

FEBRUARY 2026



Happy 75th Anniversary!

Hey, everyone!

Al-Anon has been around for 75—can you believe it? To help celebrate this incredible legacy program, we thought we'd explain how you and your meeting fit into the overall World Service Organization—from the group meeting, to the District, all the way on up to our HQ in Virginia Beach.

We will be showing you what each part of Al-Anon does and why it's important.

Speaking of—curious what I do? Find out [here!](#) Enjoy this month's edition of The Scoop!

Sending all my love & healing,

*Natalie M.
Scoop Editor*

Dear Fellow Al-Anon Members,

Al-Anon is 75 years old this year. Some of the meetings in our District 12, Ventura County, go back 50 years. Many are 10 and 20 years old themselves.

It's amazing to come into the program, join a fellowship and watch yourself and others grow in love and recovery as we practice these principles in our lives.

District 12 has grown from a few meetings to 69 meetings a week today. Yet there are still thousands of people in our county who suffer from the effects of alcoholism and would benefit tremendously from the experience, strength, and hope we offer.

This year as part of our own celebration of Al-Anon's 75th Anniversary we can continue the public outreach to members of Ventura County so that they too can enjoy the recovery that we are experiencing.

I am privileged to be a part of this fellowship; privileged to be able to be of service and I am grateful to all of you for helping make it happen.

There is joy in service (and growth too).

Newt G.
District 12 District Rep.

In this newsletter you can expect:

Who's In Charge Here Anyway?

The Road to HQ

Service Opportunities

What's Happening in the District

Alateen Events & Announcements

Events & Announcements

Welcoming Newcomers Checklist





Who's In Charge Here, Anyway?

One of the questions newcomers often ask is “Who’s actually in charge here?” Al-Anon meetings feel different from many organizations. There’s no boss at the front of the room, no rulebook being enforced, no one telling anyone what to do.

The answer to that question lives at the heart of Al-Anon’s Second Tradition: “For our group purpose there is but one authority—a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants—they do not govern.” This principle doesn’t just guide individual meetings; it shapes the entire structure of Al-Anon, from the smallest home group to World Service.

At the foundation of the fellowship are the groups. Each group is autonomous, responsible for its own meetings and decisions, guided by group conscience. No outside body tells a group how to run itself. That autonomy reflects trust—trust in the members, trust in the process, and trust in a Higher Power working through shared spiritual principles.

Groups don’t exist in isolation, though. They’re connected through districts and areas, which exist to support—not control—the groups.

Districts help groups share information, coordinate service, and strengthen unity at a local level. Areas do the same on a broader scale, providing communication, service opportunities, and a link between local groups and Al-Anon as a whole.

At every level, participation is voluntary and leadership consists of trusted servants elected for limited terms.

At the widest (not highest!) level is the World Service Office and the World Service Conference. These bodies help maintain Al-Anon literature, public outreach, and the consistency of the program worldwide. They don’t govern individual groups; instead, they carry out the collective will of the fellowship, as expressed through group conscience flowing upward from groups to districts, areas, etc.

