Hello everyone. Here’s what’s been happening on the website as a result of the pandemic.

First, a brief summary of the website metrics: we had 521 hits in March on CTAlAnon.org. There was a 2.2% increase in Google Search traffic in March from the previous month. The calls received as a direct result of Google search were up 60% in March. Again, this serves as a reminder of the importance of our phone service.

At the outset of the pandemic a few groups made the decision to switch to an alternative meeting venue in order to continue serving their members. Shortly thereafter, based on the barrage of emails I received it became apparent that most groups would soon follow suit. I needed to establish some sort of system to handle the flow of information. The links of service once again proved invaluable. Meeting and event changes are reported by GRs to their DRs (whenever possible) who then notify both me and the phone service using a list of their meetings with the changes highlighted. I want to personally thank all the DRs, GRs, and members who have reached out to help me keep the website current with their meeting’s information.

To date, there are 212 meetings listed on our website. I have been contacted to update the status of 146 of those meetings. Of those 146 meetings, 79 now have some sort of alternative meeting venue (either Zoom or conference call). Some of the alternative meeting venues are changing often to keep ahead of meeting crashers. With that in mind, I recommend directing any meeting inquiries to the website’s meeting pages for the most current information. There are still some meetings that have not yet reported. Besides the meeting pages I am also regularly updating the events page on our website.

We learn as we go in this program. There are WSO and Area guidelines I follow for what can be posted on the website. Unfortunately the alternative meeting methods came with some outside problems. We’ve had a few issues with meeting crashers. People hiding behind screens are much more likely to crash a meeting than generally would happen with a face-to-face meeting. We’ve adapted the posted information to deal with the issue according to that meeting’s group conscience.

There was also the dilemma of what to do about the Alateen alternative meetings information. I worked with Lisa G, the Alateen Coordinator to come up with a way to keep our teens safe while at the same time making sure the public had a way to get meeting information. I’ve posted Lisa’s Alateen (*alateen@ctalanon.org)* email address at the top of the Alateen meeting page to provide a point of contact for people to get alternative meeting information.

Lastly, I (along with the LDC staff) continue to field emails from members and the general public submitted through the website contact form (info@ctalanon.org) and also those sent to the webmaster email address to ensure that people seeking help get a timely response.

Lovingly In Service,

Deanna S

Webmaster