

Serenity Sentinel

WINTER 2023 / 2024

Volume: Panel 61

Thank you
Panel 61!

Issue: #12



DONATION ADDRESS

Seventh Tradition donations, meaning all contributions from individual members, groups, districts, and AIS offices, should be sent to:

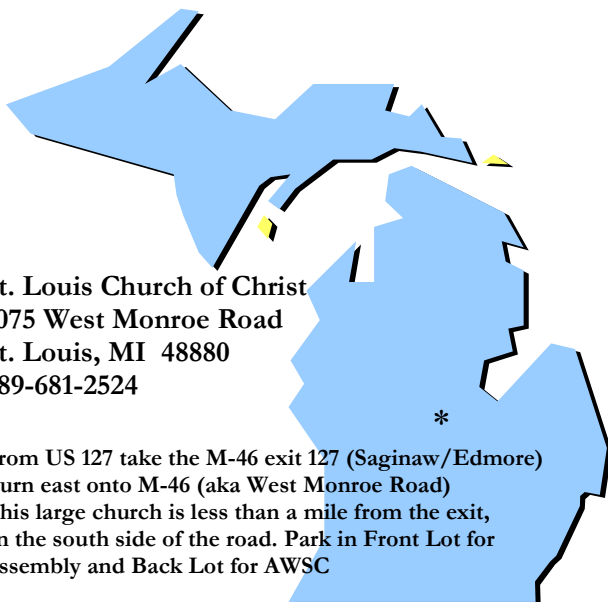
MICHIGAN AFG, INC.
PO BOX 980174
YPSILANTI, MI 48198-0174
or PayPal Option at www.miafg.org

The *Serenity Sentinel*, a quarterly publication, is the voice of the Michigan Area Assembly. The newsletter is now available electronically to all MIAFG members via www.miafg.org. Paper copies are available to members who wish to subscribe.

To receive notification when a new *Serenity Sentinel* is available or to direct any comments or questions regarding the newsletter, please email the Editor at miafgnewsletter@gmail.com.

MIAFG AWSC and Assembly Location Directions

Check www.miafg.org to confirm if meetings are in person or virtual!



St. Louis Church of Christ
1075 West Monroe Road
St. Louis, MI 48880
989-681-2524

From US 127 take the M-46 exit 127 (Saginaw/Edmore)
Turn east onto M-46 (aka West Monroe Road)
This large church is less than a mile from the exit,
on the south side of the road. Park in Front Lot for
Assembly and Back Lot for AWSC

9AM Registration
10AM Assembly/Meeting Begins

Serenity Sentinel Subscriptions

Individual paper subscriptions are available for **\$4.00** per year. To receive this Michigan AFG quarterly publication, please complete this form and send with your check or money order (currently \$4.00 per subscription) made payable to Michigan AFG, Inc., to:

Serenity Sentinel
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Ypsilanti, MI 48198-0174

Name _____
Address _____
Apt # _____ City _____
State _____ Zip Code _____

Schedule of Events

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| March 7
6:30 p.m. | New District Rep Orientation
<i>Via Zoom – Information to be provided</i> |
| March 9
10 a.m. | AWSC
<i>St. Louis, MI</i> |
| May 4 | 52nd Annual MIAFG State Convention
<i>Bay City, MI</i> |
| June 7 – 9 | 71st Annual AA State Convention
<i>Grand Rapids, MI</i> |
| June 13
6:30 p.m. | New Group Rep Orientation
<i>Via Zoom – Information to be provided</i> |
| June 15
10 a.m. | Spring Assembly
<i>St. Louis, MI</i> |
| August 8
6:30 p.m. | New District Rep Orientation
<i>Via Zoom – Information to be provided</i> |
| August 10
10 a.m. | AWSC
<i>St. Louis, MI</i> |
| October 10
6:30 p.m. | New Group Rep Orientation
<i>Via Zoom – Information to be provided</i> |
| October 12 | Fall Assembly
<i>St. Louis, MI</i> |

Send AI-Anon event information to miafgnewsletter@gmail.com
and miafgwebcoordinator@gmail.com.

Letter from the Editor

Take What You Like...

It seems like I just began my stint as Panel 61's **Serenity Sentinel** Coordinator! With the launch of Panel 64, I am now embarking on a new role as your Area Secretary.

When it comes to learning something new or stepping outside your comfort zone, there is no better group to do it for than a 12 Step Recovery Group like Al-Anon. For one, you have the unconditional love and patience of the membership and, two, there is the support from those who have served before you. As our new Chairperson (previously Panel 61's Alternate Delegate) Ross F has stated many times, "We've got your back."

When I started working on the newsletter, my predecessor Jeanette G helped by sharing tips and even preparing a template for me to use for the first issue. That same support is demonstrated in other trusted servant positions. For example, when Karl K, Panel 61's Tech Coordinator, created a display about his service position, he included a photo showing how the tech equipment can most efficiently be stored in our storage cabinet.



Whatever new service role you take on, whether it's sponsoring a member, being a Group Rep, giving an open talk or filling one of Panel 64's open Coordinator positions (see page 3) know that "we've got your back" and "thank you for your service!"