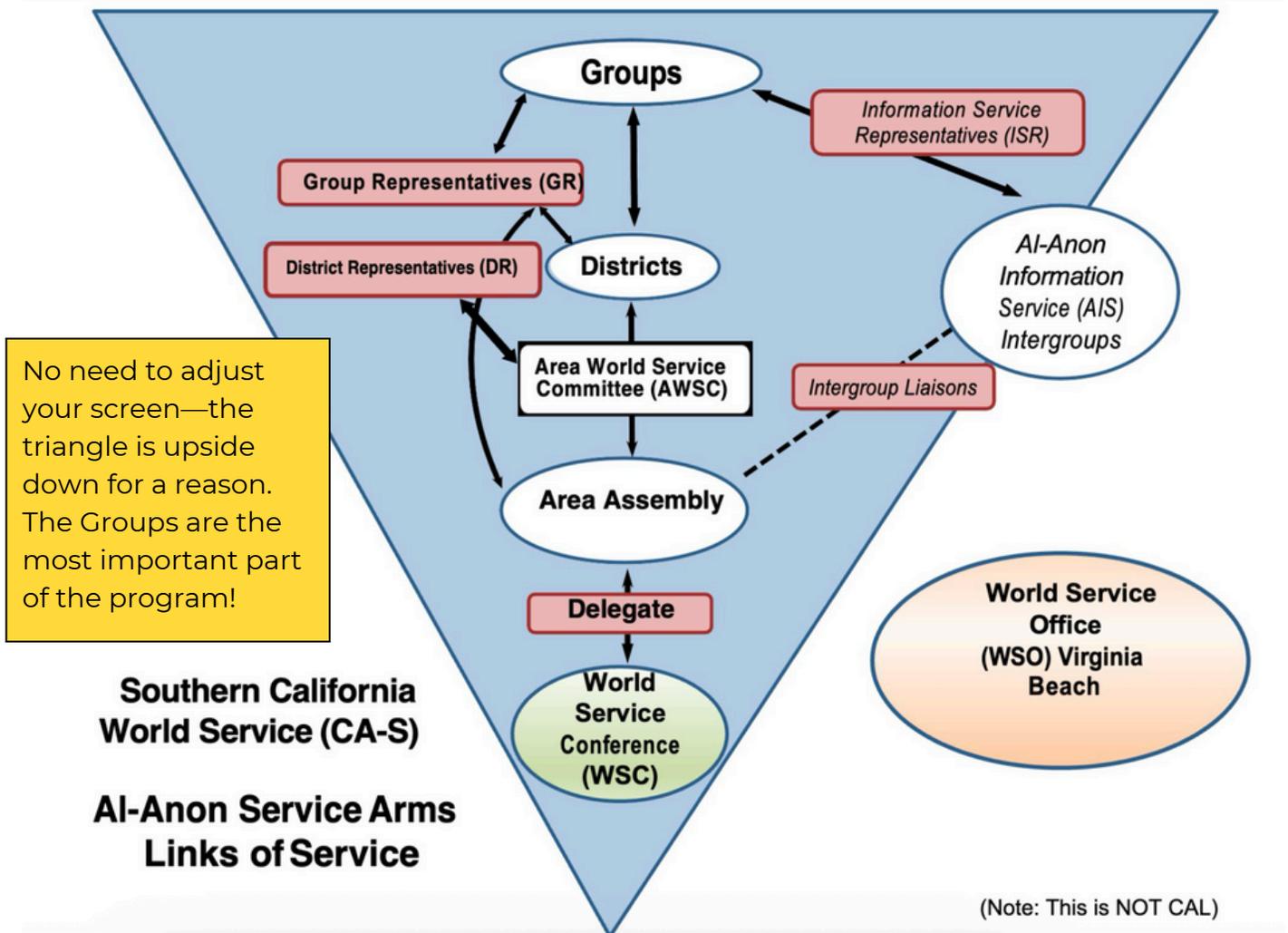
What’s remarkable is that authority in Al-Anon doesn’t move downward through hierarchy—it moves upward through participation. Responsibility is shared, leadership rotates, and no one person or committee is “in charge.” The ultimate authority remains a loving Higher Power, expressed through informed, spiritual decision-making at every level.

Tradition Two reminds us that no single member directs our groups and our strength comes from cooperation, not control. When we trust the process, serve rather than govern, and listen for the guidance of a loving Higher Power together, we make decisions that naturally uphold Tradition One—placing our common welfare first so that unity can support the personal progress for all.

“...Our leaders are but trusted servants—they do not govern.”

