

Recovery Through the Steps Unity Through the Traditions Service Through the Concepts

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Topic: Sharing Our Hope

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Newsletter Editor: John O.

Proofreaders: Gwenne R., Connie D.

Technical Support: Pat H., District 2

Northern Hi Lights

Al-Anon News from New York North Area **Delegates Report**

First of all, I would like to thank all of our members of New York North who have sent me words of encouragement, cards and well wishes, as I have journeyed through a difficult summer. Gwenne, our Alternate Delegate, was so kind to write to you all about this in our July issue of NHL. Because of my husband's stroke, that has been quite disabling I have tried to be there emotionally and physically, to help in his recovery. I have tried to keep up with my duties as the Delegate. However, I have delegated what I could, to keep New York North informed.

Thank you to all the Officers, Coordinators, and District Representatives for your help.

It's hard to believe that September 2017 Fall Assembly will be here in a couple of weeks, and that's when we will elect our new slate of officers and coordinators for New York North for 2018-2020. I do not know who will stand for the delegate's position, but I pray that those qualified members, who are current or former district representatives, will look to their Higher Power for guidance and encouragement, to stand for their selected position at the assembly.

(Delegates Report continued on page 2)

Mission Statement

Northern Hi Lights is the monthly publication (10 issues) of the New York North AFG Assembly Area. It is intended both as a member outreach tool and to keep the Area informed of all Service related projects and activities at the District, AIS, and Area levels in between Assemblies. Content of each issue will include Service Reports from the Delegate, Officers and Coordinators of the Area; and pertinent Service topics from the World Service Office. Reports from Districts, Information Services and Alateen Sponsors will be included as space allows. A topic of the month may be chosen by the editor as a focus for reports. Northern Hi Lights is not copyrighted. It is not conference approved literature.

Submissions: Email by the 15th of the month prior, to: newsletter@nynafg.com When submitting reports, keep in mind that all quotes from Conference Approved Literature (CAL) must have prior written permission from WSO (see pgs. 106-107 in your 2014Service Manual). Announcements should be submitted at least 6 weeks before

Subscriptions: Suggested donation of \$10/year when possible (see back page): All Al-Anon members are encouraged to subscribe (electronically if possible) to receive an individual copy. A copy will automatically be sent to each Group Representative onrecord with the Group Records Coordinator, unless we have instructions for a specific Group Mailing Address.

For more information visit the following websites: New York North: www.nynafg.com

WSO: www.al-anon.alateen.org

At the beginning of the 2017 World Service Conference (WSC), the Board of Trustees announced that they were beginning the search for the next Executive Director. I am pleased to share that following statement with you:

After a series of interviews, the last of which was held July 19th with the full Board announced they are ready to make this announcement. "It is with great pleasure that the Board of Trustees, Al-Anon Family Groups, Inc. announces that on September 5th 2017, Vali F. will begin her tenure as our next Executive Director. Vali brings with her over 15 years as an active Al-Anon member. She served as a Panel 53 Delegate from Arizona, Area Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. Additional Al-Anon service roles include AIS Chair and Alateen Coordinator. Vali also brings over 20 years of business experience including management of teams of staff throughout the world. Vali has a keen understanding of the world's ever-changing landscape and how those changes have and will continue to impact the growth and diversity of our fellowship. Vali fully embraces the continued need to find new ways to reach those whose lives have been affected by someone else's drinking. Our current Executive Director, Mary G., has committed to working sideby-side with Vali beginning September 5th through the October Board meeting. This transition period will ensure that our new Executive Director, our World Service Office (WSO) staff and our fellowship as a whole experience a smooth transition." Please send a Card or Letter to both Vali and Mary G. to the WSO thanking them for their Service to Al-Anon. I have informed the District Representatives at the AWSC meeting of other information from WSO, and will be sharing it with you in my Delegates Report during the Fall Assembly. If you are like me, I have an Inquiring mind, and if you have too, please attend the Assembly for this wonderful information. Love in service,

Diane C.

Area Chairperson

Hello NYN.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at our Fall Election Assembly September 22-24 in Syracuse. We will be electing Panel 58 officers and coordinators. Are you, or is anyone you know willing to step up to service? Any Al-Anon member is eligible to serve as a coordinator; any district representative, present, past, or incoming who is active at the area level is eligible to serve as an officer in the NYN Area. The more people who stand for a position, the better choice we will have to select the most qualified person. You can find the position descriptions on the NYN website at nynafg.com/area information and forms/NYN Policy and Guidelines/NYN area officer/coordinator service positions. Please complete a resume for Al-Anon service, and send it to me before the Fall Assembly so that we can have a host of candidates for election. You can find the resume form on the NYN website: nynafg.com/area information and forms/NYN Forms/NYN Al-Anon Service Resume. My address is in the contact list at the end of this newsletter.