Wendy S

...and Leave the Rest



Did you know...?

Did you know that some of the earliest Al-Anon and Alateen groups were formed in Michigan? The MIAFG Archives contains four large binders of documents recording the early history of Al-

Anon in Michigan. Letters, notes, literature order forms and other documents note the efforts of individual members to establish groups. The following Districts are represented.

District 2 – In 1949 Grace S from Benton Harbor writes to the "General Headquarters Alcoholic Foundation, NYC" requesting literature. The reply from AA suggests contacting the Muskegon Non-AA Group for support. The AA Secretary also recommends several pieces of outside literature (neither AA nor Al-Anon approved) and states that "The big book, "Alcoholics Anonymous" has been mailed to you." In 1952, Grace S wrote to the Al-Anon Clearinghouse inviting Lois W to attend their 5th anniversary. Lois W's reply letter politely declines due to a prior commitment. This letter is a photocopy of the original and is unsigned.

District 3 – The Al-Anon Secretary sends a letter in 1956 to Mel B of Jackson congratulating them on their desire to start a new family group. They have been sent a copy of the first book, *The Al-Anon Family Groups*.

District 4 – The earliest letter from District 4 is dated 1962. Louis A wrote to headquarters for advice on starting a group in Monroe. The WSO Secretary replies, among other information, that they will receive a free subscription to *The Family Group Forum*.

District 5 – In July 1949 a wife in Ann Arbor writes to "Dear Sirs" asking the Clearinghouse to "forward me any material or information ... concerning the Non-Alcoholics Anonymous Groups" and also asking for "further information as to how such meetings are being conducted etc."

District 9 – Katie T from Detroit writes to Lois W in 1950 asking for advice on how to handle some group problems. Lois replies with a four-page handwritten letter.

District 10 – The pastor of a church in Grosse Pointe writes to Al-Anon Headquarters in 1957 wanting to start an "Ala Teens" meeting in his church and asking for information and literature. The WSO replies with a brief description of the Alateen program as it existed in 1957.

District 12 – A member in Ferndale sends a report to the Clearinghouse in 1957: "We are more than happy to be able to tell you all at Hdqts. we are growing steadily. We have been having such good attendance at our meetings ... we are able to send a larger contribution to you this spring. We are in hopes of having more and more ladies and also men join the friendly group as we like to be called due to our members extending a friendly helping hand to all who are in need of same."

Continued on Page 8

Un día a la vez

Reports

DELEGATE (PANEL 61)

What a journey the last three years have been. I have learned so much about this simple program, and my own recovery has benefited from this adventure. My first World Service Conference (WSC) in 2021 was a five (5) day virtual conference. The 2022 WSC was held in New York where I had the opportunity to visit Stepping Stones, the home of Bill and Lois W. In 2023, I attended the WSC in Virginia Beach with a homecoming celebration at Al-Anon's World Service Office.

Thank you to all our Panel 61 Coordinators; they helped Michigan Al-Anon Family Groups stay alive and active during a very difficult time amidst a worldwide pandemic. They participated on Thought Forces, Task Forces, Committees, Hosted AWSC Meetings, Conventions and so much more. Thank you for your willingness to serve Michigan Al-Anon Family Groups!

During my term as Delegate, I signed every email, letter and card with the words "Embracing Hope!" Those words mean a lot to me! When I got to the rooms of Al-Anon, I started to feel hope for my future, and as I continue to grow in Al-Anon I hold this program close to my heart with hope that it will be here when future generations are looking for help from the effects of someone else's drinking.

Thank you for your trust, and support, from the bottom of my heart!!!!

Embracing Hope,
Kristine G
Past Delegate, Panel 61, Michigan
"Our program is divine, but our fellowship is human"

Nur für heute

SECRETARY (PANEL 61) / DELEGATE (64)

Thank you, thank you, thank you for allowing me the privilege of serving as your Panel 61 MIAFG Secretary. It has been an honor to serve on and with this board. My last AWSC as Secretary was bittersweet since it was the last meeting which Panel 61 would all be working together. I will cherish the memories of Panel 61, while I look forward to working with Panel 64.

Panel 64 held its Exchange of Information / Kickoff Meeting on Saturday, January 13, 2024, via Zoom as the crazy snowfall totals kept everyone at home unable to make the trek to our Lansing meeting place, which was okay.

After, everyone set individual meetings to exchange computers and any other physical components for their

positions. I am unbelievably excited to work with the members of Panel 64 as I am confident good things are in store for MIAFG! Your Panel 64 Coordinators are as follows:

Group Records: Valerie M
Literature / Forum: Melanie F
Alateen: Andy G
AAPP: Sheryl S-R
Public Outreach: Erika C
Technical Coordinator: Hal W
Digital Coordinator: Kate A
Web Coordinator: **OPEN**
Archives: **OPEN**
Newsletter Editor: **OPEN**

As you can see, **there are three open coordinator positions.** Please contact me if you have been or currently are a District Rep or Group Rep and would like to fill one of these positions. MIAFG and I would be most appreciative. Thank you for entrusting me to work on your behalf!