Tradition Two

The Road To Virginia Beach



By the Numbers

- Ventura County has 69 Al-Anon and Alateen meetings
- Southern California has about 1,261 active meetings
- WSO at large has over 24,000 Al-Anon groups and nearly 1,500 Alateen groups meeting worldwide across 118 countries



The Road To Virginia Beach

World Service Conference Structure Graphic



Members in a group elect a **Group Representative (GR)**.



The **GR** is the liaison between the group and the District and the group and the Area Assembly.



The **GRs** in a District elect a **District Representative (DR)**.



The **DR** represents the District's groups at Area World Service Committee (AWSC) meetings.



The AWSC consists of Assembly Officers, which includes the Chairperson, Delegate, Alternate Delegate, Treasurer, and Secretary; **DRs**; Coordinators (such as Alateen Coordinator and Literature Coordinator); and liaison members (such as Al-Anon Information Service Liaison).



The **GR** attends the Area Assembly to elect the Area Delegate, hear reports, and participate in Area service projects.



The **Area Delegate** attends the annual World Service Conference (WSC) and is the link between the groups and the WSC and the groups and the World Service Office (WSO).



World Service Conference

The composition of the WSC includes the Area Delegates, Volunteer members of the Board of Trustees and the Executive Committee, and voting members of the WSO administrative Staff.

Ultimate Authority

Delegated Responsibility

Roles Defined

Area: Areas are comprised of groups and Districts in a determined location that can be geographically or nongeographically defined.

Area World Service Committee (AWSC): In between Assemblies, Area World Service Committee (AWSC) meetings are held, attended by the Assembly officers, all District Representatives, Al-Anon Information Service Liaisons, (*recognized Convention Chairs*), and the Area Coordinators of special services. At these meetings, the Assembly agenda is planned, information and reports are conveyed, and decisions may be made that cannot wait until the next Assembly.

Assembly: Is composed of all the GRs in the Area and convenes at least every three years to elect a Delegate and other Assembly officers. During an Assembly, the Delegate reports the activities of the World Service Conference. The Area Assembly is the business meeting where the groups send their representatives to express a voice and vote on behalf of the group.

District: The District is the first link from the groups to the Area, the World Service Office (WSO), and the World Service Conference (WSC). Districts are comprised of groups within a geographical or non-geographical part of an Area that meet as needed. The GRs from the groups in the District attend the District meetings to represent their group.

District Representative (DR): Is elected by the GRs from within their District. The DR chairs the District meetings, represents the groups in their District at Area World Service Committee meetings, and serves as a resource and information source for the groups.

Group: A small group needs a CMA (Current Mailing Address), Group Representative (GR), Chairperson, and a Secretary; the latter often acts as Treasurer until the group is large enough to elect one.

Group Representative (GR): Acts as liaison between the group and the District, and between the group and the Area Assembly. Every group (with a registered GR) in the Area has a voice and a vote in Area business through their Group Representative (GR).

World Service Conference (WSC): The WSC is the permanent body for the expression of the conscience of the Al-Anon/Alateen fellowship in the light of our Traditions. Its membership is composed of the elected World Service Delegates from each Assembly Area in the World Service Conference Structure, the Trustees of Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc., the Chairpersons and WSO Staff of all selected committees, and the members of the Executive Committee. Representatives from countries other than the United States and Canada may participate but not vote.

World Service Office (WSO): The WSO is composed of executives, Staff members, and selected committees supervised by the legally empowered Board of Trustees and its Executive Committee. It functions as a clearinghouse, providing service to the fellowship and spreading Al-Anon's message worldwide.

Al-Anon Information Service (AIS) Intergroup: An Al-Anon Information Service Intergroup is a local service established and maintained by one or more Districts or by groups. It exists to aid the groups it serves in the common purpose of carrying the Al-Anon message to the families and friends of alcoholics.

Information Service Representative (ISR): Acts as a liaison between the group and the Al-Anon Information Service (AIS) Intergroup. Reports AIS/Intergroup activities to the group.

