

Report 2022 May Spring Assembly Archives – Maria S.

Hello to my fellow Al-Anon Trusted Servants and Members,

Ellen, our NYN Website Coordinator, was kind enough to meet me in person in Albany on 4/21/22, as she was passing through. We discussed the process for getting the AWSC minutes I have scanned (1960's – 2006) up on the NYN shared Google drive so that she could access them and then post them to our Website. I followed our process, placed the documents up on the NYN Google drive, and she was able to access them—yay! I am continuing to go through and sort folders and scan.

I believe at the last meeting there was a thought that the Syracuse AIS might be able to store some of the older hardcover books and other materials that can't be scanned. I will have for our meeting the list of the books that could be stored, if that is possible, and if we think that is the best solution.

Also, I would like to ask for a decision on the storage of all the old years of Forums that we have. Joe Tanory, the WSO Archivist, had the following suggestions:

1. Some Area collections retain **Forum articles that were written by local Area members**. An Area project can be started that goes through the Forums and find the articles specific to your community. Either scan or snip the paper and submit the documentation to the area collection for permanent retention.
2. Many of the earlier issues of *The Forum* include the "Al-Anon/Alateen Calendar." Some Areas retain the calendars and use the content for Area research.
3. Sometimes there is a need for literature displays at Area conventions or other events. The Forums are colorful and full of historical memories. A Forum display is simple and offers a visual timeline.
4. Contact other Areas and offer the older Forums for projects outside your community.
5. Donate the extra Forums to local school libraries or penal institutions
6. Oregon - "In our area, we often distribute old issues of The Forum to local service organizations [Domestic Abuse shelters, hospital ERs, Dr. offices, the library, etc.]. In the District in which I live, we put a label on the back with a local telephone contact number and a list of the meetings in the town where the magazine was left."
7. Illinois North - "Copies of old Forums from the 50's and 60's are rare. You might want to bring them to the Area World Service Committee meetings. If you do not wish to keep them as the Area Archivist, the district archivists or delegate may want the early issues. I sometimes distribute the older Forums to women's shelters."
8. Tennessee - "Use them for a fund raiser. Even if people pay a quarter. I'd love to get my hands on some old ones!"
9. Arkansas - "Hello to everyone on this thread. In Arkansas Archives we keep a collection of Forum magazines. I have made an inventory of missing issues and shared that with the area. Many have donated these issues and as they come in, I take them off the list and periodically update the published list of needed issues. Due to space limitations as of a certain year we are now keeping only magazines with contributions from Arkansas members. The collection is organized in labeled binders and each issue is in a page sleeve with the staples removed. The extra issues or the ones we don't need are then 'recycled' for outreach projects such as prisons, groups, recovery institutions, etc. I like to copy some puzzles from the past issues and use these for handouts at assemblies. These seem to be popular. I lay them out on the archive display table which brings members to the display."

Respectfully submitted,

Maria S.
New York North Archives Coordinator