

Share Your Al-Anon Memories

Following a motion from the 2008 World Service Conference, the WSO is preparing a book about Al-Anon's history, TRACING OUR GROWTH (working title). The book will tell Al-Anon's story from the perspective of Al-Anon members, including those whose personal progress involved working in Al-Anon service on the challenging issues of their day.

Please share your recollections about the events you have witnessed since you joined Al-Anon—and what you learned from the experience. Your sharing could include the founding of Alateen, the first Conference, the creation of Conference Approved Literature, the influx of adult children of alcoholics, the relocation of the WSO, the introduction of the Alateen safety requirements, or many other events and achievements.

We need to be able to put your personal experiences in an historical framework, so please be specific about the dates of the events and situations you describe. Here are some questions to consider as you write your sharing:

- When did you join Al-Anon, and what was the program like at the time? How was your first meeting different from the meetings you attend today?
- In your time in the program, what innovations did you witness? How did Al-Anon evolve as a program and as an organization? Were you witness to any milestones in Al-Anon's history?
- Was there a specific event or period in Al-Anon's history that inspired or challenged your personal growth? What Al-Anon tools helped you grow from this experience?
- In your time in the program, how has Al-Anon progressed as a program and how have its changes been reflected in your personal progress?
- If you were involved in service, what were the major challenges facing the fellowship at the time, and how did facing these challenges affect you personally?
- If you were a WSO volunteer or staff member, what were the most important issues while you served and how did they affect your recovery?
- What personal recovery lessons have you learned from the experiences of our cofounders and other pioneer members as they struggled with their own growth and the growth of our fellowship?

This history book will need sharings from every decade from the 1950s to the present. Even if you think that the mid-1990s or the early twenty-first century is too recent to be history, please share your perspective with us so that this book can reflect every stage of Al-Anon's growth.

Send your sharings to the WSO, 1600 Corporate Landing Parkway, Virginia Beach, VA 23454-5617; by e-mail to wso@al-anon.org; or on-line on the Publications page at www.al-anon.alateen.org/members by December 31, 2009. Please note: for history book.