In addition to the elections, we will review and consider whether to make permanent the Electronic Devices Policy for Area Assemblies and also whether to continue the Presentation Committee, both of which were on a three-year trial. In District 9, we have discussed the situation of the former NYNAC coordinator's misuse of NYNAC funds and are ready to participate in the discussion of this situation at the Assembly. There are different opinions related to this discussion. Please be ready to voice your opinion at the Assembly so we may take an informed group conscience.

Regarding our monthly topic, "sharing our hope," I recently read the sharing in *Hope for Today*, about the person who carried an overstuffed backpack filled with loneliness, uncertainty, fear, isolation, and suspicion of others. That was me before Al-Anon. sponsorship, service, slogans, and steps helped me lighten my pack of a load that wasn't mine...and found good things to replacethem, such

as kindness, compassion, love, and humor. This is a much lighter load, and I find happiness each day as I use these tools and continue to recover from the effects of living with alcoholics. Love in service,

Susan A.

Public Outreach Coordinator

Hi Everyone,

"Sharing our hope," our topic for this month, is exactly what my service position is all about. Carrying the message of Al-Anon in our communities offers hope to those in need and at the same time keeps that spirit of hope alive in me.

September is National Recovery Month, a chance to pass along our new 2018 Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism. In our Group eNews for the month of August, there is a great suggestion on how to host an open Public Outreach Meeting for professionals, something to think about. For more information, refer to The Open Al-Anon Meeting Guideline (G-27).

I look forward to seeing many of you at our Fall Assembly in Syracuse. My hope is that one of you is thinking about standing for Public Outreach Coordinator so that we can continue our project of "hope".

Together we can make a difference.

Pat H. (po@nynafg.com)

Immediate Past Delegate

Dear NYN Friends.

I want to thank everyone who signed up to work the Al-Anon booth at the fair this year. This is such a great public outreach project. We know that there are many people out there who are suffering in silence from the affects of the disease of alcoholism. Who knows how many seeds were planted by people just walking past the booth, let alone those who stopped in for a quick hello and to

pick up a pamphlet or two. I do not have the final numbers now but I will have them in next month's *Northern Hi Lights* article.

This month's theme is "sharing your hope." When I first read the theme I immediately thought about what brought me to my second Al-Anon meeting. That's right. I said my second meeting.

When I went to my first meeting I had no intention of coming back. The only reason I was there was to show all those people who were telling me to go to Al-Anon that I did not need it. I was not the one with the problem, I was not the alcoholic. You may have heard me tell this story before.

I was in a terrible place; my life was a mess (sound familiar?). After that first meeting I spent the next month wallowing in my own self pity. I cried all the time. One thing that I was doing during that time; I kept thinking about that meeting. I thought about all the people at that meeting and how happy they were. There was so much laughter and love in that meeting, even while they were telling their stories and the pain that had been part of their lives.

I continued to think about that happiness and wondered how I could get that happiness. I decided that maybe if I went back and listened I could find the secret to being happy again. That's what brought me to my second meeting; it's what keeps me coming back all these years later. I did find the secret; it's in the 12 Steps, Traditions and Concepts. It's in sharing our experience, strength and hope. It's living a life of recovery.

This is how I share my hope. I am always happy when I am in a meeting with newcomers and I see those in the meeting sharing their joy. For me, I know that there is pain in life but right alongside that pain there is happiness. That is what Al-Anon has given me.

Gratefully in Service,

Ruth S.

Treasurer's Report,

Hello, NYN Family!!

I hope this finds you all ready to get back to regular schedules after a (hopefully!) relaxing summer!! It's hard to believe the Fall Assembly is just around the corner!! I look forward to seeing many of you there!! This Assembly will be my last official act as your NYN Treasurer....and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you ALL for your support....of ME, and our Area!!