Choosing Joy!
Theresa S
Secretary, Panel 61 / Delegate, Panel 64, Michigan

Weź to, co lubisz, a resztę zostaw

ALTERNATE DELEGATE (PANEL 61) / CHAIRPERSON (64)

Just wanted to add a quick note to the *Serenity Sentinel*. I want to thank all of the members of Panel 61 in particular and the membership in general for making Panel 61 a success. We as MIAFG, Inc., had some unique challenges and we managed to work through them all.

I want to congratulate those in our membership that chose to further their service work in Panel 64 by being elected to or volunteering for the various positions needed to keep MIAFG, Inc. moving forward.

Thank you.
Ross F
Chairperson, Panel 64, Michigan

ДУМАТЬ

Due to poor internet connectivity at our meeting location, a hybrid AWSC or Assembly is currently not feasible.

Reports

TREASURER (PANEL 61)

Our account balances, based on bank statements, as of October 31, 2023 are:

Checking	\$ 32,889.84
Reserve	\$ 20,007.67
Convention	\$ <u>9,128.93</u>
Total	\$ 62,026.44

Our primary source of income this year continues to come from member and group donations. We have received **\$12,132** which is 26% lower than a year ago (**\$16,312**). Our In-Kind donations have increased **117%** from 2022, mostly because we have had an increase in expenses and those receiving reimbursements donate some of their costs. Expenses continue to return to pre-COVID numbers. Our Total Income is **\$14,477** which is down **14%** and Total Expenses are **\$14,355** which is up 3%. The Net Ordinary Income is **\$122** compared to **\$2,886** in 2022, reflecting a change of **-96%**. This information can be found on the Profit & Loss Report.

During the months of November and December, we will have additional expenses. These include our liability insurance, 2024 WSC Conference payment, AWSC expenses incurred today. There are some potential expenses such as one more ***Serenity Sentinel***, Fall Appeal letter, and software/hardware costs. Donations from October have not yet been entered, along with future donations received in November and December. A Fall Appeal letter will be going out by the end of this month.

Thank you to all members, groups, districts, and AIS offices that have sent in donations. Without your donations, we would not be in the good shape that we currently are in. Please carefully check over the group donations report and inform me of any discrepancies. Remind your groups to include as much information as possible, especially their WSO number, Meeting Location Zip Code and Group Name on their check, as this ensures correct documentation. We continue to accept *PayPal donations via our website (www.miafg.org)*. Please use the Note area to indicate group information.

Snail mail for MIAFG donations and ***Sentinel*** Subscriptions should be sent to:

MI AFG Inc.
PO Box 980174
Ypsilanti, MI 48198-0174

Remember, all reports will be available on the Google drive.

Live and Let Live

Thank you to all our members for keeping MIAFG alive and healthy so we all can continue to carry the Al-Anon message. Grateful for this program and MIAFG members.

Renee F
Treasurer, Panel 61, Michigan

ARCHIVES COORDINATOR (PANEL 61)

1. Progress with the archives – Now that everything is cataloged and filed, I have been working on labeling folders and boxes so that items are easy to find, retrieve and refile.
2. Update on previous reports – The best approach I have come up with for archiving electronic documents is to create folders on my computer. These will be transferred to the next Archives Coordinator. The MIAFG Archives now exists as 15 boxes of physical materials plus 129 electronic documents in 34 folders.
3. Money spent – \$130.13 on archival quality labels, cassette tape boxes, and a storage box.
4. Research requests – none
5. New Business – The WSO Archives, Member Services, and Communications staff organized the first ever online meeting for Area Archives Coordinators. It was an opportunity to meet other Area Archives Coordinators and ask questions of them and the WSO staff. The archivist for the new GEA was at the meeting and will be a good contact for addressing issues of electronic archiving. The meeting is planned to continue quarterly and will be a great resource for future MIAFG archivists.
6. Acquisitions – Six (6) group documents from Share the Gift AFG (Shelby Township, Group #66172), flyers group history, and business meeting documents.

The past three years of working with the MIAFG archives has been a wonderfully eye-opening and enriching experience. I am inspired by the large number of people who have volunteered their time, knowledge and resources to create the fellowship we know today. And I am greatly impressed at the volume of work done at the local, district and area levels. The documents in our archives show many of Al-Anon's principles at work – equality, inclusivity, humility, responsibility, abundant thinking, anonymity, attraction not promotion, and many more. In total, the archives gives both a micro and a macro view of Tradition 5, our primary purpose of helping families of alcoholics.

Being the Area Archives Coordinator has given me a new appreciation for the fellowship of Al-Anon and the service work done to carry the message of hope and healing to families like mine.

With immense gratitude,
Kate A
Archives Coordinator, Panel 61, Michigan

Reports

RECORDS COORDINATOR (PANEL 61)

As of 12/30/23 following is the Area 27 Group status.