Intergroup Liaison: An AIS Liaison member links the AIS/Intergroup to the Area.

* These definitions can be found in the current Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual; selections and groupings have been chosen for brevity. Refer to the Service Manual for more information.



Links of Service

÷

divide responsibility

x

multiply involvement

+

add awareness

=

equals a healthy group

Member + Member = **Group**

Group + **Group** = **District**

District + **District** = **Assembly**

Assembly + **Assembly** =

World Service Conference

Welcoming Newcomers Checklist



Having a plan in place to welcome newcomers and visitors to your group throughout the year helps newcomers and members alike. Here are a few things to keep in mind for your group's "Welcoming Checklist":

- Ensure that your meeting information is accurate in all locations, including:
- The facility in which the meeting takes place
 - Anywhere the meeting is listed within the community or online
 - Al-Anon Information Service/Intergroup
 - Area website
 - World Service Office

- Provide specific meeting location instructions on meeting schedules and flyers:
- Are parking instructions needed?
 - Are there special requirements to gain access to the building or does it require special sign-in for visitors?
 - Does the facility's contact know the day, time, and location of the meeting?
 - Does the facility have a way to publish your meeting information?
 - Are special instructions needed for late arrivals, e.g., "After 7:00 pm, ring buzzer by door."
 - Are instructions clear enough for out-of-town visitors not familiar with your community?

- Help people find the meeting room and feel welcome.
- Are there signs pointing to the right room for the meeting? Have you gained permission from your facility to display the signs?
 - Does your group have a "greeter" to welcome those attending your meeting?

- Does your group have enough Newcomer Packets and literature on hand?
- Does your group have current meeting lists on hand?

- Consider discussing in a group business meeting if the meeting format should be revised when a newcomer or visitor is present.
- Discuss the role of the chairperson when new people are present.
 - Is there an optional reading in *Groups at Work* (P-24) that the group would like to read to offer support and hope?

We want everyone to feel welcome in our Al-Anon and Alateen meetings!

Alateen Meetings

Current Meetings Include:

- 4 school meetings
- 3 community meetings
- The Monday "Keep it Simple" meeting at Trinity Lutheran has been inactivated and removed from the directories... for now!

A Day at a Time Alateen

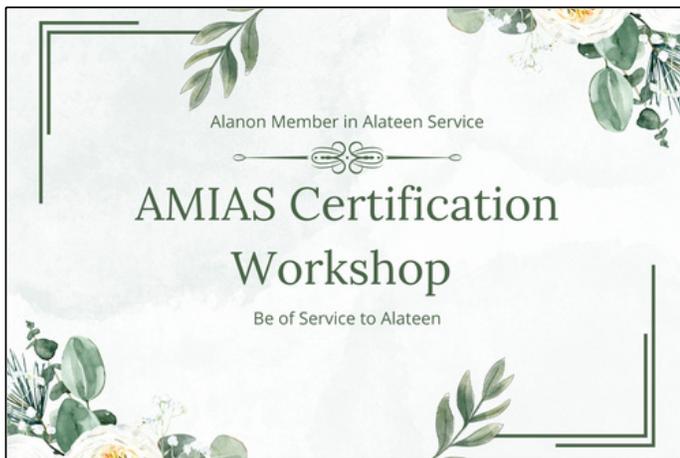
In Person at Nate's Place
3840 W Channel Islands Blvd.
Oxnard, CA 93035

