

## VOTING ISSUE

### **Virginia Area *Do Not Refer or De-Listing* Policy**

CONCEPTUAL APPROVAL GIVEN BY VAWSC 4 AUGUST 2012

APPROVED BY AREA ASSEMBLY OCTOBER 2012

#### **MOTION**

**That the Virginia Area does not list 1) meetings that do not meet at the regularly announced time, 2) meetings that continue regularly to use non-Conference Approved Literature, 3) meetings that refuse to allow a member in need of a meeting to be seated as its purpose is only to help a category of members, i.e, women, men, gays, parents, etc., 4) meetings that use the AA Big Book or the AA 12 and 12 as the basic text for their meetings, 5) meetings where a member or members are empowered to determine what is best for another Al-Anon member's recovery (Pyramid Sponsorship), and 6) meetings that are combined AA and Al-Anon (Unity) meetings.**

**Districts, with input from the Area, may also de-list a Group as their District Conscience dictates.**

#### **Background**

- Our Primary Purpose according to our Fifth Tradition is to help families and friends of alcoholics. We have expressed this goal by focusing on the Area mission statement: "Building Healthy Groups through Attention – Appreciation – Affection."
- There are three groups who attend our meetings that we are concerned with when envisioning a Do Not Refer or De-Listing Policy: Newcomers, Professionals who refer people to Al-Anon, and out-of-town members looking for a meeting.
- Many Districts, including Albemarle, Springfield/Annandale, Bull Run, Loudoun, Nansemond, Richmond North, James River South, Peninsula, Southside, and Northern Neck, are currently dealing with or have recently dealt with Group situations that have impacted members outside the Group.
- All Al-Anon meetings have an absolute right to exist. They DO NOT have an absolute right to be listed on the Area Website.
- The District is the best link of service to make determinations about De-Listing meetings.

### **Pros**

- Supports our primary purpose of helping families and friends of alcoholics.
- Provides a principle-based means of keeping our announced meetings genuinely Al-Anon meetings.
- Provides clear guidance and support for Districts addressing questionable meetings.

### **Cons**

- Members may not take responsibility to keep announced meetings genuinely Al-Anon.

### **What we wish we knew**

- Whether members will accept the responsibility to keep announced meetings genuinely Al-Anon.

### **How might a Group become De-listed and then Re-listed?**

- A possible situation and process may be:
  - A DR finds out that a newcomer went to a listed meeting and the building was locked and no one was there at the designated meeting time.
  - The DR checks with the GR to find out the details of what happened on the evening in question.
  - The GR informs the DR that the meeting attendance is down and they are not always able to find a member who can open the building and meeting the following week.
  - At the next District Meeting, a District Group Conscience is held to determine what actions to take.
  - The District Group Conscience decides to De-List the meeting.
  - They further agree to Re-List the meeting if they can demonstrate that they meet every week for the next two months.
  - The District designates a member from the Group Conscience to randomly attend the meeting twice over the next two months and report back to the District.
  - The Group is able to find members to open the building and meeting every week, so it is Re-Listed at the end of two months.