

Greetings Area 5,

I want to thank you all for allowing me to serve as your Panel 56 Area Chair. As I begin my journey I am only now realizing, after our first Assembly, just how much I am growing because of all of the areas that Al-Anon is touching my life. I am truly so very grateful.

In the second paragraph page 307 in "Hope for Today", it says, "To me recovery is intertwined with service, and the business of Al-Anon is about service performed by the entire group. It goes on to say "Al-Anon didn't just happen. There were and are many people behind the scenes making sure it survives." For me this is such an amazing and true statement. Many serve on all levels to keep Al-Anon available to help friends and families of alcoholics. I am so humbled by all of you!

As I begin this amazing process of discovery I am so touched by all of the work that is being done by so many trusted servants in Area 5. You all tirelessly perform your roles for the common good of our area. The energy is simply off the charts and is extremely contagious. There is nothing like an afternoon conversation with a Coordinator that is exuding their passion around their particular position, or a GR that reaches out for understanding around "exactly what is an assembly?" I am stunned by how much I am learning from listening to the various conversations around the work you are all performing and the questions that you ask.

We have many Task and Thought Forces underway both from our past panel and now to continue to move the business forward with our current panel. I will do my best to give the time that is needed to work through the discussions and welcome all of your comments or concerns.

Our WIA discussion at our last assembly was such a joy to watch as we worked our way through the conversation and consequently a vote. All voices were heard at the same volume and the cooperation amongst members was simply beautiful to witness. Thank you for being willing to speak at the mike and share your thoughts. I am working on my navigation skills and want to thank those of you that helped along the way.

As we move forward to our upcoming Summer Assembly it is my hope to spend some time in small groups allowing for each of you to interact with one another on a smaller scale through various topics. I know that we pushed hard through a ton of business my hope is that we can now tap the brake a little. Although we have much work underway, we can take a small breath and get to know one another.

I am ready willing and able to serve in a spirit of cooperation. I will strive to always remember that the ultimate authority lies with a loving God of my understanding and that we must always be mindful of Tradition 1, "Our common welfare should

come first; personal progress for the greatest number depends upon unity". I am not married to any outcome where our business is concerned and will do my best to use the tools of the program in all my affairs.

My love to you all,

Panel 56
Area 5 Chair
Bev H