

The Sunshiner

Volume 2, Issue 4

October 2007

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Tradition 10

The Al-Anon Family Groups have no opinion on outside issues; hence our name ought never be drawn into public controversy.

Up-Coming Fall Assembly

November 2 - 4, 2007

Fall Assembly is almost here and there are things that all members and Group Representatives need to be thinking about. Please read the information in the Sunshiner to help familiarize yourself with some of the issues at hand. For the good of Al-Anon it is important that we all make knowledge-based decisions when we vote. If you plan to be at the Assembly and do not qualify to vote, remember that voicing your opinion on an issue is important as well.

Come prepared with your Service Manual & please read Concepts 7 & 8 as these will be discussed at the Assembly.

Dress comfortably and bring a sweater if you are

easily chilled.

Plan on being present for the whole Assembly which starts on Friday evening and of course bring along your patience. I am bringing mine in a little box with a bow which I will place in front of me for when I need it. Perhaps you would like to bring your own decorated box of patience along for fun!

We all get tired at Assembly, it is a lot of work, yet we do have breaks & time for fun. Going out to dinner with a

group of Al-Anoners is a treat to be remembered. Our dinner table had 9 women & 1 man. Mr. H. endured some major teasing but he was a very good sport!

Hope to see you all at the Fall Assembly!

Mary W.
Sunshiner Coordinator



Our anonymous dinner photo.

A Tiny Tradition Ten Story by J. G.

Tradition 10 also reminds us that our AFG meetings are not where we conduct personal business. Our personal business is an outside issue. One night a member approached other members as they came through the door, selling gift wrap. She was helping her grandson with a school project. It was a worthy cause but it had nothing to do with the meeting. I felt like an ogre when I said no because this woman clearly expected me to buy something. I was uncomfortable with what was going on. This took place during the meeting's fellowship time, the time we usually speak with newcomers before the meeting. Things like this may seem so innocent but they are actually outside intrusions that can harm the group. A group business meeting and reading Tradition 10 from CAL got us back on track.



Calendar of Events Florida South

- EVENTS 2007 -

Oct. 2 - Day of Workshops

7:30AM Fellowship—Bring a break-fast food.

Meetings start 9:00 AM-2:00 PM
Royal Palms Christian Church
9600 Royal Palm Blvd.
Coral Springs
Cost: \$5 - Lunch \$5

Nov. 2—4 Fall Assembly

Fri. 2—Sun. 4, 2007
Clarion Hotel
12635 So. Cleveland Ave.
Fort Myers, FL

Nov. 17 Gratitude Dinner

Faith Presbyterian Church
275 Alameda Road
Palm Springs, FL 33461
Time 6:30 PM Donation \$5
Bring Covered dish to share
Call Jeannine



EVENTS OUTSIDE OUR AREA

2008 July 4-6, in Pittsburg, PA
International Al-Anon Convention
Registration forms will be out
sometime in September 2007
\$105 by Dec 31, 2007
\$125 from Jan 1-May 31, 2008
\$150 after May 31 or on-site

2010 July 4th weekend
San Antonio, TX
AA International Convention:
with Al-Anon participation

2013
International Al-Anon Conven-
tion: More information to fol-
low.

CROSSTALK IS NOT AN AL-ANON TERM

There was a short discussion at Assembly **asking members to consider** dropping the term Crosstalk from "Al-Anon's Vocabulary." This term wiggled its way into program but has never been an Al-Anon term nor does it fit with the idea in our Suggested Welcome of Loving Interchange Among Members.

Some meetings warn members that "Crosstalk" is not tolerated and sometimes a member is not too gently, interrupted by another member of the group with, "**We have NO Crosstalk here!**" OUCH!

It's true that some people go on and on, they interrupt others, give advice, dominating the meeting with their own self-centeredness. I have a difficult time letting this go on — I want to jump right in and "straighten them out" but this is when I am asked to use the idea of

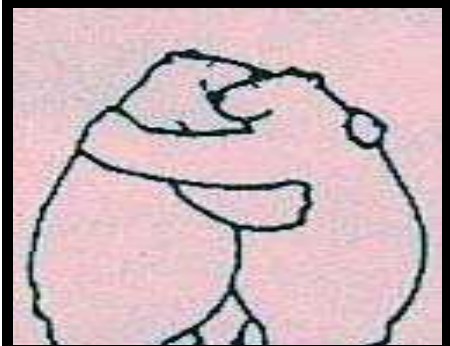
Loving Interchange Among Members. This spiritual principle teaches us to be kind, accepting & patient, while giving the inexperienced or immature member time to catch on. It is more loving & helpful to take the member aside and gently explain the courtesies of the meeting & the 3 obstacles to success in Al-Anon which are found on pages 34 & 52 in the Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual (Gossip, Dominance & Discussion of Religion).

