

**Fellowship Communication Action Committee
Minutes of March 28th, 2009**

Paula S. volunteered to serve as Fellowship Communication Action Committee chairperson and was elected by acclamation. She opened the meeting with a moment of silence, followed by the Serenity Prayer.

La Vaughn R. agreed to serve as Recorder "just for today".

Gina C., Alternate Delegate/Forum Coordinator, gave her coordinator's report in greater depth than allowed in the two-minute report she gave to the full Area World Service Committee (AWSC.) She said she only knows about three new groups and Elaine R. had said there were six new groups in New York North. She sends a welcome letter/packet to each new group that includes a copy of the Forum, the Group Representative (GR) Guidelines (with an explanation that the GR also serves as the Forum contact for the group) and the NYN bookmark with all the acronyms explained. Paula S. said she had handouts on what makes a healthy group that could be sent out as well.

Gina C. also said she had been considering sending out Happy Anniversary notes to these new groups upon their 1st anniversary. This stimulated an animated discussion about doing that for all groups with the following results: District Representatives (DRs) could obtain group anniversary dates from each GR. If the anniversary date is unknown, groups could be encouraged to contact the World Service Office for the information. Gina C. will also add the new groups information and groups having an anniversary to her Northern Hi Lights articles in future issues.

Nancy P., Northern Hi Lights editor, also gave a more in-depth report to the committee, stating that the newsletter is a communication tool and asking committee members for ideas on how best to make use of its 12 pages. For instance, since the area is beginning to implement Knowledge Based Decision Making (KBDM), she felt it could have increased the level of participation at the AWSC meeting if the agenda had been printed in the newsletter. Any Al-Anon member with an interest in one or more of the topics might have been attracted to attend the meeting.

Nancy P. also felt it might help to print a draft schedule of each upcoming assembly so that group members could read about the various meeting topics and activities ahead of time. This is KBDM in action as well.

Gina C. suggested that this committee might want to work up a wish list for each official part of Fellowship Communication (i.e., the newsletter, area archives, Forum and literature.) There was a suggestion that a calendar for all

events be featured in future issues of Northern Hi Lights. It was also suggested that a survey be done about what people would like to see different in the newsletter. DRs could bring it up to the GRs in their districts. The GRs can think about it, talk it over with their groups and bring ideas back to this action committee at Spring Convention/Assembly.

Pat H. wondered what the previous Fellowship Communication Action Committee had done for continuity. Paul S. discovered that the minutes for their last meeting were included in the chairperson's packet (another instance of KBDM). They had had a goal of using the four coordinators in a skit showing the difference between a healthy meeting and an unhealthy meeting.

Jean W., Literature Coordinator, shared the CAL Sample Chapter due April 15th, 2009, with committee members. It uses In All Our Affairs and solicits a brief quote from the book as well as five associated questions. It is something that can actually be done at an Al-Anon meeting.

Jean W. next used a laptop computer to show several of the e-CALs that had been submitted to the WSO. She noted that e-CAL has not taken off the way they had hoped it would, as there are few submission of late. She believes that the membership doesn't know how to make e-CAL using a computer. Gina C. reminded us that the average age in the fellowship is 55. La Vaughn R. suggested that we find Alateens (who have grown up making PowerPoint projects and are fully conversant with computers) be specifically invited to share their abilities and expertise at an area assembly.

All four coordinators were asked to send/bring a complete, in-depth report to the members of this action committee in the future.

A list of committee members' names, addresses (both snail and email) and telephone numbers was compiled at the meeting. La Vaughn R. will format it and send it out with the minutes to all members of the committee (including those unable to attend this first meeting.)

Paula S. summarized the to-do list for DRs at their next district meeting:

1. Survey GRs/groups to learn what they would like to see in the newsletter.
2. Find out the anniversary dates for all the groups in the district.
3. Update the GR group list for George S., the Group Records Coordinator.
4. Remind groups to re-new their subscriptions to Northern Hi Lights if it has lapsed.

5. Share a copy of “A new literature project: Using ...In All Our Affairs (B-15) for a meeting topic” with every GR.

Paula S. read the general goals provided to the committee and we were all surprised to learn that we had specific goals for them, as follows:

1. **To encourage use of CAL and the Forum.**
To be implemented by Gina R. giving out prior Forums to those that read her article in Northern Hi Lights and come up to her at the assembly.

To be implemented by each DR sharing the CAL Sample chapter handout with GRs/groups.
2. **To encourage member responses to needs for new literature.**
To be implemented by committee members brainstorming on how best to involve Alateens in helping us with creating e-CAL.
3. **To provide guidance on the use of CAL and the Forum in group meetings and outreach activities.**
To be implemented by each DR sharing the CAL Sample chapter handout with GRs/groups.
4. **To encourage sale of CAL and the Forum to agencies outside the fellowship as an outreach tool.**
To be considered at future committee meetings.
5. **To encourage use of the area newsletter as a communication tool.**
To be implemented by having each DR survey GRs/groups to learn what they would like to see in Northern Hi Lights and bringing the information back to this committee.

To be implemented by having each DR check to see if a group’s subscription to Northern Hi Lights has expired and encouraging said group to pay for the subscription.
6. **To record the history of the groups.**
Gina R. will congratulate groups on their anniversaries in her newsletter articles, which will require that DRs facilitate each group learning its anniversary date if it is currently unknown and then sharing the resulting information with Gina.

Respectfully submitted,

La Vaughn R.
Recorder "Just for Today"