TUESDAYS at 7:15pm-8:15pm

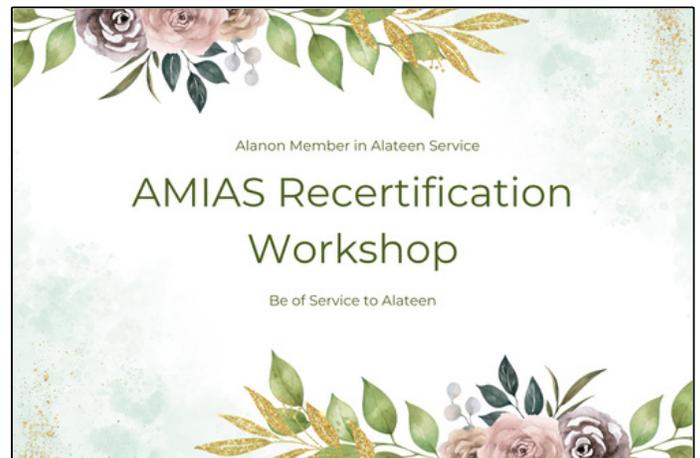
This is a meeting for teens from ages 12-18 whose lives have been or are being affected by the effects of anyone's drinking. This meeting has no dues or fees.



For more information contact Bear at (805)766-7401 or visit the QR Code



Feb 15 & March 10 at 7-9PM
Zoom ID: 898 0165 9827
Passcode: AMIAS2026



FEB 10 7-9PM
FEB 28 9-10AM
MARCH 7 AT 9-10AM
MARCH 17 7-9PM
ZOOM ID: 898 0165 9827
PASSCODE: AMIAS2026

Ventura County Announcements & Information

By the Numbers

Our district currently hosts 69 meetings each week

- Agoura Hills - 14
- Camarillo - 5
- Fillmore - 2
- Ojai - 4
- Oxnard - 14
- Santa Paula - 3
- Simi Valley - 6
- Thousand Oaks - 5
- Ventura - 12
- Westlake Village - 5

Note: some of these are Zoom only

Fast Facts

- All meetings have a CMA
- 53 meetings have Group Representatives
- 14 meetings need Group Representatives
- 6 meetings have Alternate Group Representatives
- 40 meetings are in-person only
- 18 meetings are electronic only
- 9 meetings are hybrid
- 10 meetings are Spanish speaking

Join the Group Representative Workshop on May 2 at 10-12PM

Reach out to your Group Representative for more information!



Open Service Positions

- Alternate District Representative
- Alateen Member Coordinator
- Institutions Coordinator
- Volunteer to run district-level workshops, including sponsorship workshops.

For more information, contact Newt G. at (310)704-9223 or click [here](#).

Committee Meetings:

All on Zoom, ID: 895 8040 4416; Password: 121212

- LDC Committee: Second Monday of every month 1-2:30PM at the LDC and on Zoom
- Finance - Third Tuesday of the month 2:30PM
- Budget - First Tuesday of the month 2:30PM
- Website - First Wednesday of the month 7PM
- Service Coordinators & Officer Committee Meeting- March 19 at 7PM
- General Board Meeting- April 16 at 7PM

Service Area Announcements

ALATEEN

Fosters the growth and development of Alateen in the District. Works with current and new meetings and attracts and certifies Volunteers (AMIAS).

- Volunteers needed; Zoom certifications monthly
- Needing an AMIAS for DATA Middle School

ARCHIVES

Records and preserves all District 12 Al-Anon memorabilia, designs the displays of Al-Anon's history at local events.

- Archive table will be at the LDC
- LDC cabinet continues to get organized

COOPERATING WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

Communicates with local professionals to develop name recognition and credibility for Al-Anon so that professionals may be willing to inform those they serve about Al-Anon.

- Volunteers Needed!
- Labeling Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism pamphlets with website info and distributing to meetings
- Al-Anon posters are inside 61 Gold Coast Transit District buses In Spanish and English
- Finalizing "booth kit" supplies Including tablecloth, signs, etc. Street Fair season is almost here. Contact Shelly H. to host a booth at a fair.

GROUP RECORDS

Maintains a local listing of all group records, meetings, GRs, AGRs, CMAs, Officers and Coordinators.

