Area Forum Coordinators

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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 Gepresentatives (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 Fellowship Communication 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 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*.

It's like a meeting in your pocket — *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 preparing an effective display.)
- Encourage longtime members to sponsor subscriptions or donate past issues of *The Forum* to newcomers. (Some groups insert a copy with the Newcomer's Packet.)
- Encourage members to access *The Forum* at <www.al-anon.org/members> to view the Table of Contents page with links to the three Internet articles, the front cover, "Inside Al-Anon," and the calendar of events.

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 full 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 "Lighter Side" section of *The Forum*.
- Challenge Alateen Coordinators to encourage members and Sponsors to send sharings.
- Encourage longtime members to write and share their service experiences as well as how they cope with being a longtime member when faced with a problem.
- Write and submit something yourself!

FORUM WRITING GUIDELINES

In general, the way to share your story in *The Forum* is the same way that you would at an Al-Anon/Alateen meeting.

Put a meeting in someone's pocket

1. Share an experience from the heart with the focus on yourself, not the alcoholic or others.
2. Relate a personal experience based on a program principle, such as detachment, acceptance, a Step, Tradition, or Concept of Service, etc., and give an instance of how and where you used it.
3. Use the first person (I, me, we, us). True personal sharings do not give direction; they express your own experience, strength, and hope. Please avoid the use of the pronoun "you."
4. Avoid generalities, outside issues, treatment center language, and religious philosophy or doctrine. Al-Anon members in other Twelve Step programs, including Alcoholics Anonymous, are asked to write only of their experience in the Al-Anon program.
5. Kindly observe Al-Anon's Twelve Traditions when sharing.
6. By established policy we do not accept poetry, skits, prayers or fictional stories. On a trial basis we are accepting Alateen poetry.

NOTE: *Forum* **stories are about 600 words.**

SHARING SHEET

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_____ Please use additional paper if needed to complete your story.

THANK YOU FOR SHARING YOUR EXPERIENCE, STRENGTH, AND HOPE.

Name_____ Phone _____

Address_____

If printed, you have my permission to use this article on the Internet ___ Yes ___ No
___ Please use my first name, last initial, and state/province/country for credit.
___ Please sign me "Anonymous"
All sharings become the property of Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc., and may be used in whole or part in the development of Al-Anon material.

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