

**Delegate's Report**  
**Spring Assembly – May 22, 2010**  
**AFG of Ohio**

*Celebrate! Embrace the group conscience to expand the circle of hope.*

The World Service Conference was held April 12-15, 2010. I arrived in Virginia Beach in the early evening on April 10<sup>th</sup>. Last year's Thought Forces and Task Forces met on Sunday morning April 11<sup>th</sup> to put last minute touches on their presentations for the 50<sup>th</sup> WSC. During the afternoon of April 11<sup>th</sup>, new Thought Forces, Task Forces, and Committees met and Sharing Area Highlights was held. I learned during Sharing Area Highlights Ohio is experiencing some of the same concerns as other Areas. I was please to report that we are using the KBDM (Knowledge Based Decision Making) process in Ohio now and are experiencing success with its use.

The evening of April 11<sup>th</sup> was the opening dinner. I was honored to be able to give my Conference Mentee her Conference pin. After dinner the hotel staff rolled out a big cake commemorating the World Service Conference's fifty years. Claire R. was the speaker. She was a conference member during the 25<sup>th</sup> WSC and shared her memories of past conferences.

Monday morning came all too soon. Each Panel's photographs were taken at breakfast. The Conference began at 8:00am with orientation. My Conference Mentee and I settled into our assigned seats and got better acquainted.

Each day of the Conference would begin at 8:00 am and would go until 9 – 9:30 pm each evening. In the morning there was a recovery meeting at 6:00am and one was held Tuesday evening after we had concluded for the day.

Tuesday morning I gave the Chosen Agenda Item #10's introduction. OOO! Was that a challenge? I asked for help in my community since I had very little to no experience with the topic. More about this later...

Wednesday afternoon we went to the World Service Office. As we arrived, WSO staff and volunteers were there to greet us and said "Welcome Home." It gave me goose bumps. While at the office, I saw the presentation on the results of the 2009 Member's Survey (which will be available later in 2010), toured the office, and wandered around outside. I continue to be amazed at how the Architect used the AFG triangle and circle all over the building.

On Thursday, I was chosen to be a ballot counter. It was an honor to have been selected for this service position. This was the final full day of WSC. That evening was the closing dinner. It was hard to believe the conference had gone so quickly. Following the banquet Panel 48 members received their scrolls and were thanked for their service. Spiritual talks were given by Sharon B. and Kerri K. Later that evening members of Panel 48, the Third Year Delegates, did a skit using a movie tune theme.

Friday morning Delegates were invited to the Open Board of Trustees meeting. This is the annual meeting of the Board of Trustees where the motions that passed during of the World Service Conference are made legal. At the end of the meeting, each Trustee chose Delegates whom they would be in contact with during the coming year to chat and answer any questions.

Each day of the conference was filled with presentations, reports, and discussions. Each item was presented in the Knowledge Based Decision Makings format. One of the presentations was on how to frame a topic.

There were goals of the conference. These were:

- Conference members will understand the purpose of the World Service Conference, relationships within the structure and be able to articulate World Service Conference decisions.
- The spiritual tone of the World Service Conference will prevail by the demonstration of mutual respect and acceptable behavior by the members.
- Knowing that our Higher Power is present in the expression of our group conscience, Conference members will presume goodwill.

All Conference members had been working with Knowledge Based Decision Making (KBDM) as they participated on various Thought and Task Forces or Committees in 2009. The four essential elements of Knowledge Based Decision Making process for an informed group conscience were reviewed. They are:

- Open communication between leadership and membership
- Dialogue before deliberation
- All decision makers will have common access to full information
- We exist in a Culture of Trust.

A big topic was diversity. The need for diversity in the fellowship had been brought up and discussed for the past several years. The need for diversity had been defined, but further knowledge and discussion was needed on how to achieve diversity.

John Colon, an Academic Lecturer for Stony Brook University in New York, was a guest speaker on Cultural Diversity. He told us people learn about their culture from their family. He, also, told us we may associate with people of our own culture, *but* we need to adapt to the culture of where we are living and to adapt to the language of the host culture. (Host culture is interpreted to mean the country where we are living.)

Mr. Colon went on to talk us about verbal and non verbal communication. He said when going into another culture there is a need to learn about both types of communications, verbal and non-verbal, since what may be acceptable in one culture may be an insult in another. After learning more about a culture, Mr. Colon suggested we, AFG, look for ways to fit in to cultures.

