

Public Outreach Report for the AWSC meeting – March 29, 2015

1. The Big Question – What’s happening with the State Fair? Our application, for an Al-Anon booth, is being submitted next month, April, and the outreach committee for the State Fair will keep us informed.
2. The new order form for Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism 2016 (AFA’s) is out. Orders must be in by **5 p.m. Wednesday, July 8, 2015**. Orders will be shipped by AFG, Inc. before **September 1, 2015**.
3. I’ve been working with the AIS Public Outreach Coordinators in Syracuse and Buffalo.
4. As you know April is “Alcohol Awareness Month”. After listening to what District 22 is doing with posters, it occurred to me to start a grassroots project beginning with my home group and another that I attend regularly. Here are some suggestions based on what these groups have started doing:
 - Start by asking the groups for a group conscience regarding Public Outreach.
 - At the group conscience ask if the group is willing to get involved in carrying the message of Al-Anon to the public.
 - Work with the local library to see if you could put up a display of Al-Anon literature. This could be books, AFA’s, meeting lists, outreach materials, etc.
 - If your group is financially able, offer a subscription of the Forum to the library.
 - Flyers were distributed with the outreach bookmark, along with tear off sheets at the bottom that list our AIS website and phone number. WSO does request that we have the WSO information available on this flyer as well. It is important that this flyer not be altered, as we have guidelines to follow. I have brought examples with me today. These flyers will be posted on the AIS websites.
 - Distribute these flyers to hospitals, drug stores, grocery stores, fitness centers, break rooms, and to the medical community, etc.
 - Put a listing of our meeting in the local newspaper (a free public service announcement!)
 - Meet again in another month to see how things are going and to discuss where else to carry the message of Al-Anon in the community.

Do consider having a conversation with your groups to see what you can do. Keep me informed as to what you are doing in your community. Let’s share our ideas. Together we can make a difference.

Pat H.
Public Outreach Coordinator for NYN