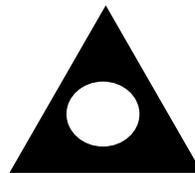


★★ JANUARY Bulletin 2023 ★★

AFG of Mass / Literature Distribution Center
57 East Main St Suite 109 Westborough, MA 01581-1457
Mon – Fri 9am-4pm



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Website: alanonMA.org

LDC online store: alanonMA.org/literature-store/

Directions to Westborough office: From Mass pike and Rte 495
Mass Pike exit 58 to 495 North. Then Exit 59 B to Rte. 9 West
go 1.3 miles to Rte. 30 West and circle under Rte 9. Go 1.3 miles
to 57 East Main St (Downtown Crossing) on your left. It is
across from CVS. Enter the lobby under the clock tower – office
is at left of elevator.

Alternate route from Rte. 9: If heading east, turn right on to
Lyman St. or, if heading west, turn left on to Lyman St. At end of
Lyman St, turn right on to Rt 30 which is East Main St
[How to visit office during Covid-19.](#)

NOTE: Our MA meeting list and events are listed on our website
alanonMA.org.

Group and individual member donations to MA Al-Anon and
Alateen can be made online at alanonMA.org/contribute/
Other helpful links can be found on the World Service Website:
Al-Anon.org

Be sure this bulletin is available for all members to review at each
meeting.

Area World Service Committee meetings for all District Reps, Coordinators, Area officers & interested members.
Have your *Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual*, Area 25 documents i.e.: By Laws etc & minutes from the last meeting

Meeting dates: 2023 1/8, 2/5, 4/2, 6/4 from 1-4pm – held virtually

Information will be emailed to AWSC the week before meeting and will include Zoom information. All members welcome. Please
call the Area Office at (508) 366-0556 – Mon-Fri (9am to 4pm) if you would like to attend meeting and do not have zoom information

Area 25 – Panel 62 Coordinators

Alateen Coordinator:
Alt. Alateen Coordinator:
Archives Coordinator:
Budget Coordinator: budget@alanonma.org
Institutions Coordinator
Literature Coordinator:
Public Information Coordinator: outreach@alanonma.org
Ways & Means Coordinator:
Website Coordinator: website@alanonma.org
Liaison to AA Coordinator: Liaison2AA@alanonma.org

Area 25 – Panel 62 Officers & Other AWSC

Area Delegate: delegate@alanonma.org
Area Alt. Delegate: altdelegate@alanonma.org
Area Chair: chair@alanonma.org
Area Secretary: secretary@alanonma.org
Area Treasurer: treasurer@alanonma.org
Convention 2023: convention@alanonma.org
MAC 2023: mac@alanonma.org

From your Area Delegate – Welcome to 2023 dear Fellowship! This month brings up back to Step One and Tradition One, a home base, the beginning of the journey. It is a chance for all of us to reflect upon the upcoming year and for your trusted servants at the Area Level to think strategically about what our vision for the year might be. We have come through extraordinary times and are now understanding PEGs are here to stay. We need to address the issue of Tradition 7 in our electronic meetings. The Task Force on Permanent Electronic Groups (of which I am a member) is hard at work putting together suggested procedures for accepting these meetings into our Area service structure. These recommendations will be presented to the Area World Service Committee for approval when we're done.

Please go to the WSO web page and look at the International Convention June 29-July2 and all that it will offer. I hope you will consider attending.

I am beginning to get material on the World Service Conference which will be held in April in Virginia Beach this year. The conference has been shortened from five to four days so it will be jam packed! No word on Love Gifts yet but the Conference Leadership Team meets next week so I'll know then and will post on our website. I'll also let those of you who are wondering, "And WHAT is a Love Gift?" further details!!

Al-Anon stays strong because every member counts and any service each of you does matters so much. I will focus this month on living in my powerlessness, which has become a true gift. I have so much peace of mind knowing the limits of my abilities!

Love in service, Jane P., Area Delegate

From your Area Chair – Happy New Year everyone,

It doesn't seem possible to me that a whole year has passed since I became (initially temporary) Area Chair. Having just reviewed the agendas from our Area meetings I'm surprised to remember how much we have, together, accomplished. Along with the routine activities necessary to keeping Area 25 functioning we have:

- implemented shared Zoom accounts to reduce costs to Groups & relieve individual members from utilizing their private accounts;
- created an approved policies and procedures for allocating money received via bequests;
- created policies that will allow us to attach Permanent Electronic Groups (PEGs) to Area Service Arms
- held our 5th virtual Assembly in the spring and a fully integrated hybrid Assembly in the fall
- held a joint in-person and virtual Convention last March
- revised and approved the Convention Requirements job descriptions & guidelines
- had both the Diversity Task Force and Technology Thought Force operate all year. The Technology Thought Force's recommendations have been decided upon and the process of implementing them begun. The Diversity Task Force's report is forthcoming

I want to most sincerely thank everyone who has worked so hard this year to create this list!