- 69 meetings, 17 still need GRs—working to encourage more
- Very few meetings have Alt GRs, working to encourage more
- Findrecovery.com, which is not an Al-Anon resource for meeting information, is often incorrect. Meetings are encouraged to point newcomers to our website for meeting details: Al-Anonventura.org

INSTITUTIONS COORDINATOR (OPEN POSITION)

Works to provide Al-Anon meetings and Panels along with Al-Anon Literature and Meeting Directories in local institutions.

LITERATURE DISTRIBUTION CENTER

Provide District 12 Al-Anon members with Al-Anon Conference-Approved Literature for sale and display literature for sale at Al-Anon conventions and other outreach events. Open Thursdays 11-3 and Saturdays 10-12. 505 Poli Street, suite 307, Ventura

- Volunteers welcome and wanted, come have fun in service!

PUBLIC INFORMATION COORDINATOR

Assists the membership in bringing information about Al-Anon to the general public, including how, when and where they can attend a meeting.

- Volunteers needed for telephone answering in Spanish & English
- Letter campaign to Wellness Centers about Al-Anon, meetings, literature

ROUND ROBIN COORDINATOR

Fosters community fellowship by encouraging Round Robins, special meetings where one group hosts and invites all members of the community to come and share.

- 4 Round Robins done in 2025. Need More for 2026.

SCOOP NEWSLETTER

Produces and distributes the district's Scoop newsletter.

- Volunteers/writers/journalists/photographers needed

SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR

Creates and uses social media for public outreach and communication to members of any Al-Anon news and events. All to be done in accordance with WSO guidelines.

SPANISH LIAISON

Acts as a liaison between the Al-Anon Spanish community and the District at large; encourages the Spanish community to participate in District activities and encourages the District to include the Spanish community in all District activities and public outreach.

- Need a Group Rep for a Friday night meeting
- Fillmore meeting moved from Wednesdays to Saturday at 10AM
- The Spanish AA w Al-Anon Conference in Ventura was a great success!

WEBSITE COORDINATOR

Maintains the District 12 Website.

- Volunteers needed
- Updated LDC price list, considering adding an order form
- Maintaining Information as it changes

The electronic version of the 2026-2029 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual is available in English, French, and Spanish at al-anon.org!

Spring Fling “A Valentine’s Day Celebration”

LET’S ALL HELP FUND
'SERENITY BY THE SEA, AN
AA EVENT WITH AL-ANON
PARTICIPATION! THE
VENTURA COUNTY ROUND-
UP CONVENTION IS APRIL
24-26.

SERENITY BY THE SEA
WITH AL-ANON PARTICIPATION
PRESENTS

SPRING FLING

*Come join us for a
VALENTINE'S DAY
CELEBRATION*

SHARE THE LOVE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2026
1:30 PM - 4:30 PM

AA & AL-ANON SPEAKERS
Matthew M. - Santa Paula (AA)
Robin G. - Redondo Beach (Al-Anon)

OPPORTUNITY RAFFLE

DESSERT & BEVERAGE BAR

\$20 Pre-Registration until Feb. 13, 2026
\$25 At the Door

MISSION CHURCH
5353 WALKER ST
VENTURA

Scan the QR code to register

Lois W. (Al-Anon Founder), from her autobiography 'Remembering Lois',
“She believed thinking was the highest function of human beings. The Al-Anon
experience changed me. I now realize loving is our supreme function. The
HEART precedes the mind”.

Serenity by the Sea



"DARKNESS INTO LIGHT"
2026

SERENITY BY THE SEA

VENTURA COUNTY AA ROUNDUP
W/ALANON PARTICIPATION

FELLOWSHIP, MEETINGS, FOOD, MUSIC, AND
MORE...