During the months of June and July, the following donations were received:

Gr Name	Gr # Amt	
Legacy Study	42113	50.00
Courage for Serenity	503929	100.00
Chittenango	9677	15.00
Simple Beginnings	44964	30.00
Calm in the Storm	30503839	30.00
Webster Mon	UNK	25.00
Serenity Seekers	501783	20.00
Healing Circle	UNK	69.70
UNK	27134	50.00
Sherrill Hope	UNK	50.00
Circle of Grace	UNK	25.00
Hamb Cour to Chng	63806	25.00
Cortland	9696	50.00
District 3	n/a	100.00
Work in Progress	43410	100.00
Weekend 9 AM	32895	127.69
UNK	503200	33.00
Roads to Recovery	UNK	25.00
East Amherst	9711	50.00
UNK	9612	15.00
Chittenago	9677	15.00
Canandaigua	24271	50.00
Angola Awakenings	30615135	20.00
Stepping Into Recov	30662245	10.00
Faith & Hope	30375	21.00
Westenders	10326	4.50
Concord	62569	47.00
Gr Name	<u>Gr #</u>	<u>Amt</u>
Bayberry	10328	10.70

	September 2017
n/a	75.00
9932	50.00
48141	5.00
UNK	50.00
UNK	100.00
24286	58.47
9828	30.00
10187	105.00
49835	11.00
66500	25.00
	9932 48141 UNK UNK 24286 9828 10187 49835

There were <u>FOUR</u> paid subscriptions to the NHL during the above period.

The following expenses were paid since the last report:

	.
AFG District 9	\$130.00
John O	48.00
Able Smith Tent	232.96
Postmaster (stamps)	19.60
Community Bank (10%Res)	625.00
NSEA (AWSC venue)	50.00
Ruth S (NYS Fair tix,pstg,s/u	447.15
2017 Fall Ass'y (Ruth S)	47.00
2017 Fall Ass'y (Pam A)	47.00
Gwenne R	38.98
Leslie C	47.00
Walter S	47.00
Comfort Inn & Suites	1958.00
Susan A	157.46

Current Balance are as follows:

Regular Checking	\$14,981.54
Reserve Checking	\$10,375.20
Sage Rutty Mut Fnd	\$ 2,994.17
TOTAL ASSETS	\$28,350.91

Thank you for the opportunity to serve this AMAZING Area as your Treasurer since the end of 2013!! It's been a wild...but WONDERFUL...experience!! Best of luck to our new Treasurer, to be elected at the Fall Assembly!! Hugs & Love In Service,

Linda A.

SENDING DONATIONS To New York North

Donations should be sent by check or money order. DO NOT SEND CASH!! Make payable to: NYN Area Assembly PO Box 398, Morrisonville, NY 12962 Add group's registered name and group's ID Number (VERY Important)

Archives Coordinator

Hey NYN members,

At the Fall Assembly in September, NYN will be rotating service positions, so this is my last pitch for Archive Coordinator. I found this position very good for me as my first service experience at the area level. I didn't do it like previous coordinators, and did it to the best of my ability. I also did not do it alone, and had support of fellow Al-Anon members.

The biggest part of the job right now is the ability to store the 27 boxes of the Archives. I was able to consolidate some, but did not have as much free time as I had hoped. Going forward, having time to really go through the boxes and pare down the information would be helpful. Also, several other archives coordinators from around the country are looking into, or have started to digitize their archives to help pare them down. Looking into doing this may be helpful to NYN.

Those are just suggestions, you can do it your way and to the best of your abilities. Service has done wonders for my recovery and I hope you consider standing for a position at NYN this September. It's a wonderful way to give back to Al-Anon.

I would like to share my experience, strength, and hope about last month when my parents visited. It was a wonderful visit and everyone had a great time. This was a direct result of me working a recovery program. It's true what they say; they installed the buttons, so know how to push them. But because of Al-Anon and working my recovery, I was able to react differently. I did not have to get sucked back into old behavior. I wasn't prefect, but when it happened I was able to stop my behavior and come at it a new way. This helped our communication, and a lot less "loud talking" (that is what we do in my family, not yelling, "loud talking"). This did not happen overnight. They have visited several times, with each visit consisting of less old behavior. How? I would share about my experience and what I learned about my myself at meetings, I talked with my sponsor and we worked on how to show up different, and I worked the Traditions and put them into practice (SERVICE!!!!! (a). This is how the Al-Anon program works for

me. Seeing how I have changed in this situation, gives me hope that I can change in all situations, continue to grow, and practice these principles in all my affairs.

Yours in Service, Kevin M archives@nynafg.com

Kevin M.

