



## Al-Anon Family Groups Hawaii

# Is This Your First Assembly?

*Prepared in loving service by Gary T.*

Welcome to what hopefully will be an exciting and fulfilling service experience. Many of us who attended our first Area Assembly were overwhelmed by the sheer amount of new information that was presented. Because we were unfamiliar with these new terms, procedures, and responsibilities, our jobs as Group Representatives were made even more difficult. This flyer is intended to address some of those concerns and to make your experience more meaningful, educational, and enjoyable.

### **Why do we have Assemblies?**

In the Hawaii Area, assemblies are held twice a year: in the Spring on Oahu and in the Fall on a Neighbor Island. There are two basic reasons for holding an Assembly:

1. To enable the Area Delegate to pass along information received from the World Service Headquarters at the annual World Service Conference,\* which is held every April on the mainland; and
2. To conduct the business of the Hawaii Area.

*\*The annual World Service Conference, which our Delegate attends, is the international equivalent of our local Assembly.*

### **Who gets to vote?**

Only Group Representatives are entitled to vote. Area Committee Officers, Area Coordinators, and District Representatives are not allowed to vote. An exception is when a District Representative is also the representative for his or her Home Group.

### **Why am I here?**

Al-Anon would not long survive if members did not repair and maintain the fellowship on a regular basis. In the old days, people in communities used to get together for corn huskings and other activities that benefited the entire neighborhood. That's roughly what a Hawaii Area Assembly is -- a couple days of work, twice a year, with your Al-Anon neighbors to get our house in order.

And during this time of communal work, we get to hear what our Al-Anon friends in the World Service Headquarters are doing to help us better serve our members.

### **But why am I here?**

Because you were willing. Most likely, you were the only one who stepped forward to do a strange new job that required you to attend District Meetings and Assemblies as well as make announcements at your Home Group Meeting. Perhaps you've heard that service accelerates recovery. Perhaps you've heard otherwise.

Whatever the reasons, you've become the first and most vital communication link between the members of your Home Group and World Service Headquarters.

Viewed from another perspective, it's part of doing Step 12: having had a spiritual awakening and wanting to make it possible for the local fellowship to continue carrying the message to those who still suffer.

### **What do all these acronyms and strange terms mean?**

The following is an abbreviated glossary of Al-Anon and Hawaii World Service terms:

AIS/IS ..... Area Information Service

Al-Anon ..... All guidelines are a collection of shared experiences and can be Guidelines adapted by the membership. Guidelines can be identified by the Al-Anon/Alateen logo and the words "compiled and distributed by Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc."

Alternate Delegate ..... The area officer who will attend the World Service Conference, held each April in Virginia Beach, Virginia, if the Delegate is unable to attend.

- Area..... The area is made up of all the districts in a state or a province. Each area is represented by one delegate at the World Service Conference. (page 27, 1995-96 Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual)
- Area Coordinator ..... Coordinates the activities of service -- Institutions, Alateen, Cooperating with the Professional Community (CPC), Newsletter, Public Information (PI), Literature, Forum, Web site, Conventions -- in the Area, and serves as a liaison between the area world service committee and the groups it serves (page 27, 1995-1997 Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual)
- Area Chairman(woman)..... The area officer who chairs the two assemblies and two area committee meetings held in the Hawaii World Service area each year.
- Area Delegate ..... The area officer who represents the Hawaii Area, also known as Hawaii World Service, at the World Service Conference held in April of each year in Virginia Beach, Virginia.
- Area Secretary ..... The area officer who is responsible for taking accurate minutes at both the two area committee meetings and the two assemblies held each year in Hawaii.
- Area Treasurer ..... The area officer who is responsible for keeping accurate financial records and managing the finances of the area. This person also chairs the area budget committee, which drafts budgets for approval at assemblies.
- Ask-it-Basket ..... The container, which in the past was a basket, that is positioned near the Area Chairman at the assemblies to receive Al-Anon related questions from the Group Representatives, District Representatives, and anyone else who is attending.
- Assembly ..... The assembly, composed of all the Group Representatives in the area, convenes at least every three years to elect assembly officers, a delegate to the World Service Conference and an alternate delegate (page 27, 1995-96 Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual).
- AWSC ..... Area World Service Committee
- Break-Outs..... Sessions during which those attending the assembly break up into smaller groups for discussion purposes.
- CAL..... Conference Approved Literature
- CCT..... Conference Committee on Trustees
- CPC..... Cooperating with the Professional Community
- District..... The district is a geographical segment containing a number of groups located relatively close to one another (page 27, 1995-96 Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual).
- DR..... The district representative (DR) is elected by the Group Representatives from among their own number. One DR represents each district (page 27, 1995-96 Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual).
- Equalized Travel..... The concept and formula that enables the area to apportion the financial expense of traveling to area committee meetings equally to all the districts within the state of Hawaii, regardless of their distance to these events.
- GR..... The group representative (GR) represents the group at district meetings and area assembly meetings where the groups share information of importance (page 27, 1995-96 Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual).
- GSO..... General Service Office
- Guidelines..... A term usually preceded by a color, i.e. blue, pink, yellow, etc. Guidelines are Hawaii Area policy decisions reached by substantial unanimity at previous Assemblies. These are not to be confused with Al-Anon Guidelines, which are published by the World Service Office.

HALDC .....	Hawaii Area Literature Distribution Center
HWS.....	Hawaii World Service
IAGSM.....	International Al-Anon General Services Meeting
LDC.....	Literature Distribution Center
NPIC.....	National Public Information Canada
PFA .....	Publications Francaisis, (French Services)
PI.....	Public Information
PRAASA .....	Pacific Region Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly
Quarterlies .....	Also known as "quarterly splits," these are voluntary donations sent four times per year (in February, May, August and November) by the various groups to their respective districts, Hawaii World Service, and the World Service Office in Virginia Beach, Virginia.
RSS.....	Regional Service Seminar
RT .....	Regional Trustee
Roll Call .....	Introductions at the microphone by District to determine who is present and entitled to vote.
South West.....	An Al-Anon region that includes the Northern California, Southern Region California, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, and Hawaii Areas.
SWRDM.....	South West Regional Delegates Meeting
Timely Topics .....	Questions for discussion by the GRs, DRs, and other members attending an assembly. Timely topics are voted on by GRs at the assembly, and the topic receiving the greatest number of votes is discussed in a general session on the floor.
WSC.....	World Service Conference
WSD.....	World Service Delegate
WSO.....	World Service Office