

DISTRICT DISPATCH

DISTRICT 2 | AREA 15 | SOUTH FLORIDA | JAN 2026

SERVICE SPOTLIGHT – ALLAN D.

I first met Allan while volunteering with a service event he had helped start: Steps to Freedom. Steps to Freedom was held annually as a fundraiser for TBAIC. The all day 12-Step workshop included breakfast and lunch, which was either coordinated or created by Allan, as his professional trade was executive chef. Allan provided personal catering to several events, in particular annual sober NYE parties. NYE was very significant to Allan and he wanted to help provide a safe space for celebrations.

During our interview I asked Allan what his first AA service was. He said “coffee...no, cleaning ashtrays”. Asked after a meeting to clean ashtrays, his first reaction was as you might expect. After a week of being disgruntled, someone said “well did you drink?... to which he responded, “no I didn’t.” Later on, he was asked to be coffee maker and greeter at his original home group, which he really enjoyed because “it allowed me to not be in my own craziness”. The focus on getting ready for meetings, thinking of other people, and the positive feedback was healing. Soon afterward, at a home group business meeting, he was “voluntold” to be a Central Office Rep, a CSR, which meant going to Central Office meeting once a month. The position included maintain the books, literature, and medallions inventory; he felt he had no idea what was doing, but was now introduced to group level service work.

Allan found it hard to pinpoint what was his favorite service work, having had several service positions, noting there are so many rewards, like when working with others and being a sponsor. He did say his favorite committee was Treatment, particularly because he came into AA through a treatment center, where he had “you are not alone” realization by listening to a speaker who shared his experience, strength, and hope, as well as the “Dr’s Opinion”. Allan was later asked to be the Treatment committee Chair, then was a District chair, the Area Treatment Chair, and the Area 15 Treatment Secretary.

In standing for service, Allan has had someone disappointments, like not being voted in, or being assigned to something he felt he was not capable of, but “God may have a had a hand in the outcome because there was something he needed to learn”. Skills developed through service helped his personal life, getting more organized, learning technical skills, and learning to ask for help. Afterward, asking for help became that much easier.

Allan expressed appreciation for Service Sponsors who help with understanding AA service structure. Similar to the Big Book and the steps and the Traditions, being a part of the service structure helps with recovery and being a better person, “all service work helps us grow our skills and develop lifelong friends”. As you may know, Allan is a huge fan of AA History, and feels very fortunate to visit Dr. Bob and Bill’s preserved meeting houses on Founder’s Day, being immersed in the feeling of service. I asked Allan how we can learn from our AA History? “Keep it simple guys, as Dr. Bob said, keep it simple, don’t complicate this.”

DISTRICT 2 OPEN SERVICE POSITIONS

AA CONCEPTS FOR WORLD SERVICE -CONCEPT I-

Committee Chairs:

Accessibilities

Finance

Grapevine

PI/CPC

Panel 75 Appointed

Gratitude Dinner

New GSR Orientation

Room&Ride Coordinator

DCM/ACM:

Sub-District C: (Dover, Plant City)

Sub-District D: (Land-O-Lakes/Lutz/Odessa)

Sub-District F: (South Central Tampa)

Sub-District H: (Apollo Beach, Ruskin, Sun City)

Sub-District K: (Hyde Park, Downtown)

Sub-District M: (Seminole Heights)

Sub-District N: (Riverview)

Sub-District T: (New Tampa/USF)

Sub-District U: (Drew Park/NW Tampa)

ACM positions are open for every Sub-District

The short- and the long- form for Concept I are simple and the same: **The final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole fellowship.** <https://www.aa.org/the-twelve-concepts>

For further discussion, consider the SMF-91 Concepts Checklist - Intended as a starting point for discussion, this service piece offers questions related to each of the Twelve Concepts so that members may develop a deeper understanding of the Concepts and better assess to what degree their group, district or area is aligned with them. <https://www.aa.org/concepts-checklist>.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Area 15 Quarterly Assembly 1/9-1/11

TBAIC & D2 UNITY POTLUCK 1/17 -12-2:30 at 3333

Online Forum for Deaf AA Members 1/17 -12-8 (ET)

Old Time AA 1/24 - 9:30-4:30 St. Jerome Catholic Church/Largo

Space Coast Roundup 1/29-2/1

Soberilla 1/31 2-8 Seminole Heights UMC

Pinellas County Intergroup Anniversary 2/7 5-10

51st Anniversary Dinner for Central Office 2/21 Palma Ceia

District 2 Carry the Message 4/18 - 1-4 (request for volunteers and for silent auction items/baskets)

For more D2 and Area 15 events and information, go to <https://aatampa.org/> and click on Events. This includes scheduled District 2 committee meetings. Please feel free to attend any committee meeting of interest! There are also links to Central Office, Area and General Service Office, local and online meetings.