

## Ask-It-Basket questions from Spring 2025 Assembly

1. **If a DR and Alt DR position are vacant – does this mean the Treasurer and Secretary position cannot be filled if vacant.**

No – it does not. A District can operate with vacancies until they are filled. How this is done is up to the District members to manage this through autonomy.

**If already filled, does their term/service end?**

No

**What happens to records and signing authority?**

If all positions happen to be vacant, it is up to the members of the district to determine how to proceed until the positions are filled.

Also, see below

How do we get more Al-Anon people volunteering for positions in the district and the area?

It is group autonomy when it comes to business meetings, but having business as part of regular meeting reinforces the fact that service is part of recovery. Be enthusiastic, and make it fun. Chair a meeting on service and encourage the study of the Service Manual (P. 24/27). Use the word “assistant” instead of alternate –we all like to help.

2. **Can the Area 89 GR Guide for Area Assembly be updated on page 9 regarding expenses for GR's to attend assembly to include the Zoom option so there are no costs associated with hotel, travel & meals to the groups? (Stems from recent motion to increase reg. fees)**

Yes, the Group Rep. Guide for Area Assembly has now been updated to read ...

*P.5 - Each group should have funds set aside to reimburse your travel, hotel and meal costs to attend Assembly. If you attend electronically, your group should reimburse you for the cost of Registration.*

3. **The general consensus seems to be that a Land Acknowledgement is an outside issue. I/my group are left with the question – “How can we make our meetings more welcoming to the Indigenous population who have been profoundly affected by alcoholism and the trauma and family disease of alcoholism, colonialism, genocide and intergenerational trauma; while fulfilling our primary purpose as outlined on page 119 of the Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual?**

We had a lengthy and constructive conversation about being inclusive and welcoming diversity here in Al-Anon. We fully acknowledge the need for truth and reconciliation. We hear the

concerns regarding the perception that our singleness of purpose may not be attracting our First Nations. It is, however; with the directive from the World Service Office and practicing our traditions, the group conscience of our Assembly is that we are not currently going to do Land Acknowledgements. Not because we don't see the need or are sympathetic to the challenges First Nations have endured but because of our current collective group conscience. We recommend having these conversations for our Public Outreach Arms, having direct conversations and inviting and welcoming everyone affected by the disease of alcoholism. The only requirement for membership is a problem of alcoholism in a family member or friend. On another note, this is autonomous and if a group or district wishes to have this conversation and do a land acknowledgement at their level, they can.

**4. In Concept 12, it states, "Article 12 of the Charter." Where can I find this article and what is the Charter.**

The Charter is a body of principles and relationships through which Al-Anon as a whole can function (from Introduction on Page 227 of the Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual).

Article 12 of the Charter can be found on page 231 of the Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual.

**5. In the "Paths to Recovery" book it mentions 'minority report' Concept 5, page 278, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph. Does anyone have any experience with this after a vote has been made and decision reached? What would be the process at the Area level to address an issue – during Committee, Pertinent Topics or when during assembly?**

A past chair at WSO conference shared that a topic had been discussed, motioned and voted on and passed. There was a minority group that felt there was pertinent information that had not been brought forward in the discussion, so they approached the chair of conference and shared that they would like the motion reopened for more discussion. The chair called the individual to the floor when they reconvened the meeting. The information was to be new information, not anything that had already been presented, and this was not to be a gripe session. So using this as an example of how to do this at Area, it is felt that the chairperson would be approached about the concern and need, and would then bring it back to the floor of the Assembly for discussion if it had been a motion that was already voted on, or a meeting that has been closed.