

Forum – Submitted by Cathy C.

Subscriptions were up slightly from 2020 (729) to 2021 (747) for Ohio. For the US, Canada and Bermuda, subscriptions were down from 2020 (18,020) to 2021 (17,303).

I participated in the Web Conference of Area Forum Coordinators one Saturday in January. The call was moderated by Carol C., *The Forum* editor. There were 29 participants on the call. Experience was shared, questions were asked, frustrations were vented, support was offered, and ideas were generated.

I found it interesting that for many of the areas, the Forum Coordinator is a shared position – mostly with the Literature Coordinator or the Alternate Delegate. There will be another web conference this Spring.

I have been reading “Many Voices, One Journey” recently. It is really fascinating how the Al-Anon program has evolved through the years, including its literature, and how all the responsibilities and decisions have been shared by the groups through the years through our service structure.

It is also interesting that in 1962, this is what Margaret D., editor of *The Al-Anon Family Group Forum*, reported to the 1966 World Service Conference: The Forum is primarily a means of communication among many far-flung groups. It is also, or should be, an instrument of education and inspiration for individuals as well as groups. It is a place where any member or group can have his say, if time is taken to write it.

Naturally, little of this can be accomplished if members and groups do not send in their ideas, comments, and experience. It does not take much effort to jot down a short description of a successful, new kind of meeting. It doesn't need creative talent to write a short account of a new way of applying a Step or slogan. It does not take special training to tell your own story – after all, you lived it. You know what happened and what helped you most. Only you can tell it. And by telling it, you may perhaps help some complete stranger ten years from now, a world away from where you lived those days...

And just as back in 1962, *The Forum* needs our sharings of experience, strength and hope. I know that many of you have contributed articles through the years. Please continue. From the web conference of Area Forum Coordinators in January, someone shared their Power Point presentation of The Forum Writing Guidelines F-1 and I have it if anyone is interested. I plan to present a writing workshop for *The Forum* at the Ohio Area Convention in Findlay this summer. Wish me luck!

Yours in Service,

Cathy C.