SAVE THE DATES: APRIL 24-26, 2026

OXNARD PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
800 Hobson Way, Oxnard, CA

PRE-REGISTRATION: \$25
ON-SITE REGISTRATION: \$30
AA BBQ: \$25 ALANON LUNCHEON: \$25

WWW.VCAAROUNDUP.ORG



Great Friends
Great Service

Serenity By The Sea Al-Anon Committee

IN PERSON AT THE PENINSULA CLUB
3333 PENINSULA ROAD
OXNARD, CA

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 15TH, 2025
2:00PM - 3:30PM

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE REACH OUT TO JASON H.
(805)570-5636 OR HENDRICK4@MSN.COM



Southern California Events & Information

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WORLD SERVICE

DR WORKSHOP

This is for all District Representatives, Alternate District Reps or anyone thinking of becoming one.

Saturday 7 February 2025 10 AM - 12PM

Zoom ID: 851 4949 0717
Passcode: Service2026



AFG 2026 Planning Meetings

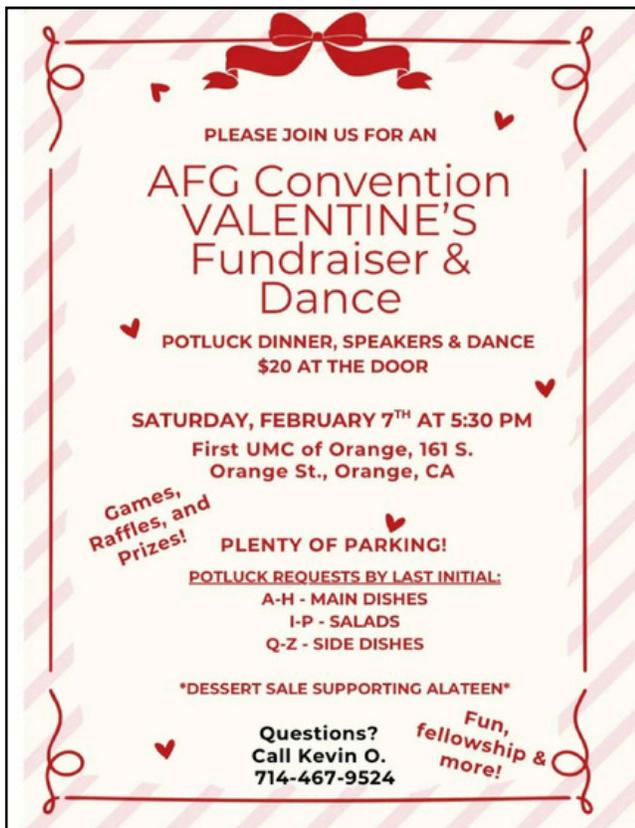
10am-1pm

2025
July 20th Turnover Meeting
August 10th
September 21st
October 19th
November 16th
December [TBD] Hotel Walkthrough

2026
January 18th
February 15th

**AFG CONVENTION
MARCH 13TH-15TH**

Garden Grove Alano Club
9845 Belfast Dr, Garden Grove
Any questions call AFG Chairman:
Lori I. (714) 319-4788



PLEASE JOIN US FOR AN

AFG Convention VALENTINE'S Fundraiser & Dance

POTLUCK DINNER, SPEAKERS & DANCE
\$20 AT THE DOOR

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH AT 5:30 PM
First UMC of Orange, 161 S.
Orange St., Orange, CA

Games,
Raffles, and
Prizes!

PLENTY OF PARKING!

POTLUCK REQUESTS BY LAST INITIAL:
A-H - MAIN DISHES
I-P - SALADS
Q-Z - SIDE DISHES

DESSERT SALE SUPPORTING ALATEEN

Questions?
Call Kevin O.
714-467-9524

Fun,
fellowship &
more!

