

District 15 Needs Officers!

As we rapidly come to the end of 2023, our District finds ourselves in the difficult position of not having a full panel of officers elected for 2024. On a spiritual level, this means that our District will not be fully self-supporting (Tradition 7), including voice and vote in the Area Committee and connection to the worldwide fellowship of Al-Anon through our Area Delegate. On a practical level the groups in our District, along with the new and ongoing District trusted servants, will be missing communication, support and guidance. Additionally, the District will be in violation of our Bylaws, and as a registered non-profit corporation (since 1985) could be out of compliance with the requirements of the State of California.

We do have a new Treasurer, as well as some Coordinator positions filled with people inspired to do what they can. We also have a fully funded budget, so the District can support the activities of all of our Officers and Coordinators. However, we need a new District Representative (DR), Alternate District Representative (ADR), and Secretary. We also have other open Coordinator positions, but the Officer positions are the most critical. One of the fundamental principles of Al-Anon is rotation of service. As stated in Tradition Two, "Our leaders are but trusted servants – they do not govern." What are your barriers to stepping into service?

I can't commit to a three-year term.

While positions beyond the group level all traditionally have three-year terms, the important thing is willingness to serve, One Day At a Time. Even if you don't think you can do something for three years, maybe you can do it for three months and then re-evaluate. Maybe you'll realize you can keep doing it, or maybe you'll have to stop. But you won't know without trying.

I don't have enough experience.

There are others who have done the same service, both in our District and in the Area, who are willing to share experience, strength and hope. Again, willingness is the most important thing. Service beyond the group level is a great way to learn new skills and practice the principles of the program in a different environment. NOTE: The DR and ADR positions do require candidates to be a current or past Group Representative.

I can't do this by myself.

You don't have to. Every position has opportunities to delegate, ask for help, and get support. If you are feeling the least bit isolated, a service position can help you connect with other Al-Anon members outside of your meeting. If you're someone who has difficulty asking for help, it's a great opportunity to practice and allow others to help you. "Participation is the key to harmony." – Concept Four

I'm afraid of failure.

All the trusted servants you work with want you to succeed. So does your Higher Power, who is really in charge. Everyone is human and makes mistakes, and everyone can learn and grow. "Progress not perfection."

My appeal is to consider the following, and to ask all of your groups to consider as well:

- Do I want to contribute to the program of Al-Anon being here for others?
- Am I willing to volunteer for one of these positions, to the best of my ability, even for a short period of time?

Position Guidelines are located on our [website](#). Feel free to reach out to me or any other current or former trusted servants to ask questions and get more information. I hope to see you at our District Meeting (on Zoom) on December 16!

Ruby V.

Outgoing DR, D15

Rubyv.afg@gmail.com