Alateen Coordinator

Since my last article there has been a lot going on in the world of Alateen. The following gives a breakdown of the happenings:

- Assisted Mary Beth G. our acting Area Alateen Process Person (AAPP) with the annual recertification process. We started out with 117 active AMIAS in NYN. Upon completion of the recertification 9 decided not to reactivate, 24 were inactivated
- because they failed to comply. We now have 84 AMIAS's active in NYN.

- Out of 18 Alateen groups only 6 replied to the yearly Alateen Group Record update mailed out by World Service each spring. Each Alateen Group Sponsor listed as the Current Mailing Address is responsible for reviewing the group details and making note of any changes. In late July I mailed out 12 letters along with a copy of the current group record printed out from the WSO Group Records program to the groups that failed to reply. I am requesting that they review the group information, make note of any changes, and return to Mary Beth G. If no changes they just need to indicate no change, sign, date and return. It is important that NYN and the WSO have the most current information about each group.
- Several conference calls were held with the NYN Alateen Guidelines Committee. The committee is made up of the sponsors from Buffalo, Ithaca, Syracuse, NYNAC Coordinator and myself.
- We have updated the following guideline:
 - o NYNAC Guideline
 - Process for becoming a NYN Alateen Sponsor
 - Alateen Group Registration and Record Changes
 - Added a new section 'Yearly AMIAS Recertification Process"
 - We are scheduled to have another conference call on Saturday August 26th.
- As part of updating the Safety
 Requirements we are investigating the cost
 associated with performing Background
 Checks as part of the requirement for
 becoming a sponsor.
- I have completed the updating of the Alateen Education Module. Once the guidelines are completed and approved this will need to be updated accordingly.

Walt S.

Newsletter Editor

Hello NYN,

Here's hoping you are interested in being the next editor of *Northern Hi Lights*. It has been quite a journey, and one I'm grateful I didn't have to take alone. When things didn't go well, I could fall back on my proofreaders and my 'techie', Pat H. If asked, I'll also be willing to help out the newcomer, and when I can't, I know who can. (my helpers)

When I made mistakes, like needing to send out a second newsletter because of my errors, there was just acceptance, not criticism. Perfection is a myth, and Al-Anon is a safe place to take risks and grow in the program.

Sharing my hope at meetings may appear as dominance at times, because not everyone shares their hope. When I don't hear it from others, I butt in, because it is why I came back after my first few meetings.

John O.

Convention Coordinator

Hello NYN,

Do not get left behind. **Big Celebration** planned by members of **Districts 3 & 18** at the 2017 Fall election Assembly September 22-24, 2017 at the Comfort Inn and Suites, North Syracuse. (Registration form in this issue and on nynafg.com)

What are they celebrating? Fifty years of Al-Anon in New York North!

WOW!

Also, there will be elections of Panel 58 Officers and Coordinators. This is a three-year term starting January 1, 2018. Are you saying "maybe I could do that". Talk to your sponsor, your DR, or contact the current person serving in the position you are considering. Remember, in Al-Anon you never have to do anything by yourself.

A big **Thank You** to members of **Districts 10, 2 & 29, 7 & 8, 22, 12, 3 & 8** for serving as Hosts for the six Assemblies/Conventions of **Panel 55** (2010-2017). And to Districts 5 & 26 hosting Spring 2018 and District 15 hosting Fall 2018 And yes, there are Districts strongly considering hosting 2019 Assemblies. **Wow! Al-Anon is Super!!!**

And our Editor asks us to "Share our hope."

I do remember what my life was like the day I walked into my first Al-Anon meeting and how my life has changed thru the years. **My biggest hope** is that future generations will know that Al-Anon & Alateen is waiting for them. Nobody will ever have to walk alone searching for Peace and Serenity. They will know there is a solution to pain and suffering- just pick up the phone or walk into a meeting and Al-Anon & Alateen friends will be waiting to share their own experience, strength and hope. We will accept each other just as we are and share love.

Nancy H.

Literature Coordinator

We are still working on getting all the paper work done so that I can receive the latest news from WSO. I hope to have an update for you by the Assembly in September. In Service,

Gwenne R.

