempt to manage or direct is likely to have disastrous consequences for group harmony.