49th Annual Southern California Al-Anon Family Groups Convention

Ridin the Road to Serenity

March 13th - 15th 2026

Doubletree Hotel-Ontario, CA

For online registration
and additional
convention
information visit
www.afgconvention.org

Southern California World Service (SCWS)

AWSC MEETING

Saturday February 21, 2026
9:00 to 4:00 PM
Waiting Room opens at 8:45

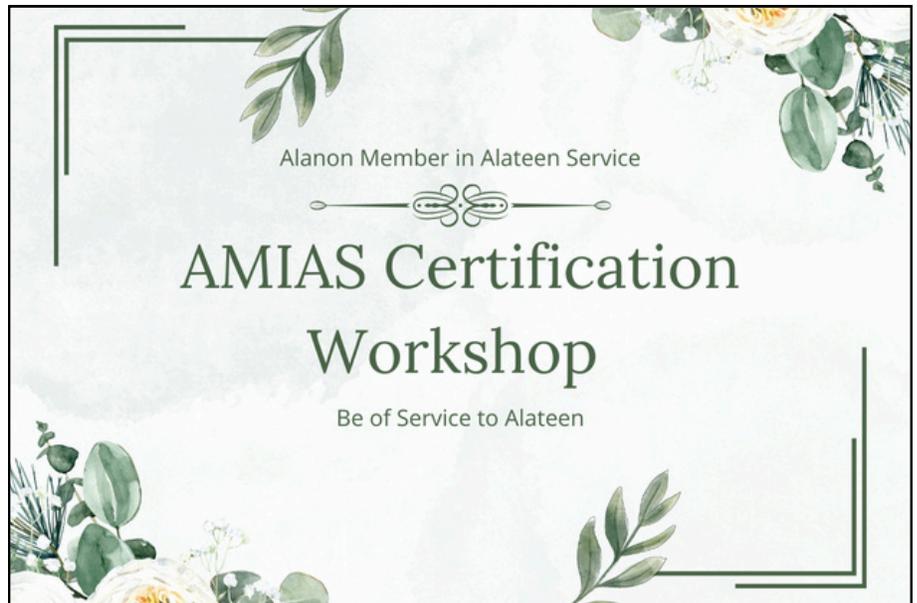
Zoom ID: 817 9523 5839
Passcode: AWSC2026

Open Positions—Public
Information, Spanish, and
Bulletin Coordinators

Looking Back - AMIAS Training

“I thought about working with Alateens for many years but never knew how to go about it. One day in a meeting, I saw a flyer about the AMIAS training. That was so exciting. I took the online training and am so happy I did. I now look forward to doing service with the teen community.”

-Stephanie B.



“At the end of last year, I did something I’ve wanted to do for a long long time, but somehow never did. I am now a grateful volunteer for Alateen (AMIAS-Al-Anon Member Involved in Alateen). The number of members at the training was larger than expected (25-30!) Many people I know were present and I met many new friends as well. There were volunteers from all over Southern California. The meeting was lively. We discussed many topics relating to Alateen and our new upcoming role. The biggest surprise for me was that we were initiated right there at the meeting! No need to have any further training, save for the shadowing a seasoned volunteer. I am currently beginning my Alateen role in earnest. I co-hosted one meeting before the holidays and have found a home meeting going forward. There are no words to describe how fulfilling it is having the opportunity to hear about the challenges facing our youth and being able to be present and support them. I highly recommend this important Al-Anon service to anyone wishing to volunteer somewhere. One more interesting thing I hadn’t counted on is that the stories and challenges of our resilient youth, is helping me to remember and face parts of my own story. Unearthing these memories is helping me process parts of my past that have remained buried for decades.”

-Melinda R.

Looking Back



ROUND ROBIN

"I loved the women's Round Robin meeting. Approximately 80 people attended and the shares were filled with wonderful insight into both sides: the person struggling and those of us in Al-Anon. Family members, including children, attended. The food was plentiful and those snickerdoodles were delicious! A great evening of resounding recovery both in person and on Zoom."

- Laura F.

Thank you for reading!

AL-ANON/ALATEEN FAMILY GROUPS VENTURA COUNTY	<u>805-253-7188</u>
<u>www.Al-Anonventura.org</u>	P.O. Box 728 Camarillo, CA 93011-0728