All that being said, we have our challenges before us. The pandemic continues, albeit in a somewhat more muted form. Many (probably most) meetings continue to meet virtually. Many of those meetings have seen a decline in membership and increased difficulties in collecting 7th Tradition donations. Our Alateen structure has become a ghost of what it once was and we have just lost our Area Alateen Coordinator. Continuing supply chain problems have made obtaining printed literature difficult and frustrating. Almost half our Districts (9 out of 24) remain "dark" – i.e. having no District Representative, thus breaking a critical information link of service – and many Groups don't have an active Group Representative. With on-going expenses, both the Area and World Service Office are struggling financially. In addition, we need to solicit projects for our current bequest money, create and approve procedures for incorporating PEGs into our Service Arms, and figure out how to have our next Assembly in May not to mention building Alateen back up and following up on our Diversity Taskforce and Technology Thought Force final reports. All of which ignores the unfolding of unexpected questions and events ("more will be revealed").

So, as we begin the New Year and engage in the traditional dual action of looking back and looking forward, I want to remind you that Al-Anon is a self-sustaining organization of volunteers who give generously of their time, energy and money and that we, as an organization at every level, need it all. We've had a great year and we have great momentum to accomplish more in the year ahead. So, thank you for all you do and may serenity, courage, knowledge, patience, gratitude, compassion, and faith in a Higher Power bless you this coming year. Be safe and warm.

Yours in service, Paul G.

From your 2023 Convention Committee – Massachusetts Al-Anon/Alateen Convention with AA Participation:

It's only a few months away and coming fast! From Friday, March 24th to Sunday, March 26th, 2023, Area 25 will be hosting our 46th Annual Massachusetts Al-Anon/Alateen Convention with AA Participation at the Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel in Marlborough, MA! Our theme this year is "Recovery Through Action". As always, we're planning to have amazing speakers, raffle baskets, fun, and plenty of workshops to attend. Early registration rates are available from now until February 23rd, 2023.

Go to <https://alanonma.org/23conventionregister> for more information. Please be on the lookout in next month's bulletin for more information including volunteer opportunities for Convention. If you have any questions about Convention or are interested in volunteering at Convention, please email Liz F, Convention Chair, at convention@alanonma.org. For any registration questions pertaining to convention, please email massAFGconvention@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you there.

Jaclyn F., Publicity Chair for Convention 2023

Opportunity for Fun and Rewarding Service –

Through the generosity of deceased Al-Anon members, AFG of Massachusetts presently has a Bequest Account for projects to enhance Al-Anon or Alateen in Massachusetts. This special funding is beyond that which falls within our annual budget. Groups, Districts or Area Committees are encouraged to use their imaginations to develop proposals that will help families and friends of alcoholics in our state. Possibly Public Outreach, Member Services, Office Improvement, Links of Service, Technology or other Inspirational Ideas?

The Fall Assembly approved the formation of a **Bequest Work Group** to assist groups in the final formation of their ideas and the application process. The work group will review the proposals and present them to the Area and Assembly for approval. Are you a current or former Delegate, DR, GR or active member at large? Consider becoming part of the process to enhance Al-anon in Massachusetts in so many different ways! Please contact Wendy at treasurer@alanonma.org for more information on how to become a part of the Work Group.

From your Website Coordinator -

Did You Know- that the Monthly Bulletin can be found in 3 ways on the Website? It is currently listed on the Announcement Bar at the top of the page. It can also be found under 2 different dropdowns (Events & Store)

By -the-Numbers-There are currently 149 listed online meetings on our website and 80 of them are using the Area's Shared Virtual Account. Each of these meetings saves more than \$100 each because of this Program. What a terrific opportunity for groups to consider sharing some of that savings with the Area!

What's New this Month-Our outgoing Website Coordinator, Terry S, transitioned to a Website Wizards Team Member and the AWSC voted me in as the new Website Coordinator. It is with humility and my HP that I accept this opportunity for growth in service to our Al-Anon Community. I want to thank Terry for her guidance, support and commitment over the past few years as the Website Coordinator.

Finally, if you are considering some type of service as your New Year's Resolution, check out the Get Involved Tile on our Website home page. I can never give back all I have received from Al-Anon, but I can give what I can!

In Service, Dave B. Website Coordinator

From your Public Information Coordinator

The Massachusetts Outreach Committee invites all individuals, groups, and districts to distribute Al-Anon posters in your community.

People suffer from the effects of alcoholism year-round, but the holidays can be especially difficult. How grateful we are to have Al-Anon to help us recover. Step 12 reminds us to carry the message to others!

Here's our challenge to you:

Print and distribute posters or share poster PDFs if electronic is an option. Do it on your own, or work together with an Al-Anon friend, organize as a group, or as a district.

The Poster Challenge runs from January 1 through March 31, 2023.

Watch for details available at alanonma.org.

Contact me with questions at Outreach@alanonma.org.

Let it begin with me, Lisa R.