Group Records Coordinator

There is a misconception that I believe I have mentioned, but needs to be reiterated. When the Group Records Coordinator receives a change, the WSO database gets changed. I discovered that the NYN Web Coordinator wasn't getting this information early this year. The New York website changes go to the Web Coordinator. I have set up an Excel spreadsheet, and have been trying to send them on to the various AIS and other web preparers, and the Web Coordinator gets the ones that are not tied to an AIS (Area Information Service). This is a process that has been worked on roughly since March. I am doing my best, but since this is new, mistakes will be made. It will be part of the process for the new Group Records Coordinator, and things should flow better in the future. I apologize for this misconception. Our topic this month is "Sharing our Hope". This is one area of my program I am very good at. I listen to people very carefully when I interact with them. If I hear something that sparks thoughts of Al-Anon in what they are telling me, I make the suggestion that they try a meeting and explain how it has helped me if they ask. I work a phoneline that is for people struggling with issues as part of my job, and this is the perfect opportunity to reach out to others. This Friday I am meeting a lady to take her to her first meeting. I believe this is gratitude in action, and we never know whom we might touch in a positive way. I thank my HP for giving me my voice back, so I can be of service. Love in Service.

Lynda S.

News on The Forum

Here's the latest news about The Forum from Mark Summerall, magazine Coordinator at WSO:

- We are excited to announce that, beginning with the August and September issues, we are giving The Forum a new, more contemporary look. We are experimenting by adding some new design elements that we hope you will find interesting, fun and inviting.
- We remain very short on Forum sharings about the three Legacies-especially about Steps Five through Twelve, and all Twelve Traditions and Concepts of Service. We also need sharings from Canadian and Alateen members.
- Forum Subscription Reports: First, thanks to all who responded to the questionnaire. We are working
 with WSO's Software Engineer to fine tune the subscription report so that it better fits your needs. We
 look forward to presenting it to you when it's ready.
- THE FORUM BOOK (working title): So far, members have sent in over 701 titles and publication dates
 of Forum articles that they consider the best of recent years. Please keep encouraging members to
 send in Forum stories they want to see included in this book. And don't forget to send in your own
 selections!
- The revised Forum Writing Guideline (F-1) was posted on AFG Connects on June 19 of this year. It is also available on the Members site. You can access the link by hovering your cursor over it, pressing the "Ctrl" key and left clicking it at the same time: alanon.org/members/pdf/TheForumWritingGuidlines2017.pdf.
- Don't forget to let members know that there is an e-magazine version of The Forum. You can now find direct links for ordering it on the Al-Anon Online Store at <u>al-anon.org/onlinestore</u> under the "Electronic Literature" category.

2017 NEW YORK NORTH AREA FALL ELECTION ASSEMBLY Celebrating 50 Years of the New York North Area September 22, 23, and 24, 2017 Comfort Inn and Suites, 6701 Buckley Road, North Syracuse, NY 13212 "Celebrating 50 Years of Al-Anon in New York North" HOSTED BY DISTRICTS 3 & 18

FRIDAY 9/22 SATURDAY 9/23 SUNDAY 9/24

Registration 3:00 pm –9:00 pm Registration 7:00 am – 3:00 pm Alateen Interest Meeting (8:00am)

Committee Meetings (7:00 pm) A.W.S.C. Meeting (8:00 am) Spiritual Panel (9:30 am)

NYN Birthday Meeting (7:00 pm) New G.R. Meeting (8:30 am)

50 Years of NYN (8:30 pm) Assembly Morning Session (9:15 am)

Lunch Break (Noon)

Election Assembly (1:00 pm)

Banquet & Gag Gifts (6:00 pm)

Main Al-Anon Speaker (7:30 pm)

Musical Chairs Gratitude Meeting (8:30 pm)

HOTEL RESERVATIONS - NYN AFG 2017 FALL ELECTION ASSEMBLY

ROOM RESERVATION DEADLINE: August 31, 2017

CALL TO RESERVE A ROOM ON YOUR CREDIT CARD: 315-457-4000 or 1 800-4CHOICE www.syrhotel.com or e-mail CIS@Tramzhotels.comTELL THE HOTEL YOU ARE WITH THE NEW YORK NORTH AREA ASSEMBLY TO GET THE CONVENTION ROOM RATE. ROOM RATE WILL BE \$89.00 (plus \$11.57 tax = \$100.57) FOR SINGLE, DOUBLE, TRIPLE, OR QUAD OCCUPANCY, PER NIGHT. SUITES WILL BE \$109.00 plus tax per night. ROOM RESERVATION REQUIRED FOR FREE CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST. ROOM RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BY August 31, 2017. Check in: 3:00pm / Check out: 11:00 am. Make your checks payable and mail to: Comfort Inn and Suites, 6701 Buckley Road, North Syracuse, NY 13212

Directions:

From NYS Thruway I-90, take exit 36 and travel south on I-81 to first exit, 7th North street. (Exit 25) Take a right at the light at the end of the exit then and another right at the light at Buckley Road. Hotel is about ¼ mile down on the left.