In How Al-Anon Works, there is a chapter on Communication. Part of it talks about how communication is not always what we say or do not say but it also on how we say it. Not only our choice of words, but also our attitudes, facial expressions and tone of voice. These things can either open a channel or slam a door, regardless of the subject being discussed. It suggests that any message can be conveyed with

courtesy, even one of outrage.

Perhaps we need to understand these 3 obstacles more clearly ourselves & practice communicating courtesy even with those who are not being courteous to us. Love is catchy!

Mary W
District 200



Try Loving Interchange

FLORIDA SOUTH AWSC CONTACT LIST - PANEL 46

Personal contact numbers and private information is not posted on the web site. This information has been removed from the on-line issue of the Sunshiner

Continued Panel 46 List

THINK Before you Link

Using the web site of an outside organization on Al-Anon correspondence, flyers or on our Al-Anon web site could imply endorsement, if not affiliation, regardless of the contents. A site to which you have linked may display information that is objectionable to Al-Anon's Traditions and to the spiritual based ideals of our program.

We hold Al-Anon events in churches and retreats and have to give an address for our members to find that event. That is okay but adding the church's or retreat's web site is not necessary and could be viewed as affiliation or advertisement for this organization.

Please see S-66, F.A.Q. for Al-Anon Web Sites. This little piece of CAL strongly suggest that when considering linking to another site, one must proceed with caution.

-anonymous -

Ask - It - Basket

Questions & Answers

Q: Who is eligible to vote at District/AIS Meetings?

Q: What defines group level & above group level?

Q: Can dual members of AA hold positions & vote at the District / AIS level?

Answers:

An Al-Anon Group may consist of any two or more individuals coming together for mutual help.

Page 53 of the Service Manual talks about beyond the Group Level, Districts are a number of Groups within a geographical part of a city, state or province that meet as needed. Areas are comprised of Groups & Districts in a specific geographical space.

At the World Service Conference each Area is allowed one vote. At the Assembly each Group is allowed one vote. At District meeting each Group is allowed one vote. At AIS meetings each Group is allowed one vote.

Dual members are not allowed to vote beyond the Group level,

which means they may not vote at District, Assembly or the World Service Conference

Dual members may not hold office beyond the Group level, as these positions could lead to membership in the World Service Conference. The WSC will not seat an Alateen or Al-Anon dual member. Page 70

At our District meeting we have roll call of the groups, answered by the GR or person the Group has designated to represent them. We then take a count and form a quorum to see how many voters we have in the room. If you are not a GR or someone designated by your Group you may not vote.

It is the Group's responsibility to have someone represent them at the District and at Assembly meetings. If they are not represented they not only lose their vote they lose their voice and then they are not part of Al-Anon as a whole. Page 118

There is a long standing principle of one vote per group, which was reaffirmed by the 1975 World Service Conference and applies as well to officer's of the Area World Service Committee. They retain their vote at the Assembly only if they are a GR. Page 118.

Georgia C
District #140

Q: Can dual members of AA hold positions & vote at the District / AIS level?

A: This answer is "No." Please see page 70 in the Service Manual.

Kathy D.
DR #140 _____

Questions for Next Issue:

Q: Is it okay to tape record Group Business Meetings, District/AIS Meetings or Assembly Meetings to help the secretary with her notes?

Q: If any one member objects is it okay to record the meeting anyway as long as most members are in agreement?

Q: Would it be considered a violation of one's personal anonymity to be unwillingly recorded or is one's personal anonymity only important at the public level of Press, Radio, Films, TV and the Internet? _____

*** Your participation is appreciated! I forgot to mention that quotes from out literature cannot be printed without permission so please just use your own words with a page number from CAL to back up your statements. Send to:**

Sunshiner46@hotmail.com

Agenda Topics (Changes)

At this past World Service meeting I talked about Chosen Agenda Topics. I received my notification today and there have been some changes in the way we are going to handle the chosen Agenda Topics. Each Delegate is allowed to submit two topics. This year they would like the topics to revolve around the theme for next year's conference and they are asking for topics for discussion rather than questions.

