

AL-ANON EVENT GUIDELINES

Al-Anon guidelines are available on the WSO Members' website under District Resources. Combined with the Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual, there is much help available for planning Al-Anon meetings and events.

The following are selected quotes from various guidelines and the service manual.

District Meetings G-15

District meetings are held for the purpose of:

- Uniting groups within the district.
- Encouraging members to become involved in service.
- Planning program-related events for fun, fellowship and sometimes fundraising.

Al-Anon/Alateen Conventions G-20

An area convention is an occasion for Al-Anon and Alateen members to gather for fun and fellowship, to celebrate their beginnings, enhance their understanding of the program, and to find ways to attract new members.

The term "convention" refers to fun and fellowship events; the term "conference" usually is reserved for service and business events.

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Posters and Flyers Pg. 112

Permission is not required when public outreach flyers are created for a single local event. Flyers on the Internet are accessible to the public and must protect members' anonymity.

Public Meetings Pg. 99

A basket may be passed at open meetings to which the public is invited. In keeping with the Seventh Tradition, it is clear that the fellowship is dependent on its own voluntary contributions. Reading the Preamble and the Traditions clarifies this principle. (These can be found under **Suggested Meeting Format Readings** beginning on Pg. 10.)

The Open Al-Anon Meeting G-27

Here's What Helps The General Public

- An explanation of Al-Anon's purpose
- The benefits of Al-Anon or Alateen
- Who can be a member
- The importance of attending meetings
- What happens at meetings
- Anonymity and confidentiality at meetings
- How members recover
- How to obtain local meeting information
- That contributions are voluntary

Anonymity

Tradition Eleven must be stressed...we respectfully ask that no AA, Al-Anon or Alateen speaker or member be identified by full name or picture in published or broadcast reports.

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Fund Raising - Avoiding Commercialism Pg. 97

Raffling various articles at meetings or other gatherings is a matter of autonomy, but to avoid commercialism in the fellowship, it is suggested that these items relate in some way to our spiritual principles. Items such as Al-Anon or Alateen books, subscriptions to the Forum, or the donated products of the creative efforts of individual members are suggested.

Raffles/Lottery Tickets Pg. 98

After determining that the proposed raffle and/or lottery is legally permitted within the Area where it is to be held, additional precautions need to be taken so that we are not diverted from our primary purpose and do not imply endorsement. Distribution and sale of raffle/lottery tickets should be limited to Al-Anon/Alateen meetings and events.

Al-Anon/Alateen Area Conventions G-20

Keep in mind that speakers are invited to carry the Al-Anon/Alateen message of recovery by sharing their experience, strength and hope. Speakers describe how they have changed by applying the principles of the program to their lives.

Speakers keep the Al-Anon focus and maintain their anonymity regarding other Twelve Step programs.

Suggested Programs for Meetings G-13

Outside Speakers Meeting – An occasional talk by an A.A. member or a meeting comprised of a husband, wife and child team (Al-Anon, Alateen and A.A.) often presents insights into the disease of alcoholism...Care should be taken to select speakers familiar with the Al-Anon and Alateen program in order to avoid diverting the focus from our own recovery to that of the alcoholic or from the Al-Anon program to that of a treatment philosophy.

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Payment for Speaking Pg. 98

In keeping with the Eighth Tradition, Al-Anon speakers are reimbursed for expenses only.

Religion/Philosophies – Meetings Pg. 123

Al-Anon is a spiritual program; thus the discussion of specific religious beliefs at meetings may divert members from Al-Anon's primary purpose. Our meetings are open to all those who are affected by alcoholism whether the member has a religious belief or not.

Three Obstacles to Success in Al-Anon Pg. 24

- 1. Discussion 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.

Dilution of the Al-Anon Program – Drugs/Narcotics/Prescription Medications

Pg. 124

A symptom of alcoholism in the home may be the abuse of drugs by family members. Occasional discussion of this topic is acceptable at an Al-Anon or Alateen meeting as it may be one of the results of living with alcoholism. However, our responsibility is to ensure Al-Anon's survival as a resource for friends and families of alcoholics. By focusing on these drug-related problems, we risk being diverted from Al-Anon's primary aim.

Members Interested in Speaking G-1

The only ingredients needed are the willingness to try and a reliance on a Higher Power. Sharing your story is an opportunity to discover a new side of yourself, one you may not have realized existed. Members report that speaking before a group adds another dimension of growth to their Al-Anon experience.

Plan What to Say – Focus on your recovery from living with the effects of someone else's drinking in your life today or in the past.

Speaking Before a Non-Al-Anon Audience – Keep in mind the public image of Al-Anon/Alateen is gained in part from your appearance. Try to give a good account of what Al-Anon and Alateen are, what they do and the services they offer to the community.

Share Joyfully