Physical Groups

- 344 active groups
- 3 groups listed as active, but currently not meeting due to COVID*
- 58 temporary electronic and/or face to face with electronic component groups due to COVID*
- 1 groups reported not meeting
- 4 groups reported no mail status
- 14 groups with no email address associated with it
- 132 inactive groups

Physical Groups - These groups are included in the active GROUPS count as well.

Electronic Groups

11 active groups.

- 1 - District 2 (Battle Creek)
- 1 - District 14 (Commerce Twp)
- 2 - District 16 (Lansing)
- 1 - District 39 (Traverse City)
- 6 - District 99 (Bloomfield Hills, Detroit, Orchard Lake, Redford, Riverview, Wyandotte)

Districts Accepting Electronic Groups

- 2 Per District Representative 8/6/23
- 3 Per District Representative 11/11/23
- 4 Per District Representative 11/14/23
- 12 Per District Representative 9/27/23
- 14 Per District Representative 9/30/23
- 16 Per District Representative 7/17/23
- 33 Per District Representative 9/1/23
- 39 Per District Representative 10/21/23
- 99 Per Area Group Records Coordinator 6/28/23

Lauren C

Records Coordinator, Panel 61, Michigan

饿 生气 孤独 累

NEWSLETTER COORDINATOR (PANEL 61)

The Autumn Issue (the 11th of Panel 61) of *Serenity Sentinel* has been completed for distribution. This issue focused on Alateen. I appreciated the sharings that were provided by the Alateens and I hope that they know that their input is welcome for *any* newsletter issue.

I am currently experiencing Writer's Block for the last newsletter of Panel 61. I haven't yet decided on the theme or elements for the Winter issue. Maybe I'll get some ideas at the November 11 AWSC when I listen to the reports.

My hope is to complete the newsletter soon so that I can promptly transition to my new service role in Panel 64.

It's been a pleasure and valuable learning experience for me to have this service opportunity. Thank you to all the members who provided feedback and encouragement.

In Service,

Wendy S

Newsletter Coordinator, Panel 61, Michigan

AREA ALATEEN PROCESS PERSON (AAPP)

While requests for Al-Anon Members in Alateen Service (AMIAS) forms have been slightly slower this fall, several new Alateen Sponsors have been certified in the past couple of months, bringing the total to just over 60. I thank you all for your service to Michigan Al-Anon and Alateen.

I've worked recently on registering a couple of new Alateen meetings, though sadly having to inactivate a couple, so there are ten at this time. The newest Alateen Group has just started in District 4 in Riverview. Also, a West Bloomfield Alateen meeting began during the summer, but it may have to inactivate due to no teens attending.

My agreement last year to "finish serving the AAPP remaining Panel term" is nearing completion, but I've appreciated the opportunity to learn so much in this realm of MIAFG. Appreciate so much working alongside Alateen Coordinator Sheryl S-R. Let's double the number of Alateens next year!

In sincere gratitude,

Maggie S

Area Alateen Process Person, Panel 61, Michigan

LITERATURE / FORUM COORDINATOR (PANEL 61)

Literature Updates

- ***A Little Time for Myself (B-34)***: The second printing of the new reader was delayed due to equipment failure at the printing company. On October 19th, we were notified via AFG Connects that the new reader was back in stock. Get your orders in!
- ***Just for Tonight Alateen Bookmark (M-82)***: As previously announced, this new bookmark is now available. While written by Alateen members, its thoughtful ideas for ending the day on a positive note can be helpful to anyone, regardless of their age.
- ***Sponsorship/Service Sponsorship Writing Guideline***: The Literature Committee continues to develop this tool to help encourage members to write for a new piece on this topic. Be prepared to pass this along to your groups!
- ***CAL Catalog (S-15), CAL Order Form (S-16), and 2023 Conference Summary (P-46)***: These should be available in October or November.

Reports

LITERATURE / FORUM COORDINATOR

(continued)

Did you know??? (Questions answered by Tom C, Associate Director-Literature)

- How do I get a reprint of CAL that has been discontinued?
ANS: “As to making and distributing copies, it is the WSO's policy to honor the group conscience that led to discontinuance, and not grant permission for reprints of discontinued items.”
- Can We Use Discontinued Literature in Meetings?
ANS: “Depending on the group, the piece they are considering, and other circumstances, the answer might be different for each group, which is why it remains up to the autonomy of the group, through its **informed group conscience**.
Reading from discontinued literature can provide tremendous insight from our early members about what our program was like at the time the material was written. At the same time, it's possible that not everyone at the meeting will be able to see it from a **historical perspective**.
It is important for the group to consider whether or not the discontinued piece presents our program in the best light and if it could give the wrong impression to newcomers. Building interest in a piece that is no longer available could also create **confusion, frustration, and a lack of unity**.
That's why when considering the use of discontinued literature at a meeting, the past experience of our members encourages us to “talk to each other” through an informed group conscience that can carefully consider all reasons for and against using the piece before reading it at a meeting. Then we trust that, according to Tradition Two, our group conscience is an expression of a loving Power greater than ourselves.”

Forum Subscription Sales – Here are *The Forum* sales since our last AWSC meeting in August. Total subscriptions and copies are on the rise! Look at these latest figures!!