2017 NEW YORK NORTH FALL ELECTION ASSEMBLY REGISTRATION FORM

NAME:	AL-ANON REGISTRATION (\$18/\$20 at Door):	
ADDRESS:	ALATEEN REGISTRATION (Free):*	
CITY/STATE/ZIP:		
PHONE #:		
SATURDAY BUFFET (\$29): Roasted Chicken, & Eggplant Parmesa	(Please Pre-Register)(Entrees include London Broil, Herb in (Gluten Free)	
E-mail Address:	HOSPITALITY ROOM DONATION:	
MAIL TO:	TOTAL ENCLOSED:	
2017 NYN Fall Assembly	Is this your first Al-Anon Assembly?	
P.O. Box 2183	Are you a New GR?	
Syracuse, NY 13220	Are you a New DR?	
	Are you willing to volunteer to help out at the Assembly	

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: 2017 NYN FALL ASSEMBLY.MEAL AND ASSEMBLY PRE-REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS September 9, 2017.* ALATEENS MUST HAVE ADULT SUPERVISION AND NOTARIZED PARENTAL PERMISSION SLIPS AND MEDICAL RELEASE FORMS.YOU CAN ALSO REGISTER FOR THE ASSEMBLY AT THE DOOR, HOWEVER MEAL REGISTRATIONS ARE NOT ALWAYS AVAILABLE.

Do you know whom to contact with an Al-Anon issue?
Unless this is a personal subscription, this copy belongs to your group.
Please share it with them, and make each issue available at your meeting.
To insure anonymity, tear off this part before leaving it with your group.

Delegate Diane C. delegate@nynafg.com	AlternateDelegate Gwenne R. altdelegate@nynafg.com	Immed.PastDelegate Ruth S. ipd@nynafg.com	Chairperson Susan A. chairperson@nynafg.com
Treasurer Linda A. treasurer@nynafg.com	Alateen Walt S. alateen@nynafg.com	Secretary Pam A. secretary@nynafg.com	Convention Nancy H. convention@nynafg.com
GroupRecords Lynda S. records@nynafg.com	Literature Gwenne R. lit@nynafg.com	NYNAC Leslie C. nynac@nynafg.com	PublicOutreach Pat H. po@nynafg.com
Presentation Sarah R. presentation@nynafg.com	WebCoordinator Molly C. (716)445-9099 web@nynafg.com	Newsletter John O. newsletter@nynafg.com	SpanishContact Cira B. Spanish@nynafg.com
Archives Kevin M. archives@nynafg.com	Panel 49 Past Delegate Elaine R. Delegate49@nynafg.com	Panel 46 Past Delegate Robert M. C. Delegate46@nynafg.com	Panel 43 Past Delegate Connie D. Delegate43@nynafg.com
Panel 40 Past Delegate Anne F. Delegate40@nynafg.com Panel 16&19 Past Del. Maxine B. Panel 13 Past Delegate Ruth F.	Panel 37 Past Delegate LaVaughn R. Delegate37@nynafg.com Panel 34 Past Delegate Sherry B.	Panel 31 Past Delegate Arlene M. (Deceased) Panel 28 Past Delegate Mary G.	Panel 25 Past Delegate Marcia J. Panel 22 Past Delegate William S. Panel 4 Past Delegate Helen S.

Serving Servin

Northern HiLights Subscription Form

While there is no specified charge for *NHL* subscriptions,

in keeping with the Seventh Tradition of being fully self-supporting,

a donation of \$10 per year is suggested, when possible, to help the Area pay for production costs. **Make checks payable and mail to**: NYN Area Assembly, PO Box 398, Morrisonville, NY 12962

All Al-Anon members are encouraged to subscribe to the *Northern HiLights* electronically; just e-mail your request with your name to: records@nynafg.com

If you need a hard copy, please check type of subscription: () group or () individual; () renewal or () new

Name		Title
(GR, Sponsor, Individual, DR, etc.)	E-Mail Address	
Address	Phone ()	
City		p If
Group Subscription, Group Name		
WSO#	District#	
If sent to address other than above, please included Mail address changes and updates to: Group		

records@nynafg.com

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