The theme is:

"BUILD BRIDGES-ENERGIZING OUR SPIRITUAL QUEST."

Before submitting a topic we have to ask:

- Does the topic merit an in-depth discussion on the

Conference floor?

- Does the topic relate to the Conference theme?
- Are sufficient backup facts and information provided, taking care that opinions have been avoided?
- Are you clear about what the topic is?

And remember the topics have to affect Al-Anon worldwide.

Sounds like we have our work cut out for us, If you want to submit your topics before Assembly that is fine, if not please bring them to Assembly.

Thank you for your help in shared leadership,
Georgia C
Florida South Delegate

**Florida South Assembly Meeting
Area 10 – Panel 46
May 4-5, 2007
Ft. Myers, Florida**

MINUTES;

Friday – May 4, 2007

The meeting was called to order by Juliette L., Chairperson, at 8:00 PM with a Moment of Silence followed by the Serenity Prayer.

The Traditions, Concepts and General Warranties were read.

Held an 'informed decision' discussion on any agenda items.

Coordinator's Reports:

Archivist – report given by Jennifer D.

- Brought display to Assembly
- There will be a joint display with all Districts for the convention
- She is available to bring archives to your district

Sunshiner – report given by Mary W.

- Deadline for next Sunshiner is August 20th
- Sunshiner cost went up \$1.00
- Be sure address and name are correct with Group Records so newsletters are not returned
- Ask-It-Basket responses need to include the page and name of CAL literature
- DR & AISL get complimentary copies of the Sunshiner

Literature – report given by Judy N.

- The new book dealing with loss and grief called "Opening Our Hearts Transforming Our Losses" is available for \$14.00
- GR's can order copies of the book online at www.al-anon.org/members. The book # is B-29

Alateen – report given by Margot O..

- Reported on what each District is doing
- Alateen Conference is July 27-29 at Stetson University in Deland – She is in need of volunteers, call Michael Sue at xxx-xxx-xxxx if interested
- Need volunteers at the Al-Anon/Alateen Conference on August 24-26 in Naples. Call Kristi at xxx-xxx-xxxx if interested.

CPC—report given by Patte W.

- Al-Anon will be participating in the 6th Annual Substance Abuse Conference is coming up in

June in Ft. Myres.

- Deadline for ordering the next Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism 2008 is July 16, 2007
- Crying House Bookmarks are temporarily out of print, they are being revised

The meeting recessed at 9:09PM with the Serenity Prayer followed by the Al-Anon Declaration.

Saturday—May 5, 2007

The meeting reconvened at 9:00 AM by Juliette L. with a Moment of Silence followed by the Serenity Prayer.

Announcements:

- * Spanish translation is available during the Assembly
- * Need volunteers to chair meetings at the convention
- * Suggestion box is throughout the Assembly
- * 47 copies of the new book are available for sale and they will be sold by a raffle drawing

Coordinator Breakout Meetings were conducted.

Registration closed

There was a 15 minute break

The meeting reconvened at with a Moment of Silence followed by the Serenity Prayer.

Roll call was taken and a quorum was established.

District #	# Group Reps	# Non-voting	Total
130	10	2	12
140	18	6	24
150	7	1	8
159	14	4	18
160	9	1	10
169	5	1	6
170	9	3	12
180	8	5	13
189	9	0	1
190	6	2	8
200	6	2	8
209	1	2	3

Total 102 2 131

Number of registered GR's - 102

Quorum: 2/3 of registrations - 68

MOTION A

Motion made by AWSC

"A group that is in the process of registering with WSO and doesn't have a number, but is registered with Area Group Records and sends a GR to Assembly be allowed to vote if known by DR of that district."

Vote: yes – 98 no – 3
 abstain - 0
 Motion passed

Tax-Exempt Report – given by Stu M., Dist. 180

- We have been granted tax exempt status by the IRS
- Waiting for the State Tax Exemption certificate
- The tax exemption will only be for Area functions that have a substantial amount of sales tax (Assembly, AWSC, Al-Anon/Alateen Conventions)
- Tax Exempt certificate will be held by the Area Treasurer

Minutes from the 2006 Fall Assembly were read by Shirley W. Area Secretary.

