

# 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.

Why we put  
together a  
series of  
workshops on  
sponsorship for  
Arizona:

# calling all sponsors

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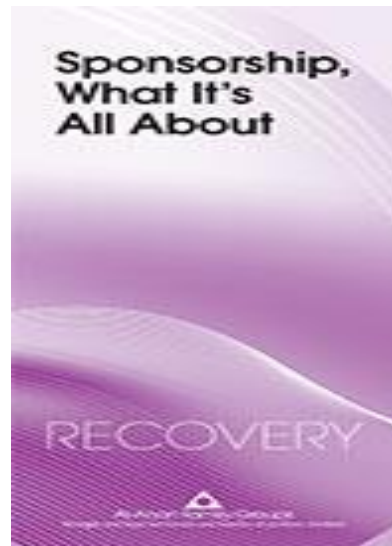
# History

- ▶ 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)

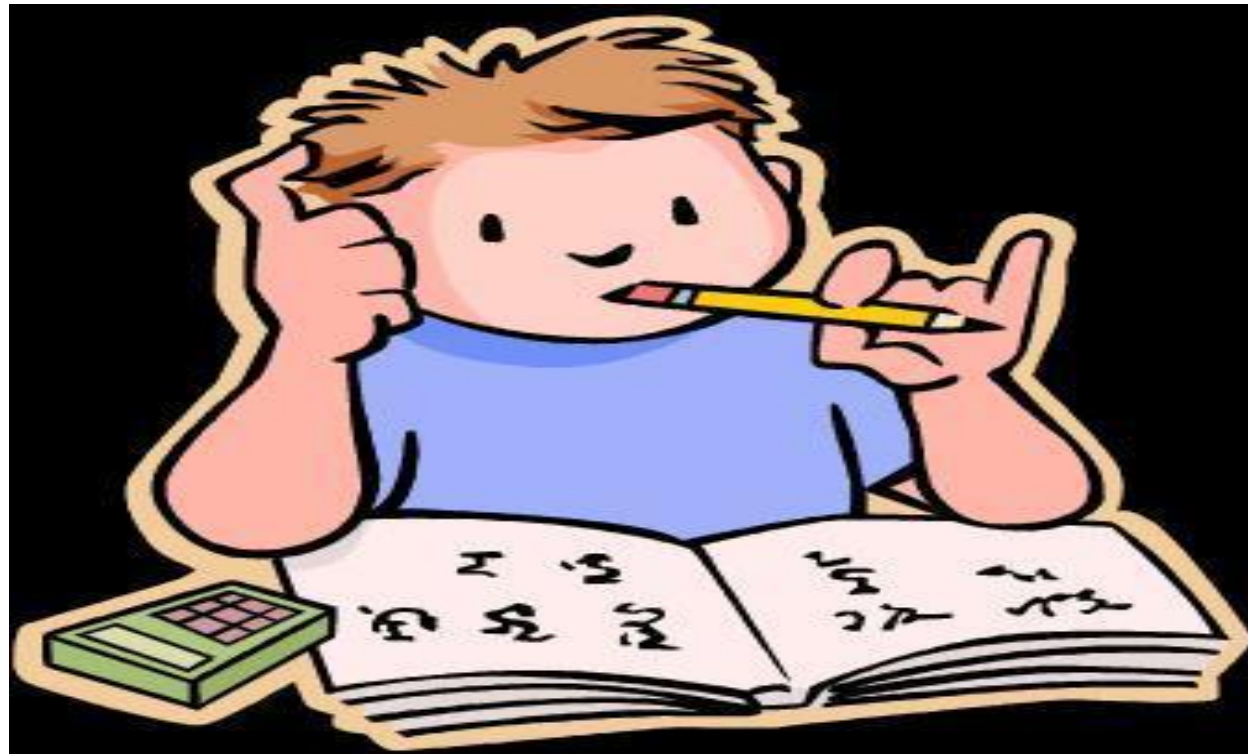
Many Voices, One Journey (B-31) pg 118 and pgs  
136-137

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?





## History (cont.)

- ▶ 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.”



# History (cont.)

- ▶ 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.)



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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.

**Become A Sponsor**

## History (cont.)

- ▶ 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



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## 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](mailto:sponsorshipworkshops@al-anon-az.org)

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