

Delegate's Report Fall Assembly – 2010

This year the World Service Conference was a week filled with meetings, presentation, workshops, serious moments and at times fun filled. I will touch on a few.

The three year trial period plan for Regional Trustees ended. The new process/plan was accepted. Thought Forces and Task Forces brought ideas, strategies, how to guides, and workshops which aid in expanding understanding.

During the open Policy Committee meeting a discussion topic was “ Should WSO maintain a ‘do not refer’ listing for its toll-free meeting line, so that people who are looking for a meeting are not sent to a meeting this is said to be in violation of the Traditions? The discussion was lengthy and will be continued. Also to be discussed is an item pertaining to social networking Websites and its impact on Al-Anon’s Traditions of anonymity and non-affiliation.

Each quarter the Policy committee sends an update with information regarding discussion on questions and concerns generated by the fellowship, pending motions to be sent to the World Service conference, and in the second quarter motions passed by the World Service Conference.

In 2010 there were four motions which passed and these were described in my Spring 2010 report. The new wording will be included in the **Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual** (P-24/27) which will be available later this month or early November.

The big question for the World Service Conference was: “What spiritual growth can the fellowship celebrate as a result of 50 years of its informed group conscience as expressed through the World Service Conference?” After considerable thought and meditation my answer came to me: Our pioneers sought to have an informed group conscience. History has shown us there have been 49 previous conferences and 59 years of recovery. Over the years, information was presented and shared. Now our growth is demonstrated through Thought Forces, Task Forces, and Works Forces. We use the Knowledge Based Decision Making process as a tool to aid in having an informed group conscience. In my opinion, over the years risks were taken and as a result we grew and got better.

The fifteen year trial period for property ownership ends in 2011. Since the trial is ending next year three options have been suggested. The 2011 World Service Conference will vote on these options.

Options are:

- Extend the trial for another period of years.
- End the trial and sell the building.
- End the trial and keep the building.

The trial period for property ownership was successful. I heard it stated both in 2009 and 2010 there was no evidence that property ownership had any affect on the fellowship.

In my report at Spring Assembly I gave a brief history of the property ownership and ask for questions to be sent to me and I would bring the answers to the Fall Assembly Meeting.

The only question I was asked was when would the property be paid off?

My answer is best given in a quote from our outgoing and incoming Treasurer, Frank R. and Bev A. in the Finance update dated April 2010 about the Building Fund:

“The Building fund was established in July 1995 to record all transactions related to the purchase of our new headquarters office in Virginia Beach. The account was funded by \$2,500,000 in City of Virginia Beach Development Authority Industrial Development Revenue bonds Series 1995. A letter of credit, a bond issuance requirement, was obtained through Central Fidelity National Bank (now Wachovia Bank) to secure the bonds. The interest rate on the bonds is computed weekly by Wachovia Bank and is the rate necessary to sell the bonds at par. The interest rate paid by AFG is a combination of the amount paid to bondholders, a letter of credit fee and an administrative fee. The interest rate on the bonds currently is 4% and when combined with the associated fees totals about 5%.

The bonds have a maturity date of April 1, 2016 with an annual mandatory redemption of a portion of the bonds. The final redemption was made March 1, 2010 in the amount of \$75,000.”

The building is paid in full.

A workshop I attended was: “What is my responsibility as your WSC Delegate to Expand Our Circle of Hope?? Examples include...

Hope --- having a service sponsor gives reality to hope; live the program-be an example; encourage questions and share concerns; reach out in informal ways to personalize our program

Outreach --- share what I learn at Assemblies which will prepare me to do public outreach, model service, model behavior of welcoming new members and established members as well, encourage service work

Participation --- getting people involved by being involved, modeling good relationships with a working unit for Assembly, conveying the message that my service position is both a privilege and a responsibility, demonstrate that equality gives everyone the opportunity to share

Encouragement --- shared leadership, asking for help, practicing humility, showing my appreciation of your service, and saying thank you.

Area Delegates are the bridge of understanding linking the Area to the worldwide fellowship of Al-Anon, reports the decisions of the Conference to the Area, brings the broader perspective of the worldwide fellowship back to the Area, serves as a contact for public inquires, conveys the idea Al-Anon is much bigger than my home group, my district, and my Area.

“Develop a Conflict Resolution Presentation” was a presentation given by a Task Force. As I listened I thought, “What can I use that I have learned in Al-anon that will help me with conflict resolution?”

Meetings are a special tool I can use to help me learn how to resolve conflict. I also have our three legacies, slogans, the Serenity Prayer, Conference Approved Literature (CAL), a conscience contact with my “Higher Power”, and a personal sponsor all help me with conflict resolution.

This workshop focused on the use of one of the legacies, The Traditions. Unity through the Traditions provides harmony and growth not only in meetings but in my personal life. The Traditions are a guide for working through conflicts.

Let’s now focus on Tradition Four. ***Each group should be autonomous, except in matters affecting another group or Al-Anon or AA as a whole.***

Here are questions to consider.

- How do we ensure harmony in our groups while encouraging divergent points of view?
- How can we discern when someone is expressing an opinion as opposed to trying to control the outcome?
- Have I really listened to the other point of view and considered the possibility that it may be as valid as my opinion?

What suggestions did you hear? I encourage you to take these back to your home group for a discussion sometime in the future.

Questions: Is my home group protecting the Traditions? Are all the Traditions read or only one during the opening at my home group?

April 16, 2011 is the date for Al-Anon Family Groups 60th Anniversary Open House and Banquet. The open house is at our World Service Office Headquarters between 1:00 pm and 4:00pm. The banquet is a ticketed event to be held at the Convention Center in Virginia Beach, Virginia starting at 6:00pm with a reception and the banquet begins at 7:00pm. Banquet tickets are \$50.00 each. I plan to be there. Hope you will be able to join me.

Can you picture yourself in Vancouver? July 5-7, 2013, Vancouver, British Columbia will be the site of the next International Al-Anon Convention. I've started saving for the trip to Canada. I can picture myself in Vancouver. (In the back of the room is a poster for you to picture yourself in Vancouver.)

A copy of the 2010 World Service Conference Summary (P-46) is available from WSO. Orders can be made by mail or electronically from the members' website. { www.al-anon.alateen.org/members } They are free, but there is a \$5.00 shipping and handling fee. In the Conference summary the initial discussions regarding the success of the trial period to own property can be found along with ideas from the Thought force on Current Conference Structure can be found.

Have you seen the latest edition of *Area Highlights*? *Area Highlights* is a publication sent to all Area World Service Committee members. District Representatives are to make copies to distribute to Group Representatives in their district. The Fall 2010 issue has an article by our own Ginny C., which was taken from the Spring Issue of **Ohio Al-A-Notes**.

Each year delegates are asked to submit Chosen Agenda Item suggestions for the up-coming conference. These topics come from the membership. If you have an idea for a topic which pertains to the worldwide fellowship, contact me and we will discuss it. My contact information can be found in **Al-A-Notes** or on the AWSC contact list.

2010 is coming to a close and as we look towards 2011 the 51st World Service Conference the theme will be *Expanding our community of hope by embracing: Yesterday's foundations
Today's successes
Tomorrow's possibilities*

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as your Delegate and I will continue to Expand my Circle of Hope.

My wish for you is that your circle of hope to be expanded. Have a great weekend.

As always, One Day at a Time

Yours in service,
Sandra F