Month	Total	
	Subscriptions	Copies
August	433	444
September	457	470
October	468	481
November		

The Forum Updates

- I attended my 6th WSO web conference meeting for all **Forum** Coordinators on October 20. It's a great way to learn how other coordinators encourage *Forum* subscriptions and writing submissions.
- Have you ever wondered about **how to get a copy of a past article** of *The Forum* that you found inspiring?
ANS: On the Al-Anon website, there is a page where you can fill out a request to the Archives department: Request for research - Al-Anon Family Groups. For future reference, it is under the **Members tab > WSO > Archives**.

- **Forum 70th Anniversary Reprints**
If you have a favorite article from an older issue of *The Forum*, or maybe you have a vague memory of one and can only identify the topic or the title or some other detail about it, feel free to suggest it to Carol C, Magazine Editor, as a candidate for reprinting in one of the 70th anniversary issues. There are plans to include a few reprints in each issue throughout 2024.
- **Writing Warriors:** Please continue to submit sharings to *The Forum*. Topical Sharings still needed:
 - Having a Sponsor in a different geographic location (even internationally), where communication takes place via electronic technology
 - "Graduating" from Alateen to Al Anon. (The pamphlet *Moving On! From Alateen to Al-Anon* (P-59) will be featured in a CAL Corner in 2024, and sharings on this pamphlet are needed as well.)
- **“CAL Corner” - Please consider sharing in writing about how a piece of CAL has helped with your recovery. We could especially use sharings about the following for 2024:**
 - *A Little Time for Myself* (B-34)
 - *Lois Remembers* (B-7)
 - *Alateen 4th Step Inventory* (P-64)
 - *The Al-Anon Family Groups-Classic Edition* (B-5)
 - *Moving On! From Alateen to Al-Anon* (P-59)
 - *Many Voices, One Journey* (B-31)
 - *Alcoholism, a Merry-Go-Round Named Denial* (P-3), which will be celebrating its 55th anniversary.
- See the writing guideline at www.al-anon.org/sharing

The Forum Subscription Give-Aways

Eight (8) new Group Representatives were recognized at the Fall Assembly and gifted with a one-year subscription to *The Forum*!

Remember --- Group Reps serve as *The Forum* Representatives. Please encourage the use of *The Forum* at your meetings and even suggest a group subscription.
*** For those new GRs that were gifted with a subscription to *The Forum*, please consider renewing your subscription or encouraging a group's subscription to *The Forum*.

Thank you to the following MIAFG members for their donations to the Area Archives!

- Kristine G - various group business documents from Share the Gift AFG, Shelby Township, Group #66172
- Linnea O - cassette tape player, for listening to audio tapes in the Archives

Reports

LITERATURE / FORUM COORDINATOR

(continued)

Summary for Panel 61: 2021-2023

Goal: To increase *Forum* subscriptions, both in groups and others by an increase of **10 percent per year** starting in 2021.

- During this panel, I have awarded 39 one-year subscriptions of ***The Forum!***
- From January 2021 to January 2022 – ***Forum*** subscriptions increased slightly > 1 percent
- From January 2022 to January 2023 – ***Forum*** subscriptions increased almost 10 percent (9.7%)!!
- Stay tuned for the final year's results ...

Grateful to serve,

Gloria Velarde

Literature/*Forum* Coordinator, Panel 61, Area 27

Que cela commence par moi

Spotlight on...



FEAC

***The Forum's* Unsung Heroes: The FEAC – Al-Anon Family Groups**

Readers of *The Forum* often ask how the decision to publish an article is made and by whom. And, while there are a number of people who work to produce the magazine every month, one of the most important elements is something most people have never heard of—the ***Forum Editorial Advisory Committee (or FEAC)***. The people on this Committee volunteer to review 50 sharings for ***The Forum*** each month. As one member put it, “Many Al Anon members acknowledge not feeling like they had a voice before coming to the program, but with this project, they can share their journeys in a most meaningful way.”

First, the FEAC volunteers look to see whether the sharing is topical—whether it reflects some aspect of the Al Anon program. They score each one and comment on their reason for scoring it as they did. Out of three possible scores, a score of 1 means the sharing is excellent and is suitable for publication. A 2 is still positive, but not as strong as a 1. A 4, on the other hand, means that the sharing is not appropriate for publication. There are several reasons why an article may not be publishable. For example, a sharing that focuses only on other types of addiction, such as drugs, rather than alcohol, is probably not acceptable. Or, it may be too directive, or in the words of one of the Committee members, too “teachy/preachy.” In other words, the author

writes with a tone of directing the readers as to what they should do, think, or feel. Further, sharings that focus heavily on the alcoholic loved one and those that focus only on the problems associated with the disease are not likely to receive positive scores. If a reading gets more than one 4 score, it is deemed ineligible for publication. What's comforting to know, though, is that even one of these sharings may contain a small excerpt that is publishable in the “One ‘Quote’ at a Time” department or for the back-flap quote.

