

Al-Anon Family Groups Communication

TO: Conference members
FROM: Tom Coffey, Associate Director of Communication—Literature
DATE: August 13, 2014
RE: Area Discussion of New Daily Reader
CC: Area Literature Coordinators
Linda Byers, Literature Committee Chairperson

At the 2014 World Service Conference, considerable discussion took place before the Conference carried a motion to give conceptual approval “to develop a new daily reader that reflects the diversity of the Al-Anon fellowship.” During that time, some Delegates expressed concerns that the word “diversity” brought negative reactions from their Areas, where members mistakenly presumed that the daily reader would be *about* diversity. It had been the Literature Committee’s intent that the book would share diverse experiences of the fellowship, as it is today— a daily reader for all members. The Conference discussed how critical it is that we all clearly explain and discuss the purpose of this daily reader to prevent confusion, misunderstanding, or lack of interest.

Other Conference members felt we need to take new, different approaches in seeking writings for the book, since previous books have not always received submissions that reflected a variety of members’ experiences. Delegates were asked to go back to their Areas and foster a discussion about how to get sharings that voice various perspectives, and encourage members to reveal, where appropriate, their differences as well as what we have in common. The idea is get to principle-based discussion in the Areas and let the Areas come up with ways to get writings that mirror the inclusiveness of the program. If we want this new daily reader to fulfill its potential, we need to ask local members for ideas on how to make this happen.

The Literature Committee is currently developing a writing guideline with ideas and parameters for writing for this new daily reader. The Committee sees this as only an initial step. We need to hear from you about what further steps you are willing to take to help us fulfill the intent of the Conference motion. On behalf of the Literature Committee, I encourage you to please have an Area-wide discussion and then share the resulting ideas with us. The Committee will also be continuing its discussions on new approaches to take for this exciting project.

For more details of the Conference discussion on this topic, please see pages 23-25 of the *2014 World Service Conference Summary* (P-46), which is on the Members’ site at http://al-anon.org/members/pdf/summary/summary_2014.pdf.

Many thanks for all you do for families and friends of alcoholics.

World Service Conference: Our Spiritual Principles in Action

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