January 2023 Events

Sun 1 Watertown - "Beginners Waltz AFG" is hosting a New Year's Day Al-Anon-A-Thon starting at 10:00am-5:00pm (last meeting 4:00pm) Watertown Methodist Church, 80 Mt. Auburn St. All Welcome! In person only

Mon 2 Westboro – Westboro office closed

Mon 16 Westboro – Westboro office closed

Sun 22 Rocky Hill, CT - "Serenity Breakfast", Sheraton South Hotel, 100 Capital Boulevard, Rocky Hill, CT, Reg from 8-8:45am, go to ctalanon.org for more information

Fri 27 West Bridgewater - "Fellowship and Freedom AFG" West Bridgewater Community Church, 83 North Elm St., 5:30pm, 14th Anniversary

Sat 28 Longmeadow - "Steps to a New Day AFG" First Church of Christ, 763 Longmeadow St., (enter by side door), 9:00am, 34th Anniversary (if Longmeadow issue parking ban, event will be postponed)

Upcoming events

Feb 17-20 Mansfield - Southeastern MA "Expect Miracles" AA Roundup with Al-Anon participation. Organized by recovering members of LGBTQIA + community. ALL are welcome. Envision Hotel & Conference Center, Mansfield, MA. Details at semru.org

Mar 24-26 Marlboro - **46th Massachusetts Al-Anon/Alateen Convention** – Hybrid – Best Western Marlboro

Mar 25-26 Rocky Hill, CT 45th Connecticut Al-Anon/Alateen Convention – Sheraton Hartford South Hotel, 100 Capital Boulevard, Rocky Hill, CT.go to ctalanon.org for more information

Jun/Jul 29-2 NM Al-Anon International Convention (more information al-anon.org/international)

Thought for the month

1. Admitimos que eramos incapaces de afrontar solos el alcohol, y que nuestra vida se habia vuelto ingobenable.

New Meetings & Meetings that have changed location/time/status as of 12/31/22

Tue	New	Mashpee	OD	6:30pm Christ the King Church, 7 Jobs Fishing Rd
Wed	New	Milton	CD	6:30pm St. Agatha School, 440 Adams St.
Sat	New	Ware	OD	9:00am United Church, 49 Church St

DAY	Date	Will Meet	Town	Time
These groups have reported they <u>ARE</u> meeting. Please see http://www.alanonma.org meeting list for details				
Sun	1/1/23	In person & online	Concord	9:00am
Sun	1/1/23	In person –Al-Anon-A-Thon	Watertown	10:00am-5:00pm
Sun	1/1/23	In person	Westwood	8:30am
Sun	1/1/23	In person	Westwood	10:00am

Next District meeting for all Group Reps, Alt Group Reps and interested members

District	Date	Time	Virtual Login information
1	Jan 3	7:00pm	Meeting on Zoom Meeting ID: 933 4214 7075 Passcode: 123456 Dial In: 929-205-6099
4	Jan 22	8:30am	Meeting on Zoom Meeting ID: 893 2955 9826 Passcode: 123456 Dial In: 929-205-6099
7	Jan 22	5:00pm	Meeting on Zoom Meeting ID: 861 9669 7894 Passcode: 123456 Dial In: 929-205-6099
9	Jan 11	7:00pm	Meeting on Zoom Meeting ID: 811 3167 3360 Passcode: 123456 Dial In: 929-205-6099
11	Jan 16	7:00pm	Meeting on Zoom Meeting ID: 857 1280 6233 Passcode: 123456 Dial In: 929-205-6099
15	Jan 17	7:00pm	Meeting on Zoom Meeting ID: 827 8952 5989 Passcode: 123456
17	Jan 9	7:00pm	Meeting on Zoom Meeting ID: 987 7092 1691 Passcode: 123456 Dial In: 929-205-6099
21	Jan 10	6:45pm	Meeting on Zoom Meeting ID: 898 1522 1786 Passcode: 123456 Dial In: 1-646-558-8658

AIS/LDC News from your Area office in Westboro

The Westboro Area Office received a damaged \$50 check donation from Adrienne K. C. (North of Boston).Part of the check is missing so we are unable to ascertain if it's a personal check or for a group. If you know this person please reach out to her and have her call the office at 508-366-0556.

In the **Financial Matters** section of the *Digest of Al-Anon and Alateen Policies* we read of the Spiritual Principles of Al-Anon's Self Support. P-24/27 v2 pg. 102-110. These Polices guide AFG of Mass, Inc. in applying the Seventh Tradition within our Area. **The Area office is often challenged when receiving donations with incomplete or unclear information.**

Whether you make your donation via check, money order, our on line options or an online banking system here are ways you can help:

- Member making personal donation: indicate 'Personal Donation'. In any calendar year this can be up to one percent of the total revenue of AFG of Mass Inc. in the previous year. Contact the office for details.
- Member making donation on behalf of your group: include group number, day and location
- Member making donation on behalf of your district: include district number
- Members making donation in memory of anyone: indicate 'Personal Donation'
- Family member making donation in memory of an Al-Anon/Alateen member: include information about the deceased's membership.
- Member making donation via their personal retirement account should notify us in advance to expect the check. Since these arrive with no details about the sender they cannot not be accepted without knowing who the donor is.
- Member naming AFG of Mass Inc. as a beneficiary of their estate should notify us in advance.