The presentation on Cultural competency was a great help when talking about diversity the other time during the week.

Such as, Chosen Agenda Item #10. What an honor it was to introduce this topic. Part of the agenda item was about developing a strategy for taking AFG to culturally diverse groups. The strategy I suggested was: Develop key alliances within minority communities by identifying leaders in that community in order to create collaboration and buy-in, thus making Al-Anon Family Groups available to all who are affected by someone else's drinking. Conference members discussed this topic. I suspect this topic will be brought again in the future.

Later in the week a Leadership Workshop titled *Diversity-Understanding Ourselves and Others* was held relating to this topic. A full description of the workshop will be in the 2010 Conference Summary.

The Auditor's report for 2009 was presented and approved. The annual budget was presented and approved. Our Finance Chairman, Frank R., presented the Budget. He reminded us about the goal for contributions. The goal is \$1.5 million in contributions by members. Contributions from members are not used for salaries, occupancy, or other expenses. These expenses come from literature sales.

It was reported while personal contributions through receipts from plea letters and individual contributions are up the \$1.5 million remains as a goal. Our Finance Chairman told us this is a very attainable goal. How you ask? If every member increases their personal contribution by \$1.80 the goal will be met.

I was given a copy of the income statement for contributions for 2009 from groups and individuals in Ohio. If you would like to see a copy of this report, ask me to see it.

Both the 2009 Auditor's Report and the 2010 Budget can be found on the member's website. [www.al-anon.alateen.org/members](http://www.al-anon.alateen.org/members) . The password is your home group's name followed by afg. Go to Inside the WSO, click on Finances. On this page you can also click on "How your \$5.00 Is Used. A pie chart illustrating how \$5.00 is used.

Changes!!! Changes to the Digest of Al-Anon and Alateen Policies (P-25) section of the *Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual* (P24-27) were talked about each day. Some of the discussions were lengthy. There are changes to three of the sections and a separate section for Alateen has been added with existing Alateen policies moved to the new section. One change discussed, Public Service Announcements (PSA's), was referred back to the Policy committee for further discussion.

The 2010 Conference approved the following motions:

- To add a new “Alateen Policy section in the “Digest of Al-Anon and Alateen Policies” to the *Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual* that includes new text, current text, and amended text from pages 77 and 78 of the 2006-2009 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual. The new section will be between the sections titled “Membership and Group meetings/Conventions” and “Anonymity”. (New text is underlined and bold; moved Text is underlined, Strike through indicates Deletion.)
- To Amend the text on pages 84-89 of the Al-Anon Policies section of the 2006-2009 *Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual*, “Finances,” “Contributions to WSO-Individual,” “Quarterly Appeal,” “Direct Contributions,” “Birthday Plan,” “Memorial Contributions,” “Contribution to WSO- Groups,” “Contributions to WSO-Other,” “Al-Anon Service Contributions,” “Al-Anon and Alateen Conventions,” “Earmarking Funds,” “Reserve Funds,” “Fund Rising,” “Activities and Service,” “Outside contributions,” “Avoiding Commercialism,” “WSO Does Not Provide Lists of Suppliers,” “Selling Products/Chances,” “Raffles/Lottery Tickets,” “Federal Statutes,” “Use of Group Funds,” “Rent and Other Group Expenses,” “Donations to Outside Agencies”.(New Text is underlined, and gold”; moved text is underlined. Strikethrough indicates deletion.)
- To amend the text on pages 92-95 beginning with the section “Use of Material” and ending with the section “*The Forum*” and pages 96 and 97 the section “Reprint Authorization” in the Policy Digest section of the 2006-2009 *Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual*: as follows ( new text is underlined and bold; moved text is underlined. Strikethrough indicates deletion.)
- To amend the text on pages 77-79 of the “Digest of Al-Anon and Alateen Policies” section of the 2006-2009 *Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual*, “Membership and Group Meetings/Conventions,” Membership and Groups,” “Membership Eligibility,” “Registration of Groups,” and “Choosing A Group’s Name.” (New Text is underlined and gold; moved text is underlined, Strikethrough indicates deletion.)

A full description of the Policy Digest motions and discussion will be in the 2010 Conference Summary available in the fall. Changes can be found on the Members’ Website. Click on -Inside WSO, and then click on -Board of Trustees. The motions are listed under Policy Updates.

It was very interesting to see the Conference working on the wording of the changes. Our principles were in action.

TEAM – Together Empowering Al-Anon Members, over the past 12 months Areas have asked questions about TEAM and additional concerns were addressed. In 2010 there are six TEAM events scheduled throughout the United States.

A PowerPoint presentation was given to address these concerns. Areas can host an event alone or with another Area or Areas. The planning committee could be from one location/group or from around the Area. Team would be an Area event.

What is needed to hold a TEAM event in Ohio? A location/group says, we are interested in perusing the possibility of a TEAM event. The paper work if downloaded and the prospective host committee starts looking at the suggestions. The committee talks about it, thinks about it, and decides whether or not to peruse it further. When the decision to hold a TEAM event is made, a Host Committee Chairman is selected. The Host Committee then finds a venue for the event. When a location is found, the application is completed then is sent to the Area Delegate and on to the Area Chairman for their signature. If more than one Area is involved, Delegates and Chairmen from all Areas involved sign the request. Alternative dates are required. In case TEAM events are requested for the same date from multiple Areas.

Who is the Host Committee? A District, an AIS Council (Intergroup), a group, or a committee from around an Area, but the event is an Area event.

TEAM is a joint responsibility between WSO staff and volunteers and the Host Committee. A TEAM event topics, workshops, and presentations are structured to the requests from the host committee.

Duties of the Host Committee and WSO are clearly defined on the TEAM application.

I am excited about TEAM and believe Ohio could host a TEAM event in the near future. If you are interested in more information, I am willing to bring the PowerPoint presentation to your local group and we can talk about it. What about your location? Could your city be the location of Ohio Area’s first TEAM event? Think about it!

The Property Ownership Task Force did a dialogue as a way to answer questions. The dialogue was informative and helpful. Things I heard during the dialogue:

- ✓ There is a 30 year history of talking about property ownership.
- ✓ The 15 year trial period began in 1996.
- ✓ The savings of owning the property vs. leasing the property is big.
- ✓ There has been no evidence of any negative effect on the fellowship.
- ✓ WSO takes care of the fellowship and the ECRPM takes care of the property. I think of the ECRPM as WSOs landlord.
- ✓ The non-profit status is not in jeopardy.
- ✓ Contributions go for outreach not to salaries, occupancy, or other expenses.
- ✓ Commercial leases are different than personal home leases because the lessee takes care of the property, so it is like ownership.

In 2011 the 15 year trial period ends. At the end of the trial there are three options:

1. End the trial and keep the building
2. End the trial and sell the building
3. Extend the trial for another period of years.

While I listened to the dialogue and discussion, I thought about the background information I found on the members' website. Many of the items brought up were among those pages. (To find the information go to the Members' Website - click on Inside WSO - then click on Archives.)

I also thought about our past Delegates telling us about the report they had heard from the Executive Committee for Real Property Management (ECRPM). Those reports had only positive things to report. Nothing negative had been found to owning the property, and in 2009, the ECRPM report I heard was similar to the other three.

The following is a quote from the Chairman of the Board of Trustees', Mary Ann R., letter which was sent to Conference members following the 2010 World Service Conference, "During the discussion that followed the presentation, several Conference members asked if a vote could be taken this year. Prior to the end of the conference, a motion was brought forward to end the trial and to retain ownership of the property. More discussion revealed that some Areas were waiting for their Delegates to bring back more information and the Delegates from those Areas were not prepared to vote. The motion was tabled and referred to the Board of Trustees for further development of a motion to be presented in 2011. The informed group conscience prevailed. Our Higher Power was truly with us this week."

My question for you is: has ownership of the property detracted us from our primary spiritual aim? Let me know your thoughts and concerns or if you have questions. I will bring them to the Fall Assembly.

So, how can we expand our circle of hope by attending Assembly meetings in Ohio? I have ideas on how to do that, but it is up to you as a member of Ohio Area Assembly to decide that for yourself. As you finish reading this report, jot down an idea or two then send them to me.

WSC was an exciting week. It was a time to talk with friends, meet new friends, and think about Al-Anon as a whole, the worldwide fellowship. I definitely had time to **Celebrate! Embrace the group conscience to expand the circle of hope.**

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be a part of the 50<sup>th</sup> World Service Conference.

As always, it is One Day at a Time,  
Yours in service,

Sandra F.