

Delegate's Report Fall Assembly 2009

Someone asked me, "What is your role as Delegate?" My answer was, "I am to share experience with you, be a conduit of information, bring the world wide view of the fellowship to you, and bring my Higher Power with me. My hope is to share both experience and information, and tell you a little bit about the fellowship as a whole, and hopefully, you will be able to notice my Higher Power is with me.

The Thought Force I am on, **Integrating Alateen Into Al-Anon Where No Alateen Meetings Exist**, is coming to an end. Our group came up with ideas, and has compiled a list of suggestions to be presented to the Board of Trustees. It was exciting to be on this Thought Force and work with Conference members from around our Conference structure. I became more aware of how similar we all are.

Recently our AIS's, Al-Anon Information Service, locations have been asked to become linked into a communications network called e-communities. E-communities is a means of electronic communications utilized by our World Service Office. Ohio has six AIS's.

At the 2009 World Service Conference, a report was given about the International Al-Anon General Service Meeting (IAGSM) which was held in Finland. There are 130 countries in which active AFG meetings are being held. The IAGSM is held every two years. The Chairman of the Board of Trustees represents the US and Canada at this meeting. The full report is available on the Member's Website, click on publications. Reports were also heard about international trips to India, South Africa, and Turkey. These service structures are in the early stages of development.

International representatives from Germany, Italy, Mexico, and United Kingdom/Erie gave reports about AFG in their country. How interesting it was to hear about their groups. As they told us about AFG in their country, I was thinking WOW! they are very similar to groups in Ohio. I felt connected.

The topic of expansion or consolidation of Areas carried over from previous Conferences. The question asked was, "Is the current World Service Conference model providing the spiritual bridge we need to expand into the future in order to meet the needs of the fellowship?" Discussion was around the future design and how diverse needs of the Areas might be affected. More discussion is needed on this topic.

Another question asked was, "How can Areas, Districts, and Groups look at unhealthy groups in a positive way? There was lengthy discussion. Some suggestions I heard were, but are not limited to the following: presume good will, respond with love and respect, practice good and shared leadership, educate-educate- educate, communicate-communicate-communicate, and always be spiritual and positive.

A workshop has been developed on “Responsibilities”. This workshop is intended for Districts and Areas to use which describes the responsibilities of group members, Group Representatives, and other service positions. Responsibility can be defined as “being able to fulfill an obligation”. I have to ask myself, “What are some of my responsibilities as a member of AFG?”

Some of my responsibilities are:

- To study and use the Al-Anon ideas, not only for myself, but for the benefit of my friends in the group.
- To try to have my sharing at a meeting reflect Al-Anon principles
- To make a positive contribution both personally and financially
- To attend meetings regularly
- To support my Group Representative
- To be a part of an informed group conscience
- To be welcoming to newcomers to my meeting
- To study the Steps, Traditions, and Concepts of Service
- To assist with public outreach in my town or city
- To carry the message of hope

The complete presentation can be found on the members’ website. www.al-anon.alateen/members.org Click on Membership Outreach, then click on presentations. The password is the name of your home group followed by afg.

I encourage all of you to find the presentation on the members’ website and view it.

Speaking of the Members’ Website, have you checked out the Traditions Blog. Recently, Tradition 10 has been added. Postings from Traditions 1-9 can be read and if you choose to share about the current tradition you can give your e-mail address then click submit. Sharing on the Concepts of Service can be read but further sharings are no longer being taken.

Also on the Members’ website the 2009 World Service Conference Summary can be found or it can be ordered in hard copy form. I recommend reading the Summary to have more information in order to have a greater understanding of the items I have reported this year.

ANONYMITY, OOOO!!! Understanding anonymity can be difficult, especially to those new to recovery. Anonymity is at three levels. Which are: anonymity at the group level, anonymity within the fellowship, and anonymity outside the fellowship.

ANONYMITY WITHIN THE GROUP - When I am at a recovery meeting I can choose to give my own first name or use a pseudonym. It is my choice. As I become more comfortable and have gained some wisdom, strength, and hope, I may decide it is time to do service work beyond the group level.

ANNONYMITY WITHIN THE FELLOWSHIP - When I am doing service work within the fellowship, I will be asked to share my full name and contact information. This is okay since other members may need to get in touch with me for one reason or another, and it is within the fellowship. As I gain more experience, strength, and hope I may be ready to share outside the fellowship.

ANNONYMITY OUTSIDE THE FELLOWSHIP - As I grow in the fellowship and service I may be ready to share about the fellowship with the outside world. This is when I share my contact information with professionals so they can contact me, but ask that it not be given out or published.

The Summer 2009 issue of Al-A-Notes addressed this topic.

I have asked friends to illustrate the three levels of anonymity. (Skit here)

The 2010 World Service Conference will be held at the Wyndham Virginia Beach Oceanfront Hotel, in Virginia Beach Virginia the week of April 11th to 15th. The theme will be: ***Celebrate! Embrace the group conscience to expand our circle of hope.*** It will be the 50th World Service Conference.

A big question asked at the opening of this year's WSC was, "As we think spiritually, how can we use the Legacies as empowering tools rather than barriers to expand Al-anon Family Groups into the future?"

The Legacies have been used as barriers to progress, as history has shown us. Posted around the meeting room were barriers that had been submitted prior to the meeting. These Barriers were literally torn down in order to seek harmony, clarity, and understanding during the week.

There seems to be a lack of understanding of the Legacies. The Legacies are the 12 Steps, the 12 Traditions, and the 12 Concepts of Service. With a lack of understanding there can be an attitude the Legacies can stop us from moving forward with new ideas. How can I change? I keep the focus on spirituality instead of the legalities. I find creative or new ways to study the Legacies. When I do this, I can begin to apply the Legacies to my daily live. When sharing, I can begin relating how all three legacies have been used in my daily life. How can I tear down a barrier in my meeting/s? I do this by talking about the legacies and asking others to study all the legacies with me.

Are there barriers in Ohio? I would like for you to think about a time a legacy was used as a barrier instead of for progress in a meeting. (Pause) Now jot a word or two down about a barrier on a sheet of paper. (Pause) Now, share it with a neighbor. (Pause) Now tear it up. (Pause) This barrier has been removed.

Let us seek understanding, clarity, and harmony during our Assembly and move forward in new and innovative ways.

Thanks for letting me share. Sandra F.