MOTION B

To approve minutes as corrected
 Motion made by Birdie W. from District 140
 Second by Kelly G. from District 189

Verbal “I” vote was taken.
 Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Diane B. from District 150
 Second by Rene L

MOTION # 1

Betty N. be admitted as a non voting member to the Assembly

Verbal “I” vote was taken.
 Motion passed unanimously.

Spanish Coordinator report was given by Cintia C. Dist 190

- Made contact with Districts that have Spanish meeting
- A list of volunteers to translate at area events has been started. Please announce in your district that volunteers are needed.
- Contacted the AIS office to verify that intergrupo has been receiving all messages

There was a 15 minute break
 The meeting reconvened at with a Moment of Silence followed by the Serenity Prayer
 Count of voting members was taken and there were 96

MOTION # 2

I move that corrections to previous minutes be included in detail in the meeting minutes
 Motion Made by Christi M. from District 140
 Second by Fran B. from District 140
 Motion was discussed

Vote: yes – 32 no – 55 ab-
 stain - 9
 Motion did not pass

MOTION # 3

I move that suggestions from the suggestion box be included in writing in the meeting minutes
 Motion Made by Christi M. from District 140
 Second by Patti R. from District 140

Vote: yes – 28 no – 60
 abstain - 10
 Motion did not pass

MOTION # 4

I move that the position of CPC, PI, and Institutions Coordinator be combined into one Public Outreach Coordinator as it is at WSO.
 Motion Made by Diane B. from District 150
 Second by Lorraine A. from District 150
 Motion was discussed

Vote: yes – 96 no – 3
 abstain - 2
 Motion did pass

Chairperson asked current CPC Coordinator, Patte W, if she would serve all three positions and she agreed.

MOTION # 5

I move that the Assembly pay in part or whole the expenses of a translator to future conferences. The Translator would assist the Spanish Coordinator with the day long task of simultaneous translation.
 Motion Made by Sean E. from District 190
 Second by Cintia from District 190
 Motion was discussed

Motion was withdrawn.
 Assembly agreed with a verbal ‘I’ to withdraw the motion.

MOTION # 6

I move that the Tradition 3 reads: “Those affected by another person’s use of alcohol ...” as opposed to: “the relatives of alcoholics...”
 Motion Made by Letizia from District 190
 There was no second to the motion

2008 AA Convention Report was given by Wilma from District 189

- Convention will be held in Ft. Lauderdale at the Marriott Harbor Resort Beach and Spa on August 13-17
- Wilma is the Al-Anon chairperson for the convention
- Theme is Happy, Joyous and Free
- Looking for more participation so more

-continued from page 7-

workshops can be held

- Contact Wilma at xxxxxxxxxx if you would like to volunteer

MOTION # 7

I move that the Assembly pay for the expenses of a translator to assist the Spanish Coordinator with the task of day long simultaneous translation. The Assembly would cover the same expenses that a group covers for a GR to attend the Assembly. This person would need to be an AI-Anon member. They would not need to be a professional translator. They would not be paid for translating; it would be considered an opportunity for service.

Motion Made by Sean E. from District 190

Second by Cintia from District 190

Motion was discussed

Closed ballot was requested

Vote: yes – 72 no – 23
abstain - 7
Motion did pass

Chairperson made the point that AA members may not serve as a GR

Treasures report was given by Carol M., Area Treasurer

- Year end report for 12/31/06 was presented and discussed
- Discussed treasures report
- Contributions need to include the District number and the address is:
 FL South Assembly
 PO Box 112256
 Naples, FL 34108
- The reimbursement procedures were reviewed

MOTION C

To accept Treasurer's report

Motion made by Marion H. from District 150

Second by Corey K. from District 200

Verbal "I" vote was taken.

Motion passed unanimously

Basket was passed

Meeting adjourned for lunch until 2:30

The meeting reconvened at 2:30 with a Moment of Silence followed by the Serenity Prayer.

Delegate's report was given by Georgia C.

