

RESPONSIBILITY PRESENTATION FALL ASSEMBLY 2012
Breakout Session For Group Representatives

Handouts: (G-) Guideline for Group Representatives

- How do you deal with GR expenses? What if the group doesn't have enough money?
 - ★ Have a group discussion about GR responsibilities and the group's responsibilities in covering the GRs expenses to attend Assemblies. Use the Service Manual and guidelines to share information. NYN Area has guidelines for expenses for Officers and Coordinators posted on the NYN website. These can be used as a guideline at group and district level.
 - ★ Bake sales, garage sales and bottle return monies (within the fellowship) can be donated to the group treasury,
 - ★ Have a Day of Sharing or celebrate your Group's Anniversary; celebrate individual's AFG anniversary; do exchange speaker meetings. All of these events can be done simply, without a lot of expense to the group. Having the meeting open to others and passing the basket or asking for a minimal donation can add money to your treasury and all benefit from the experience, strength and hope that is shared.
 - ★ Have a can set out at meetings and collect change.
 - ★ When traveling, car pool and share a room. We have the advantage of meetings coming and going and learn about ourselves and others shortcomings and attributes. Let go and let God.....
 - ★ Some districts are able to assist GRs with partial scholarships to attend Assemblies. This is autonomy within the individual districts. Some districts struggle financially as well.
 - ★ It is good to discuss the "Break the buck barrier". One dollar does not go as far today as it did 10-20-30-40-50-60 years ago. Lead by example and put what you can afford in the basket. Also let members know that if they cannot afford to put anything in the basket, that should not prevent them from attending a meeting.
 - ★ Be an informed group. Discuss what group expenses are and have a treasurer's report monthly. The Groups at Work booklet (P-24) helps the members to understand responsibilities.
- Do periodic Group Inventories (G-8a/8b) using the Guideline that can be downloaded from the WSO members website. This can be done by any member and can be done as a meeting topic. The guidelines give several suggestions on ways to do it. An Inventory should be looked as a growth tool. It can help everyone in the group learn about responsibilities. For newcomers, it is an example of a healthy way to find solutions through talking to each other, reasoning things out and using our Traditions and Concepts to build a strong group.
- Brief business meetings on a regular basis, including all members of the group, allow for all to have a voice in making informed group conscience decisions. Decisions on how much to pay for rent, literature, what to keep for a reserve, etc. should be a group decision.

- If a group has a checking account, it is wise to have two signatures (either /or) in case one person is not available and funds are needed. This is also suggested at District level. Instructions for an EIN # can be found in the Service Manual (pp54-55)
- Having a Service Sponsor is very helpful. There is always someone who has held this position before you. As your term is nearing completion, consider offering your experience, strength and hope that you have gained as a GR at your group meeting. Encourage others to step up to service and grow in recovery. Be a willing service sponsor.
- At the time of this presentation, there was a Service Plan on the WSO members website under Group Services (click Service Plans). It appears that it is no longer available. I will provide a copy for the NYN website or a copy to anyone interested. It was titled : *Starting With the Home Group—The Al-Anon Family Group Service Plan is a tool for every Al-Anon member.* Although it was a Service Plan for 2002/2003 it is still a viable tool for today.

I hope that you will let us know what has been helpful to you and your group. The New GR meetings which are available at each Assembly on Saturday morning are open to all who are interested. We want you to succeed.