Moreover, though, sharings that reflect hope are the most likely to receive high marks. After all, isn't that why so many people “Keep Coming Back” to meetings? Then, the editing team uses the Committee's input to determine what goes in the magazine.

Finally, the Committee members meet via phone conference four times a year to discuss the magazine and how effectively they feel it is working. I am extremely grateful for this band of behind-the-scenes warriors. Further, the fact that they do this service work on a voluntary basis shows the commitment of each of the five members. Without them, this monthly instrument of hope and help for the friends and families of alcoholics would not be possible.

*By Mark S, Magazine Editor, The Forum, August 2019
(Reprinted with permission of Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters Inc., Virginia Beach, VA)*

PANEL 64'S VISION, GOALS AND MISSION

Panel 64 Board Members and Coordinators developed the below Vision Statement, Board Goals and Mission Statement to guide them as Area 27's trusted servants.

Vision Statement

Anyone in Michigan, Area 27, affected by someone else's drinking can find help, hope and growth through recovery in Al-Anon and Alateen

Board Goals

Participation: MIAFG, Inc. invests in each new generation of trusted servants to encourage and support Al-Anon/Alateen service beginning at the group level, connecting to every link of service.

Members: MIAFG, Inc. connects and supports the friends and families of alcoholics.

Awareness: MIAFG, Inc., builds public and professional awareness of the Al-Anon program.

Financial Sustainability: MIAFG, Inc., encourages membership and organizational self-support by aligning resource allocation with its core purpose and strategic priorities.

Mission Statement

MIAFG, Inc., is a spiritually based organization that helps the families and friends of alcoholics connect and support each other through inclusive meetings, information, and shared experiences; we do this by using our three Legacies in all our affairs.

Archives Corner (continued from Page 2)

District 14 – A literature order form with \$4 enclosed was sent by Maxine B to headquarters from Rochester in April 1957.

District 15 – A letter from the WSO to a member in Brighton dated Nov. 5, 1962 sends encouragement for starting an Alateen group and includes an Alateen Group Packet.

District 16 – In 1957 member Mavis H writes to the WSO stating she “would like to register a new Al Anon Family Group” in Lansing. Other groups had already been formed in Lansing by 1957. In 1958, Mavis H writes again to the WSO to say that the group fell through. The reply letter from the WSO offers suggestions for public outreach.

District 18 – A registration card for the “Women’s Aux. – Holland, Mich.” is dated Mar. 13, 1953 and states that the group started “about 2 ½ years ago.”

District 20 – A three-page typed document titled “Report of the 1951 General Service Conference from a Wife’s Viewpoint to Western Michigan Panel Family Groups, Grand Rapids, May 9, 1951” is a talk by member Alice M. She describes her attendance at the AA Conference as the wife of an AA Delegate and her excitement at Lois W’s participation in the weekend event and the program Lois had prepared for the 15 wives in attendance.

District 22 – A note from a group in Fenton, sent in 1953, states “Enclosed please find a money order for \$7.00, our semi-annual contribution to the Alcoholic Foundation.” The reply letter from the Al-Anon Clearinghouse reads, “We think that it was just a mistake ... We are the Clearinghouse of the Al-Anon Family Groups. The Foundation is A.A.”

District 23 – A hand-written note from Viola H expresses interest in forming a group in Flint.

District 24 – Member Martha P writes in April 1957, “Several wives of A.A. members are interested in forming an Al-Anon group in Mt. Morris, Michigan.”

District 26 – The Blue Water Al-Anon Family Group of Port Huron sent \$2 to Clearinghouse for literature in 1953.

District 28 – In 1957, a member from North Branch writes to the Clearinghouse expressing interest in starting a group.

District 29 – A Saginaw group writes to headquarters in March of 1953 requesting “a list of the other auxiliaries that are functioning in Michigan.” The Clearinghouse replies with a list of 8 meetings (Benton Harbor, Ann Arbor, Fenton, Grand Rapids, Grosse Pointe, Muskegon, Niles, Port Huron).

District 33 – In 1958, a member writes from Ludington to the WSO asking several questions of protocol in setting up a

new group (such as “Do you have a suggestion as to the amount of contribution to give at each meeting?” The questions are thoughtfully answered (“... as far as Headquarters is concerned, there is no set contribution required but most groups do contribute \$1 for each member, semi-annually in the spring and fall.”).

District 38 – In 1960, the pastor of St. Ann’s Rectory in Cadillac corresponded with the WSO to establish an Alateen group.

District 39 – A member from Traverse City writes to the WSO in 1957 asking for advice on how to approach the “non-alcoholic who wants to participate in Al-Anon but refrains because the alcoholic dropped out of A.A.” In their reply letter, the WSO staff addressed the issue, stating, “... we do feel that is a frequently recurring problem for which there is no one solution. If the alcoholic is resentful to the point of becoming argumentative or violent about his wife going to Al-Anon meetings, it would seem best not to urge her to come for a while. However, we know several instances where the wife was able to impress upon the alcoholic that Al-Anon was for her, whether or not he was ready to accept AA, and thus was able to continue her affiliation with the group.”

