

DISTRICT DISPATCH

DISTRICT 2 | AREA 15 | SOUTH FLORIDA | JAN 2026

SERVICE SPOTLIGHT – ALLAN D.

The first time I met Allan was in one of the service events he had helped start: Steps to Freedom. Steps to Freedom was held annually as a fundraiser for the Tampa Bay Area Institutions Committee. The 12-Step workshop included breakfast and lunch, which was coordinated or created by Allan, as Allan's professional trade was executive chef. He provided personal catering to several events, in particular sober New Years Eve events. NYE was very significant to Allan and he needed to do something where he felt responsible to help provide a sober space for celebration.

During our interview I asked Allan what his first AA service was. He said "coffee, no, cleaning ashtrays". He was asked to clean ashtrays after meetings and his first reaction was anger. After a week of being somewhat disgruntled, he was asked "Well, did you drink?" and he responded with relief, "No, I didn't." His next service request was as coffee maker and greeter at his original home group, which he really appreciated 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 his 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. At the center a speaker came in and shared his experience, strength, and hope, as well as the "Dr's Opinion", and Allan then understood the statement "you are not alone". Allan was later asked to be the Treatment committee chair at his home group, stood for the District 2 treatment committee liaison, and went on to serve as an Area 15 Treatment Chair and Secretary.

In standing for service, Allan has had some disappointments, like not being voted in, or finding himself in a position where he didn't feel capable, but "God may have had a hand in the outcome because there was something he needed to learn". Skills developed through service helped his personal life, like getting more organized, learning technical skills, and learning to ask for help. After service work experience, asking for help became easier.

Allan expressed appreciation for Service Sponsors who help with understanding AA service structure. Similar to the Big Book, the Steps, and the Traditions, being a part of the service structure has helped him with recovery and becoming a better person. "All service work helps us grow our skills and develop lifelong friends". Allan is fond of the history of AA and he feels very fortunate to have visited Dr. Bob's home and meeting house on Founder's Day. He felt he was 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-
<p>Committee Chairs:</p> <p>Accessibilities</p> <p>Finance</p> <p>Grapevine</p> <p>PI/CPC</p> <p>Panel 75 Appointed</p> <p>Gratitude Dinner</p> <p>New GSR Orientation</p> <p>Room&Ride Coordinator</p> <p>DCM/ADCM:</p> <p>Sub-District C: (Dover, Plant City)</p> <p>Sub-District D: (Land-O-Lakes/Lutz/Odessa)</p> <p>Sub-District F: (South Central Tampa)</p> <p>Sub-District H: (Apollo Beach, Ruskin, Sun City)</p> <p>Sub-District K: (Hyde Park, Downtown)</p> <p>Sub-District M: (Seminole Heights)</p> <p>Sub-District N: (Riverview)</p> <p>Sub-District T: (New Tampa/USF)</p> <p>Sub-District U: (Drew Park/NW Tampa)</p> <p>Alternate DCMs are needed in all Sub-Districts.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>https://www.aa.org/the-twelve-concepts</p> <p>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.</p> <p>https://www.aa.org/concepts-checklist</p> <p style="text-align: center;">UPCOMING EVENTS</p> <p>Area 15 Quarterly Assembly 1/9-1/11</p> <p>TBAIC & D2 UNITY POTLUCK 1/17 -12-2:30 at 3333</p> <p>Online Forum for Deaf AA Members 1/17 -12-8 (ET)</p> <p>Old Time AA 1/24 - 9:30-4:30 St. Jerome Catholic Church/Largo</p> <p>Space Coast Roundup 1/29-2/1</p> <p>Soberilla 1/31 2-8 Seminole Heights UMC</p> <p>Pinellas County Intergroup Anniversary 2/7 5-10</p> <p>51st Anniversary Dinner for Central Office 2/21 Palma Ceia</p> <p>District 2 Carry the Message 4/18 - 1-4 (request for volunteers and for silent auction items/baskets)</p> <p>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.</p>