

AWSC Web Coordinator Report  
March 26, 2011

Since we last gathered I have assisted our Newsletter Coordinator, Nancy with the creation of a listserv for the distribution of the electronic version of the *Northern HiLights*. The benefits of this are two-fold. First, members emails address are now stored on our webserver and not someone's personal computer. This means that when the next Newsletter Coordinator's term begins in January the list will not need to be printed-out to be passed on and retyped saving time, mistakes and the potential of an anonymity breach. Second, when the newsletter is sent via the listserv the sender is the listserv's address not the coordinator's personal email address.

Our Group Records Coordinator, George had requested that the GR1 (Al-Anon Registration/Group Records Change Form) be made available as an online form. The form has been completed and successfully tested. The form will be available from the Assembly & AWSC Minutes page on the website under a newly created section called NYN Forms. The NYN Reimbursement Form will be included in this section too. Expect for this to be available by April 1, 2011.

Pat H. continues to respond to the requests sent to the NYN website via our contact form. The website receives on average 8-10 messages per month. She promptly handles these messages forwarding messages on to the appropriate Area Coordinator or responding directly answering meeting location questions as well as sharing her experience, strength and hope with those who reach out to Al-Anon for help.

LaVaughn R. has agreed to chair the NYN Web Guidelines project. The Web Committee has reviewed WSO's Web Guidelines in addition to some other Areas' Web Guidelines. The goal of this project is to develop a set of guidelines to assist our Area Web Coordinator is fulfilling their job duties while remaining mindful of our spiritual principles.

Finally, I continue to work on the website redesign. My plan is to move our site into a Web Content Management System (CMS). Using a CMS helps to simplify the creation and publication of web content to web sites by allowing content creators to submit content without requiring extensive technical knowledge (Wikipedia). Currently, I'm evaluating two CMSs – Drupal and Joomla. Our web hosting company setup a test environment for me to install and setup Drupal. I have downloaded and setup up a test environment on my computer for Joomla. My initial reaction was to use Drupal as it has a multitude of pre-designed templates however I am quickly learning that this may pale in comparison to its administrative overhead and learning curve. I was able to setup up Joomla, install software updates and modify a basic website within a weekend. I am now in the process of mapping out our site in using its new design layout. Once this task has been completed the next step will be to start moving content. I hope to have a proof of concept completed by the Spring Convention and Assembly. I am still waiting on shell access to allow me to install Drupal updates!

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathi D