

Growing Oaks

Oakland County Al-Anon Family Groups

Summer 2026

Summer, 2026 is proving to be a time to celebrate founding events. The obvious one is America's 250 birthday, and activities will take place throughout the year.

How about another one? Al-Anon's 75th anniversary? Our own Nikki Voss-Motes and her husband made the trip to Virginia. The following are her reflections about her experience, including pictures she took.



"When I received a WSO email in the fall of 2025 announcing the Al-Anon 75th Anniversary Gala Celebration and World Service Office tour in April 2026, I knew right away that I wanted to attend. Al-Anon has been an important part of my life since 2018. Once I got involved in Oakland AFG service positions, I became increasingly curious about the World Service Office. I'm a visual learner, so I often wondered what the WSO looked like, how the office and departments were set up and how the Conference Approved Literature (CAL) warehouse operated. I was excited at the opportunity to get a tour of the WSO and meet the staff who support Al-Anon worldwide.

On Friday, April 24th, my husband and I flew into Norfolk, Virginia and drove straight to the Marriott Hotel in Newport News where the Al-Anon annual

World Service Conference (WSC) was held that week. We had never been to Virginia before and were pleasantly surprised to find out that the area was a beautiful coastal community with waterways, fresh fish and beaches.

Saturday, April 25th was a fun-filled day, beginning with a 2 hour guided and very detailed tour of Al-Anon's World Service Office. The property is lovely with a pond behind the one story triangular shaped building named "Lois' Pond." The WSO has Al-Anon "artifacts" like old literature, 12 step artwork and paintings of Lois displayed throughout the lobby and office halls, which was interesting to see. There is an Al-Anon archives room full of 75 years of history, including photos of Lois and Bill's home where the first Al-Anon meet-



ings were held. There are scrapbooks and letters on display in that room. During the tour, we met 44 of the 45 WSO employees.

Each WSO department leader explained how their team contributes to the daily operation of Al-Anon's organization worldwide. For example, the creative team designs the artwork for The Forum monthly magazine. The interpreters field phone calls from Al-Anon members all over the world. The tech department developed and now maintains and continues to expand the Al-Anon app, website and online meetings.

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CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF AL-ANON IN VIRGINIA BEACH

After the WSO tour, we drove to a nearby local seafood restaurant in Virginia Beach that one of the WSO team members recommended to us - Chix on the Beach. We enjoyed delicious fresh caught seafood and listened to the band playing while we watched people on the boardwalk and beach who were enjoying the warm sunshine.

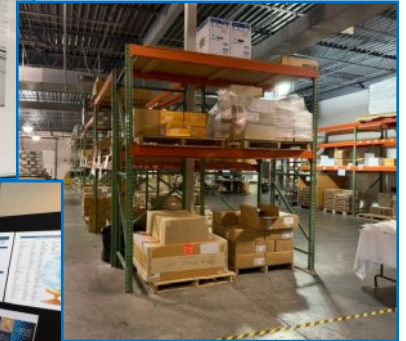


Aerial view WSO

Two buildings by Lois' pond



Literature storage then and now



Al-Anon world wide



Upon returning to the Marriott Hotel that evening, we attended the Al-Anon 75th Anniversary Gala Dinner with 500 other attendees. We had dinner and listened to several different Al-Anon speakers share their experience, strength and hope with us. Some of the Al-Anon members in attendance had over 50 years of recovery in Al-Anon! Truly an inspiring event! I'm so grateful for our worldwide fellowship and the healing and personal growth that it provides by working the steps and applying the traditions and concepts in all our affairs.

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(Above numbers may be used to text.)

Monthly meetings virtual and in person. Pilgrim Congregational Church, Adams Rd. north of 16 Mile, Bloomfield Hills. First Saturday at 9:45 am. Workshops (1 hour) follow as scheduled.

How do I find a meeting?

- Zoom meetings (ID and password provided)
- Hybrid meetings (both Zoom and in person)
- In person meetings.

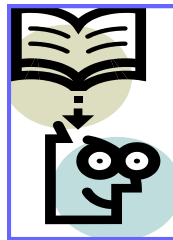
For updated list, please check:
oaklandafg.org/meetings. See special meeting flyers on our website under Events/flyers.



Change in how to Get Al-Anon Conference Approved Literature (CAL)

Books and other literature can be picked up at the monthly District 12 & 14 meeting until our supply runs out. Then order through World Service. See your Group Rep. for details.

Thinking about how to carry the Al-Anon message to others? How about, as an individual or group, donating a book to a church, school, lending library or community center near you.



Member
Blog:

How do you apply Al-Anon's Seventh Tradition in your personal life?

"The Seventh Tradition is about more than financial contributions; it's a practice of self-investment, responsibility, and interdependence in all aspects of our daily lives."

#alanonblog

alanon.org/topic-blog

We now have internet access to recordings of speakers from Al-anon and AA events throughout the years. These are available for listening on your smart phone or computer. Copy and paste the following weblink: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1mRJupb_qMgUINHSTEYUZLX_sj_IRmSNg?usp=sharing.

-Mike K at itworksafg@gmail.com.

Al-Anon ebooks



- *Alateen—Hope for Children of Alcoholics* (eB3)
- *Al-Anon's Twelve Steps & Twelve Traditions* (Revised) (eB-8)
- *Alateen – a day at a time* (eB-10)
- *As We Understood...* (eB-11)
- *...In All Our Affairs: Making Crises Work for You* (eB-15)
- *Courage to Change: One Day at a Time in Al-Anon II* (eB-16)
- *From Survival to Recovery* (eB-21)
- *How Al-Anon Works for Families & Friends of Alcoholics* (eB-22)
- *Courage to Be Me-Living with Alcoholism* (eB-23)
- *Having Had a Spiritual Awakening...* (eB-25)
- *Hope for Today* (eB-27)
- *Opening Our Hearts, Transforming Our Losses* (eB-29)
- *Discovering Choices – Recovery in Relationships* (eB-30)
- *Intimacy in Alcoholic Relationships* (eB-33)
- *A Little Time for Myself* (eB-34)
- *2026-2029 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual* (eP-24/27)

Selecting a piece of CAL on the Digital Products page will provide information and links to the various online platforms where proceeds from CAL sales help support Al-Anon's mission.

Planning is Half the Fun

Our Fall Festival theme is

"Adventures in Al-Anon." Planning meetings are 11 am to 12

pm Aug.1, Sept. 12. Oct. 10. Pilgrim Church after GR meeting. We currently need a Decorations Chair, a Lunch Chair and volunteers to head up various committees. Contact Nancy O. at 248-417-8247 for more information.