Conference Overview

- Conference focus was New Thinking, New Energy, and Abundant Outlook
- There will be a lot of changes in the 2007-2009 Service Manual
- Reviewed actions of the World Service

Handbook Committee and Policy Committee

- Cleaned up description text in Concepts 8, 9, 10 and 12
- Conference discussed the regional service seminars, should they continue? There will be a RSS Committee meeting in July to discuss the matter further. There will not be a 2008 Regional Service Seminar
- In 2008 the new Regional Trustee Plan to elect our Regional Trustees will start. Southeast Region is without a Regional Trustee at this time. If you are interested submit your name and resume by August 15, 2007
- E-CAL needs your help – they need someone to write the text and do the graphics
- Alateen discussion was on how to get the word out to younger generations. Alateen is turning 50 this year
- Conference approved the Alateen Traditions
- Change was made to the book How AI-Anon works for the Families and Friends of Alcoholics; the change was to move the Concepts to a prominent position.
- Three international representatives attended. They were from Germany, Australia and Mexico
- Big Thinking Question – please fill out the Big Thinking Question Forms and place them in the box to be shared in the Sunshiner
- Shared group problems that were discussed –
- Up coming events -
 - 2008 International AI-Anon Convention in Pittsburgh, July 4-6, 2008. Early bird registration fee is \$105.00
 - 2008 World Service Conference is April 12-17, 2008 in New York
 - 2013 International AI-Anon Convention site selection was narrowed down to three, they will be announced in the fall
- 2010 AA International Convention with AI-Anon participation is in San Antonio, TX the weekend of July 4th, more information to follow.

The new PSA was shown

Pass the Basket totaled \$xxx.xx

Alternate Delegate's Report was given by Debbie V.

- Workshop was conducted on Concepts 5 and 6
- Concepts 7 and 8 will be discussed at the Fall Assembly

Breakout Meeting Summaries

Spanish Liaison report given by Cintia C.

Discussed -

1. Communication between intergrupo and Area
2. Structure of intergrupo and district
3. Will inquire about experiences from other areas with Spanish population

Archives report given by Jennifer D.

Discussed –

1. The taking of pictures
2. Holding archives parties
3. Convention project between all districts
- 4.

CPC report given by Patte W.

Discussed –

1. Contacting doctors and lawyers
2. Giving Crying House Bookmarks to the sheriff's office
3. Getting Alateen in the schools
4. Possibility of exposing your anonymity when doing public outreach
5. Leaving literature a various offices

Sunshiner report given by Mary W.

Discussed –

1. Basic newsletter information
2. What and what not to put into the newsletter
3. Sunshiner information

Literature report given by Judy N.

Discussed –

1. Release of the new book
2. Crosstalk and the concept of the Forum
3. Executive committee establishes prices and shipping cost
4. Selling of Al-Anon books commercially

Officers report given by Debbie V.

Discussed –

1. Tax exempt status
2. Coordinator positions that are available

Alateen report given by Margot O.

Discussed –

1. How to get into the schools
2. How to encourage people to do services
3. Books and literature that are available
4. Alateen tool kit

There was a 10 minute break

Meeting reconvened with a Moment of Silence followed by the Serenity Prayer.

2007 Convention Report was given by Judy N

- Registrations being taken
- Menu for the banquet is a buffet with salad, prime rib, salmon, pasta, vegetables and desert
- Convention is August 24-26 at the

Naples Hilton

- Please take news of the convention back to your groups
- AWSC Resolution
"Resolution to name next year's convention Chairperson and Treasurer and they are authorized to change the names currently on the checking account to their names at the time they take over the checking account."

Verbal vote was taken to approve resolution
Resolution approved unanimously

2007 Alateen Conference report was given by Michael Sue

- It is July 27-29 at Stetson University in Deland
- This is the last year for North and South Florida to be combined at a conference
- Need boutique and raffle items
- Need volunteer to help
- Discussed how to raise money for Alateens to come to the conference

2008 Service Seminar will be hosted by District 169.
More details to follow.

2008 Al-Anon Convention Report given by Becky R.

- Hotel is in Ft. Lauderdale and the dates are September 26-28, 2008
- Pre-registration will be held at the end of the 2007 convention

MOTION # 8

I move that we drop the "Our Father" as the closing prayer of our Assembly and use only the AL-Anon Declaration for our close.

Motion Made by Sean E. from District 190
Second by Jan B. from District 169

Closed vote was requested

Vote: yes – 27 no – 70
abstain - 3
Motion did not pass

Announcements and Calendar of Events were discussed.

Suggestions from the suggestions box were read.

Meeting was adjourned by Juliette L. at 4:50 PM with the Lord's Prayer and Al-Anon declaration.

Submitted by

Shirley W.
Area Secretary
Area 10 – Panel 46

Treasurer Report

Carol M. - Area 10 Treasurer

Working Tradition Seven

It is important to remember that regular contributions from each Group in the Area.
NO MATTER HOW SMALL
will make a difference.

