Some history on Al-Anon
Sponsorship

2019-2020
We asked: “How can we support members by making healthy sponsorship more accessible and less mysterious – to all members and to new sponsors?”

Newcomers and other members often feel anxiety and confusion about sponsorship. Reliable, flexible sponsorship has a direct effect on regular participation, effective recovery, service, and retention of members. Sponsored members sponsor others sooner.

Sponsors help us better understand the Steps, Traditions, and Concepts, and they teach us application of the spiritual principles ourselves. Solid sponsorship is the key to a flourishing fellowship. It conquers many challenges we face, both individually and collectively.
calling all sponsors

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History

- What do we know:
  - Facts,
  - FAQ’s and
  - ESH
History)

- Facts - Sponsorship in our Literature
  - Sponsorship - What It’s All About (P-31)
  - Service Sponsorship - Working Smarter, Not Harder (P-88)
  - Sponsorship - Working Together to Recover (M-78)
  - How Al-Anon Works (B-32) pg. 36-38
  - Discovering Choices - Recovery in Relationships (B-30)
  - Having Had a Spiritual Awakening (B-25) (out of print)
  - In All Our Affairs (B-15)
Sponsorship in our Literature continued

Facts Opening Our Hearts, Transforming our Losses (B-29)

- Al-Anon Family Groups, Classic Edition (B-5)
- When I Got Busy, I Got Better (P-78)
- Many Voices, One Journey (B-31) pg 118 and pgs 136-137
- The Forum - multiple issues (most issues have an article centered on sponsorship)
Fact - Most are stories about sponsorship, not ESH on how to sponsor
Fact - No Guideline addresses Sponsorship
FAQ - Is it enough?
Fact - Sponsorship discussed in our Conference Summaries

In 1967 - a quote from Lois

“The practice of sponsorship has been greatly neglected in Al-Anon. Its importance in the approach to newcomers should not be overlooked by us. When an older member takes a newcomer under her wing and gives her friendship and understanding, the new member can respond to the program more quickly and many a doubtful prospect can be encouraged to continue her interest in Al-Anon who otherwise might go away disheartened.”
Fact - Sponsorship in our Conference Summaries (cont.)

Sponsorship is referred to often in the Conference Summaries. It is seldom a topic of discussion.

Exceptions were:

- In 2003 a CAI asked, “What can be done to encourage more people to get sponsors and help more people feel comfortable being a sponsor?”
- In 2006, Joyce B. lead a CAI on pyramid sponsorship
- In 2017 Strategies for Areas included encouraging temporary Sponsors for newcomers
History (cont.)

Fact - Sponsorship in our Conference Summaries (cont.)

In 2007, the CAI on how newcomers are being greeted stating “Sponsorship will keep future of Al-Anon alive.” was not chosen for discussion.

In 2010, Sharing Area Highlights (SAH) reported pyramid sponsorship as a problem.

In 2011, Podcasts on sponsorship was developed. They are no longer available.

In 2016, Delegates identified a challenge as “Strong sponsorship is not as prevalent as it used to be.”
History (cont.)

Fact - AFGConnects

A search for the word “sponsor” in WSC discussions on AFGConnects brings up 131 posts

- A skit and a handout are available in these posts, but not one of those posts offers a discussion on sponsorship.
FAQ - A speaker was asked, “How many people do you sponsor?”

Answer - “About Half!” (ESH)
It is apparent that there is NOT a single “healthy way to sponsor.”

- More ESH - The same sponsor may sponsor different people differently, based on each person’s willingness, availability, and desire.
History (cont.)

- Fact - Survey
  - In 2014, a WSO survey showed that only 53% of members who responded (with an average of 15 years in Al-Anon) indicated they were involved in service activities. This service work included sponsorship.
  - That survey showed that 47% of Al-Anons work no more than an 11 Step Program!!!
Supporting Arizona Al-Anon members by making healthy sponsorship more accessible and less mysterious

- See us on the first Thursday at 7 pm and the Third Saturday at 10 am every month beginning September 2019 until August 2020. Bring your questions!
- Review the Agenda posted on our website and attend all or some of the workshops.
- Come early if you’re not familiar with Zoom or if you want to guarantee yourself a spot.
- Look out for some resource material we hope to create with all the information that is shared!

Join us on Zoom for bi-monthly sponsorship workshops
Email us at sponsorshipworkshops@al-anon-az.org

Or for more information
https://al-anon-az.org/sponsorship-workshops/