

Idaho Al-Anon District 3 (D3) Newsletter



Al-Anon Family Groups
Strength and hope for friends and families of problem drinkers

SPECIAL EDITION: Public Outreach

Special Edition #1: Public Outreach

June 24, 2018

Welcome to the FIRST Special Edition of the D3 Newsletter

In order to help Al-Anon members learn more about the different opportunities available to you, we have created *Special Editions* of the *Idaho Al-Anon District 3 Newsletter*. This first Special Edition is on Public Outreach. Each Special Edition will contain information about the subject and opportunities for members to.

get involved.

In the coming months, look for other *Special Editions* on Alateen, the Literature Center, Service, and Sponsorship. If you have topic ideas for future *Special Editions* or have feedback on this Special Edition, email idahodistrict3outreach@gmail.com. Thank you for your service.

Public Outreach is a TEAM effort!

Our Public Outreach team consists of the World Service Office (WSO), Idaho Area 13, the Literature Center, Alateen, the D3 Public Outreach Committee, and all of the groups and members of The District 3 Al-Anon community. Working together helps us reach more people with the Al-Anon /Alateen message. But what does working together look like? Consider these examples...

September is National Recovery Month. District 3 Public Outreach is working with the Literature Center to do a special event in September. Also, we are working with Thursday Night Friends, one of our District 3 groups, to do a special panel for National Recovery month.

We also connect with other districts in Idaho Area 13. Earlier this year, District 3 had a successful Boundaries and Bridges Brunch. The idea for the event came from a Boundaries Ice Cream Social done by Idaho District 1, which is the most northern part of Idaho Area 13.

But our team effort does not stop with the Idaho border. Through the WSO online project known as AFG Connects, we have learned about great ideas that districts and areas across the country are using for effective public outreach.

Looking for ways you can help? Read the rest of this newsletter & idahodistrict3outreach@gmail.com

Did you know?
SERVICE takes your recovery to a WHOLE NEW LEVEL!

[CLICK HERE](#) to access the Public Outreach portion of the Al-Anon/Alateen WSO website

Public Outreach: Reaching Outward and Reaching Inward

For those who are wondering the purpose of Public Outreach, here is your answer: According to the [Al-Anon WSO \(World Service Office\) website](#) "Our (Public Outreach) goals are to attract newcomers to our fellowship and to inform professionals who work with families and friends of alcoholics about the Al-Anon/Alateen program."

So Public Outreach reaches outside the fellowship to connect with professionals who work with families and friends of alcoholics. In addition, we reach out to the public as another way to attract newcomers.

But Public Outreach is also about reaching inward to the members of our fellowship. Our Al-Anon Twelfth Step states, "Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, **we tried to carry this message to others**, and to practice these principles in all our affairs." By reaching inward to our groups and members, we can provide information, support, and opportunities for Al-Anoners to "carry this message to others."

Reaching outward, reaching inward, and working together makes Public Outreach happen!

The impact of ONE member

In the spring of this year, a member of the District 3 Al-Anon fellowship contacted Jane F, who is the Public Outreach Coordinator for District 3. The member suggested that Al-Anon have a table at an opioid awareness event being held in Meridian. Jane reached out to the organizers of the event and Al-Anon had a presence at the event. But the impact of the member reaching out had only just begun.

At the event, a contact was made with the Ada County Drug Court. They asked if Al-Anon could provide speakers at their monthly drug court family weekend. We agreed and have found members of our fellowship to help with this act of service.

Also, Jane met with the Ada County Coroner, Dotti Owens, who helped make the opioid awareness event happen. As a result of that meeting, Al-Anon and Alateen will now be providing materials for the resource packet that is given to the loved ones of those deaths where the Ada County Coroner is called in.

Dottie Owens provided additional contact information for Public Outreach. She connected us with the Mayor of Meridian who then put us -

in touch with the city officials working on substance abuse issues.

Other contacts made as a result of that meeting include with a government entity that does programs such as combating drunk driving. Also, that meeting led to connecting with the Association of Idaho Cities (AIC). We were able to provide them with Al-Anon bookmarks that were put in the 450 attendee packets for their recent conference. Also, the AIC had copies of the *Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism* magazine at their conference registration table.

So to this point as a result of this member of our District 3 fellowship reaching out to our District 3 Public Outreach Coordinator, over a thousand people have received information about Al-Anon. That impact will be even bigger with the resource package provided to the Ada County Coroner as well as with the other contacts we made as a result of this member's action.

Do you have an idea or ideas as to how the Al-Anon message can be spread? If so, please email us at idahodistrict3outreach@gmail.com.

Remember that every life touched is a life that is forever changed.

D3 Public Outreach Projects

Throughout this newsletter are some of the Public Outreach projects going on in District 3. But that's just part of what's happening so check out some of the D3 Public Outreach efforts:

PSAs - We are working to get broader exposure for the Public Service Announcements produced by WSO.

D3 Happenings - This weekly email provides information on activities and resources and reminders of meetings and events.

Share Your Story - D3 Al-Anon members are sharing their story at a wide variety of places. In addition, How to Share Your Story workshops are offered 3-4 times a year. The next one is July 14.

Conferences and Fairs - We look for such opportunities that are free. If we're not able to have a table at an event, we ask to put Al-Anon info in their attendee packets.

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Events – Besides helping spread the word and encouraging attendance at events, we keep our eyes and ears open for additional events. For example, a long-time D3 member suggested bringing back a terrific event where Al-Anon and AA do a potluck together and have speakers. Stay tuned!

Need ideas?

Here are some ways D3 members are doing Public Outreach:

- ♥ Told my doctor about Al-Anon and they agreed to carry materials about the program.
- ♥ Make copies of the District 3 newsletter and take them to meetings.
- ♥ Help out at an Al-Anon event.
- ♥ Donated a canopy for outdoor events.
- ♥ Put a stack of Al-Anon bookmarks in my favorite coffee shop.
- ♥ Arranged for an outdoor advertising company to donate billboard space.
- ♥ Started an Al-Anon meeting.
- ♥ Tell people outside the fellowship about Al-Anon.
- ♥ Put an Al-Anon bookmark in each book I returned to the library.
- ♥ Placed a newspaper ad announcing my group meeting.
- ♥ Sharing my Al-Anon story at a treatment center or speaker meeting.
- ♥ Donated office supplies, envelopes, and labels.
- ♥ Serve on a District 3 committee.
- ♥ Invite another member when I share my story.
- ♥ This is for you to fill in...