District 40 – A member of Alcoholics Anonymous in Petoskey writes to the WSO in 1958 stating that “the wives of the AA members are most anxious” to start an Al-Anon group.

District 43 – In 1956, a volunteer at the Clearinghouse writes to a member in St. Ignace regarding literature and registration of the group.

Michigan has a rich history of activity in the early years of creating the program we now call Al-Anon. The efforts of individuals in the early days to carry the message played a role in building Al-Anon into a worldwide fellowship of experience, strength and hope.

Do you have any Michigan Al-Anon documents or mementos that you would like to donate to the Archives? If so, please contact miafgarchives@gmail.com.

Classifieds

Help Wanted	IN SEARCH OF
Panel 64 is looking for Archives, Newsletter and Website Coordinators. For more info, contact miafgdelegate@gmail.com	Members to join me in a book study of the Service Manual. Timing of weekly Zoom meeting TBD. Wendy S (miafgsecretary@gmail.com)

Answers

One Day at a Time (Spanish)
Just for Today (German)
Take What You Like and Leave the Rest (Polish)
THINK (Russian)
Live and Let Live (English)
Hungry. Angry. Lonely. Tired (Chinese)
Let it Begin with Me (French)

MICHIGAN AFG CONTACT AND 7TH TRADITION INFORMATION

NAME	ADDRESS	CITY, STATE, ZIP	PHONE	E-MAIL
Michigan AFG, Inc.	Contributions: PO Box 980174 Website: www.miafg.org	Ypsilanti, MI 48198-0174		miafgtreasurer@gmail.com miafgwebcoordinator@gmail.com
Al-Anon's World Service Office AFG, Inc.	1600 Corporate Landing Pkwy. Website: www.al-anon.alateen.org Members Website: www.al-anon.org/members Meeting Info: 1-888-4ALANON	Virginia Beach, VA 23454	757-563-1600 Fax: 757-563-1656	wso@al-anon.org https://al-anon.org/al-anon-meetings/find-an-al-anon-meeting/

AREA INFORMATION SERVICES (AIS) / LITERATURE DISTRIBUTION CENTER (LDC) SERVICE ARMS

Central Michigan AIS/LDC	Automated Service	PO Box 615	Dimondale, MI 48821	517-484-1977	centralmiafgldc@aol.com
Detroit Metro AIS/LDC	Varies	26150 Five Mile Rd. Suite #19	Redford, MI 48239	313-242-0300	detroitalanonoffice@gmail.com
Genesee/Lapeer AIS	Automated Service	PO Box 454	Linden, MI 48451-0454	810-234-1460	geneseeareais@gmail.com
Grand Rapids AIS	Varies	PO Box 1428	Grand Rapids, MI 49501-1428	616-222-0632	info@aisgr.org Website www.aisgr.org
SW Michigan AIS	Answering System	c/o Alano Club, 933 S. Burdick St	Kalamazoo, MI 49001	269-993-0589	swmichiganalanon@gmail.com Website www.swmichiganal-anon.org/
MI Thumb Area AFG Info/LDC	Varies	% Cakima 3800 Lee Hill Rd	Mayville, MI 48744	989-912-5478	MIThumbAreaAFG@yahoo.com
Oakland Co. AIS/LDC	Varies	PO Box 155	Keego Harbor, MI 48320-0320	248-706-1020	info@oaklandafg.org Website www.oaklandafg.org
District 39 AIS	Answering System	PO Box 5132	Traverse City, MI 49696	231-938-7399	alanond39@gmail.com Website https://alanon-d39.org/
Northwestern Michigan AIS	Answering System	PO Box 224	Boyne City, MI 49712	231-675-7044	n/a
Washtenaw Co. AIS	Answering System	PO Box 1861	Ann Arbor, MI 48106	734-995-4949	AIS@afgDistrict5.org

MICHIGAN TRUSTED SERVANTS 2024-2026 (PANEL 64)

