**SPANISH GROUPS LIAISON**

**Report to AWSC May 1, 2020**

During the pandemic, all Spanish groups are meeting at their usual times via either Zoom or freeconferencecall.com. Thanks to the DRs who are keeping in touch with the Spanish meetings in their Districts. Currently none of the information for virtual meetings is listed on the website.

Rompiendo Fronteras, the annual all-day bilingual workshop organized by AA with Al-Anon participation, is scheduled for Saturday, July 25 in Southington. The planning committee is continuing to meet monthly via Zoom. I’m in discussion with a member of a Spanish meeting in Rhode Island who expressed interest in being the Al-Anon keynote speaker at this year’s event. The topic of the Al-Anon workshop that day is Placing Principles Above Personalities. We’re looking for a moderator and 2 speakers for the workshop – one Spanish-speaker and one English-speaker. We’re also looking for an Alateen keynote speaker.

A very important outstanding item is updating the Guidelines for Interpreters for Al-Anon/ Alateen Events in Connecticut. The guidelines, which were approved more than 7 years ago, read, in part, “The ability to interpret is a complex and challenging task. We need to provide an incentive to motivate qualified interpreters. We do not want to lose qualified interpreters due to restrictive guidelines. The recommendation from this committee is that this document be a flexible/ working document and that the Area World Service Committee (AWSC) has the responsibility to make revisions as needed.” These guidelines were approved in January, 2013. They go on to say that “Our goal is to accept the challenge of identifying and breaking down barriers; and to continue to change the face of Al-Anon. It is the desire of this Committee that the message of Al-Anon/ Alateen be accessible to all people regardless of their language needs.”

My experience working to adequately cover interpretation needs for the 2020 Al-Anon convention demonstrated the necessity of updating the guidelines. Our AWSC officers informed me in March that the next step would be the creation of a Thought Force and/ or Task Force to do research and make recommendations. I hope you as a group will approve my request for the establishment of such a committee and I look forward to working with them.

Love in service,

Sue D., Spanish Groups Liaison