Please send your Area contributions to:
FLORIDA SOUTH AREA ASSEMBLY
P.O. BOX 112256
NAPLES, FLORIDA 34108

Write Group ID # on check

A Special Thanks & Big Hugs

To the people behind the scenes who help me get this newsletter out to the Area.

Proof readers: Priscilla R.(200) & Corey K.(200)

Computer help:

Kathy H.(200) & Kelly G.(189)

Pre-addressed Labels: Alina VT (200)

Posting on the web: Becky E (130)

Helping to fold, label, seal & stamp:

Juanita C., Hannah N., & Barbara H. (all 200)

And Vicqui (200), for holding the Post Office door open for me.

Your service makes my job so easy. MW

Birds of a Feather 2007 Convention Recap

Birds of a feather were certainly flocking together the weekend of August 24 – 26, 2007 at the Hilton Inn, Naples, FL. From the time registration opened on Friday afternoon until the end of closing ceremonies on Sunday, there was a buzz of excitement in the air.

Some of the highlights of the weekend were:

- A hilarious skit written by the Entertainment Committee and performed by the Convention Committee (with a couple of “extras” pulled from the crowd.)
- Incredible speakers – some of the best I have heard
- A delicious banquet followed by the raffle, a speaker and a fun dance
- Workshops that were just incredible
- A Boutique that people were raving about, with terrific recovery-related items for purchase
- A Literature room with a broad selection of Al-Anon and AA literature along with a very nice display from the area archives
- Sensational raffle baskets to be won

All of these things contributed to the great success of the 2007 Florida South Area Convention, but the most important thing of all was the people (over 500 of you) who attended with hearts geared for recovery and fellowship. There was truly a magical atmosphere surrounding the entire event.

As co-chair of the organizing committee, I can't help but be proud when I reflect on the wonderful weekend we had. I am very grateful to have had the opportunity to work with such a positive and cooperative committee and to have been able to return in small measure some of what this program has given me.

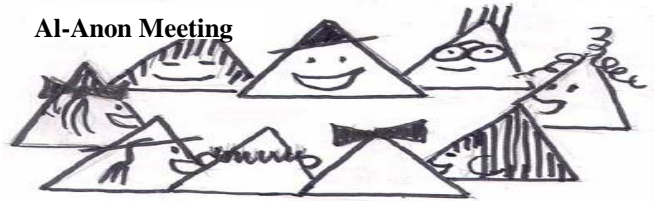
The success of this convention is already bearing fruit, as the 2008 committee is complete, including someone who has stepped forward to chair the event in 2009!

Yours in Service,
Marian H.
Florida South
2007 Convention Committee Co-Chair

NEW SERVICE MANUAL 2006-2009

The **2006-2009 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual** (P224-27) is currently at the printer. The anticipated mailing date is October 15, 2007. The Group CMA's should receive the **Service Manual** around the end of October. Please ask your groups to check their CMA information and notify the WSO immediately if they have a change in CMA information. Maybe the new **Service Manual** will be out before Assembly. Georgia C. FL South Delegate

Al-Anon Meeting



I'm out of articles... so here's a *geometry* question for you! (Al-Anon style of course)
How many triangles will fit in a circle?
Answer this and you graduate (smile)!

The Sunshiner needs a Prudent Reserve!
Please send me your articles so I will never run out again!
Sunshiner46@hotmail.com MW

A Literature Meeting



Our group has regular Literature meetings. Last month we used the pamphlet Purpose & Suggestions (P-13).

The first page talks about how we cannot find serenity or self improvement by complaining to others about our alcoholic's faults.

I feel victimized by the alcoholics in my life & I constantly complain to others about what they are doing to me. I thought my life was so bad because of them. The reading on this page made me stop & listen closely to what everyone had to say that night.

Someone in our group shared something that really opened my mind. He used a sled ride as an example of his life. If someone shoved his sled from the top of a hill right in the direction of sure disaster he didn't have to continue on that path for the whole ride. He could simply "roll of the sled!" It was up to him to make a change if he didn't like the direction he was heading. Continuing downhill, complaining & cursing the person for pushing his sled towards disaster would not change his direction but he could change his own direction by rolling off the sled before it reached the bottom.

What an awakening! I need to stop complaining and do something that will change my life's direction. - Anonymous -