

Literature Coordinator Report
AWSC Meeting – March 20, 2010

I hope you had an opportunity to read the article by Tom C., Associate Director of Communications-Literature for WSO in the February Forum regarding “Preserving our Unity”. I will be participating in a conference call with other Literature Coordinators on March 24 and hope to have more information to share with you in my newsletter article in April and at the Spring Assembly/Convention in May.

There are also several things I would like to share with you and to bring to your attention as regards the WSO website. There is a wealth of material out there that can be used to encourage the use of all CAL. WSO is continuing to put the sample chapters on the member website which gives lots of ideas for topics for meetings. The current book being featured through the end of March is *Alateen-Hope for Children of Alcoholics (B-3)* and the topic “Letting Go of Blame.” They also include a list of where you can find the topics in other CAL. They also include opportunities for members to share on the topic, include quotations, and provide discussion questions submitted by groups and members. Take a few minutes and look out there. Using different CAL in meetings will encourage members to purchase other CAL to use in their recovery. They also have the forms on the site to submit sharings for the topic, the Forum, and other CAL.

As We Understood (B-11) will be 25 years old in July. WSO is looking for sharings for CAL Corner on how this book helped you. Sharings are due April 1. Consider featuring this book in your meetings during the month of July.

The CAL Corner features members sharing how a certain piece of our literature has helped in their recovery. The January and March Forum feature *As We Understood (B-11)* and February featured *Alateen-Hope for Children of Alcoholics (B-3)*. The WSO is also looking for sharings on other pieces of literature which have helped you in your recovery. The sharings they are requesting are in relation to *The Dilemma of the Alcoholic Marriage (B-4)*, *The Al-Anon Family Groups—Classic Edition (B-5)*, *How I Can Help My Children (P-9)*, *Three Views of Al-Anon (P-15)* which includes “An Open Letter from an Alcoholic”), *The Al-Anon Focus (P-45)* and *Living with Sobriety (P-49)*.

I have also attached How to Conduct Writing Workshops for a Literature Project or *The Forum* and Projects for Attracting More Members to Conference Approved Literature (CAL). Encourage your groups and/or districts to think about some of these ideas and if you do a workshop or develop skits, please share them with the WSO.

And lastly, continue to increase awareness of *Opening our Hearts (B-29)* and *Discovering Choices (B-30)*. Sales of these books have fallen behind.

Yours in Al-Anon Service,

Jean W
NYN Literature Coordinator

How to Conduct Writing Workshops for a Literature Project or *The Forum*

1. Open with the Al-Anon Suggested Welcome.

2. Offer a description such as:

“At this meeting, we share our experience, strength, and hope in writing. As is the case with all good meetings, it doesn’t matter how much education we have or if we use big words or little ones. What matters is that we communicate from our hearts and that we keep the focus on ourselves. We write about our own experience, telling what it was like and how our lives have changed—giving special attention to the tools of the program that have helped us.

*“Although Al-Anon and Alateen members write *The Forum* magazine and all Conference Approved Literature, not all stories that we write are for publication. Sometimes recovery comes from putting our thoughts and feelings into words by writing. Just because we write something, it doesn’t mean that we have to show it to anyone. Even if we decide to submit our recovery story for possible publication, it doesn’t mean readers need to see our name or where we live.”*

3. Ask a member to read the Twelve Steps.

4. Ask a member to read the Twelve Traditions.

5. Pass out sharing sheets for the appropriate publication(s) for which you are focusing the workshop. Read a passage from the sharing sheet that describes the type of sharings being sought.

6. Ask everyone to write based on the guidelines included on the sharing sheet, using the back of the sheet or plain white paper. Remind them that it is okay if they decide not to share. Let them write for 20 to 30 minutes. Inform them when they have five minutes to go, and then when they have one more minute to go.

6. Thank everyone for sharing. If they would like to submit a story for possible publication, ask them to include their mailing address so the WSO can send them a thank-you note. If their story is printed in *The Forum*, they will receive complimentary copies of the magazine in which it appears. Also, please ask them to indicate on paper if it is okay for the WSO to consider their story for release on the Internet.

7. In the time that remains, invite members to share what they wrote or to relate any experience they have had writing for *The Forum* or other Al-Anon publications.

8. Read the Suggested Closing.

9. Close the meeting in your usual fashion.

10. Mail the sharings to: Fellowship Communication, AFG Inc., 1600 Corporate Landing Parkway, Virginia Beach, VA 23454-5617—Att: *Forum* Magazine, or Literature Committee

Projects for Attracting More Members to Conference Approved Literature

The following ideas are suggestions from the Literature Committee that can be used by Area Literature Coordinators to engage the interest of our fellowship in Conference Approved Literature. Some Areas are already doing some of these projects. If there are other projects your Area has done that you would like to share with others, send them in and I'll add them to the list!

- Make Area calendars that highlight a different piece of CAL each month. (Please seek reprint permission from the WSO if you intend to include quotations.)
- Request submissions for articles about CAL for your Area, AIS, or district newsletter or have Literature Coordinator write an article for each issue sharing experience in using literature as part of personal recovery.
- Create CAL workshop guidelines similar to the ones we have for *Opening Our Hearts* (B-29) and *Discovering Choices* (B-30).
- Hold district or Area CAL workshops—could be as simple as several members sharing about their favorite CAL, and how they use it.
- Add fliers and/or order forms for literature in Area/local mailings.
- Encourage districts to use a CAL Quote of the Month that could be shared with groups—for those with a calendar or a monthly newsletter feature, it could come from the “CAL of the month.”
- Write skits about CAL and present them at Assemblies, workshops, or conventions.
- Develop a “Match Game”—match a CAL quotation to the piece of CAL it comes from. It could be a great lunch or break activity at Area or district level.
- Hold an Area-wide contest to create a PowerPoint using one of the pieces of literature.
- Have a literature trivia contest at Area assemblies.
- Put the names (or pictures from our Catalog) of all our books and pamphlets in a box. At the end of each meeting, pick the name of a book or pamphlet. Ask the members who have that book to bring it the following week, and the next week's Chairperson will use a topic taken from that book.
- Recommend that groups develop a lending library.
- Survey each group in the Area to determine what books members have. The form should have all the books listed. This would give the Area a good idea of what books would be good candidates for special promotions, reports in the Area newsletter, etc.
- Present a game or “quiz show” like “Deal or No Deal” or “Jeopardy” at Assemblies or other gatherings to get members interested. A book could be drawn among the participants.
- Encourage districts to start literature study meetings or chair meetings using one of our books besides daily readers. Suggest that meetings use CAL as a regular meeting topic at least once a month—this can be a general topic or a specific discussion about a passage from a pamphlet, booklet, or book.
- Encourage speakers to incorporate CAL other than the daily readers into their talks at groups, districts, or conventions with speaker meetings or open talks.