POSITION	NAME	E-MAIL	SERVICE
World Service Delegate	Theresa S	miafgdelegate@gmail.com	Membership Outreach
Alternate Delegate	Michelle D	miafgalternatedelegate@gmail.com	Membership Outreach
Chairperson	Ross F	miafgchairperson@gmail.com	Membership Outreach
Secretary	Wendy S	miafgsecretary@gmail.com	Business Services / Finance
Treasurer (Interim)	Renee F	miafgtreasurer@gmail.com	Business Services / Finance
Digital Coordinator	Kate A	miafgdigitalcoordinator@gmail.com	Business Services / Finance
Tech Coordinator	Hal W	miafgtechcoordinator@gmail.com	Business Services / Finance
Archives		miafgarchives@gmail.com	Group Services
Area Records	Valerie M	miafgrecords@gmail.com	Group Services
Alateen Coordinator	Andy G	miafgalateen@gmail.com	Alateen
Alateen Process Person	Sheryl S-R	miafgaapp@gmail.com	Alateen
Public Outreach Coordinator	Erika C	miafgpublicoutreach@gmail.com	Public Outreach
Web Coordinator		miafgwebcoordinator@gmail.com	Public Outreach
Literature / Forum	Melanie F	miafgliterature@gmail.com	Fellowship Communication
<i>Serenity Sentinel</i>		miafgnewsletter@gmail.com	Fellowship Communication
PREVIOUS DELEGATES			
2021-2023 (Panel 64)	Kristine G	kristinegilbey@gmail.com	
2018-2020 (Panel 58)	Ann M	missmurph@mindspring.com	
2015-2017 (Panel 55)	Mike D	Deceased	
2012-2014 (Panel 52)	Liz P	Deceased	
2009-2011 (Panel 49)	Debbie K		
2006-2008 (Panel 46)	Mike B	mikesuebarry@yahoo.com	
2003-2005 (Panel 43)	Sue B	suelongdrive@yahoo.com	
2000-2002 (Panel 40)	Bev S	tmie8595@comcast.net	
1997-1999 (Panel 37)	Geri H	Deceased	
1994-1996 (Panel 34)	Michelle L	my583@yahoo.com	
1994-1996* (Panel 34)	Helen P	Deceased	
1991-1993 (Panel 31)	Bill L	Deceased	
1991-1993* (Panel 31)	Connie C	connysusiec@aol.com	
1988-1990 (Panel 28)	Skeet J	Deceased	
1985-1987 (Panel 25)	Connie B	Deceased	
1982-1984 (Panel 22)	Shirley W	Deceased	
1979-1981 (Panel 19)	Mary J	Deceased	
1976-1978 (Panel 16)	Anne S		
1973-1975 (Panel 13)	Ellen P		
1970-1972 (Panel 10)	Estelle D		
1967-1969 (Panel 7)	Dorothea B	Deceased	
1964-1966* (Panel 4)	Dorothea B	Deceased	
1964-1966 (Panel 4)	Edgar D	Deceased	
1961-1963* (Panel 1)	Irene T		
1961-1963 (Panel 1)	Ruth G		

* Alt - served part

Please honor our Traditions and maintain the anonymity of all persons listed on this page.

Michigan Al-Anon and Alateen Family Groups 52nd Annual State Convention With AA Participation

Saturday, May 4, 2024

8 a.m. – Registration begins / 9 a.m. – Convention begins / 3:30 p.m. – Convention ends

Doubletree by Hilton Bay City
One Wenonah Park Place, Bay City, MI 48708 (989-891-6000)
www.hilton.com/en/hotels/mbsbcdt-doubletree-bay-city-riverfront

Keep it Simple

Life can be complicated. Al-Anon is a simple program.

Al-Anon Speaker: Sherry N - Milan, MI
Panels and Interactive Workshops
Fellowship with Recovery Friends
More will be revealed. For updates visit

<https://MichiganAFG52ndStateConvention.eventbrite.com>

Overnight Accommodations at Doubletree

For those who wish to stay Friday and/or Saturday evening, Doubletree is offering a rate of \$114 plus tax. Rooms and special rate will be held until April 15, 2024.

To make a reservation, please call the Doubletree at 989-891-6000 (ask for Michigan AFG rate) or visit

<https://book.passkey.com/go/MIAFGConv>

For More Information or to Volunteer:

MIAFGStateConvention@gmail.com,
248-457-5120 or visit

<https://MichiganAFG52ndStateConvention.eventbrite.com>

Registration and Payment

Registration Fee through April 1, 2024 \$20
Registration Fee after April 1, 2024 \$25
Registration Fee for Alateen \$5

No refunds after April 1, 2024

Lunch (\$20)

Choice of Plated Michigan or Cobb Salad or Ham Sandwich
Please note that outside food cannot be brought into the hotel.

For catering information, please visit

<https://MichiganAFG52ndStateConvention.eventbrite.com>

To Register and Pay Online:

<https://MichiganAFG52ndStateConvention.eventbrite.com>
Registrants responsible for convenience fees

To Register and Pay by Mail:

Please make checks payable to: **Michigan AFG, Inc.**
Mail registration to: **PO Box 725152, Berkley, MI 48072**

52nd MIAFG Convention Registration Form (one for each participant)

Name _____
City _____ State _____
Phone _____
Email _____

Registration Fee (see above for pricing) \$ _____
\$20 Lunch (check one item below) \$ _____
Total \$ _____

No Refunds after April 1, 2024

Circle One Al-Anon Alateen AA Guest

**Check for ADA accommodations or special needs
(someone will follow up with you)**

Plated Lunch Choices

Dearborn Ham Sandwich (Ham, Baby Swiss, Russian Mayo, Iceberg Lettuce on a Pretzel Roll)

Michigan Salad (Spring Mix, Grilled Chicken Breast, Dried Cherries, Walnuts, Apples, White Cheddar, Tomatoes with House Vinaigrette)

Cobb Salad (Mixed Greens, Smoked Turkey, Bacon, Tomatoes, Avocado, Cheddar Cheese, Egg, Cucumbers, Ranch & Italian Dressing)

Mail with check or money order to:
Michigan AFG, Inc., PO Box 725152, Berkley, MI 48072