

Delegates Report Fall Assembly 2017

The World Service Office has just hired a new Executive Director. Her name is Vali and I am very excited she was chosen. She has over 15 years as an active Al-Anon member. She was the Panel 53 Delegate from Arizona. She was my mentor when I first came to the WSO in 2014. Previous positions she held in service: Area Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, AIS Chair and Alateen Coordinator. Furthermore, she has over 20 years business experience including management of teams of staff worldwide.

The theme of the World Service Conference in 2018 is “Al-Anon –There is no standing still” which is a quote from Lois, our cofounder. The World Service Conference will be in West Harrison, New York to make it possible for all attendees to visit Stepping Stones.

The Board of Trustees has been discussing strategic planning. They concluded: The Board of Trustees is the “what” — being responsible for the strategic direction. The Staff of WSO are the “how” —being responsible for implementing the “what”.

Despite our abundant resources, members often look to others in the fellowship or to the World Service Office for answers. Despite our abundant resources, members often look to others in the fellowship or to the World Service Office for answers. Members who ask:

- May just be learning about the principles in the Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts
- Want to find a solution quickly in order to preserve Area, District or group harmony
- Hope to resolve or mediate a potential conflict by seeking impartial, non-participant input
- Can't find the topic listed in the *Service Manual* Index
- And, of course, ask because a new situation has arisen that is not specifically addressed in the *Service Manual* — times change.
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Actually, most questions have remained the same over the years: issues about anonymity, outside literature, dominance at meetings, groups not following the Traditions, financial confusion and sometimes personality conflicts. The solutions to issues have many answers that are available. Some solutions require more in-depth research. Other situations are new and need to be reasoned out.

Another resource is our World Service Office. *The Clearing House, as it was called in 1951, was “designed to initiate and maintain those special services for Al-Anon as a whole that could not be performed by single groups or Areas.”* Although Al-Anon Family Groups Headquarters Inc. remains the corporate name, today we know our headquarters as the World Service Office, or simply “WSO.” WSO is only one arm of the World Service Conference and is not a decision-making body. The WSO was designed to be the source for special services to groups, but not the authority. According to Concept One, “The ultimate responsibility and authority for Al-Anon world services belongs to the Al-Anon groups.” Members are encouraged to trust themselves, to use Al-Anon’s Legacies and policies and to “talk to each other and reason things out.” After all, members really are the ones most familiar with a particular issue for which they are seeking a solution and they have the available tools to address most situations that arise in their group, District or Area.

Members can use Al-Anon’s resources when seeking solutions and are doing a wonderful job.

Members are being encouraged to explore Al-Anon’s principles and policies, available to anyone who attends meetings: Our three Legacies: The Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts, with their guiding spiritual principles. The *Al-Anon and Alateen Groups at Work* (P-24) booklet, with its Meeting Format Outline, history of Al-Anon/Alateen, and information about group service positions. The “World Service Handbook,” defining terms commonly used in Al-Anon and explaining our service structure. Information on our Members website such as our Service Guidelines and the *Alateen Service e-Manual* and our Policy Digest, addressing such issues as anonymity, finances and Al-Anon as it relates to others.

Finances. At the World Service Conference, we decided to set the budget based on last year's contributions. In order to make our dreams for WSO come true, we need to give as abundantly as last year. Last year sources of Revenue were Contributions 38%; Literature 50%, Forum 5% and Investment income 7%. Expenses are running right on budget. For the first nine months of 2017, we are trailing contribution receipts given in 2016. Contributions are only at 68% of budget with 75% of the year passed. We need to collect about \$220,000 for each of the months of October, November and December to meet our budgeted projection of \$2,100,000. This will take a concerted effort by all of us to make that happen. Gross Profit from literature sales is about 80% of budget, which is good, but literature sales tend to drop off toward the end of the year, so there is some concern. We would need to sell about \$650,000 worth of literature to meet our budgeted projection. Give the gift of literature.

The future is ours. We are still optimistic. We are hopeful that the abundance manifesting in our lives will show up in the bottom line of AFG Inc. Think Abundantly. DREAM BIG. What do you want Al-Anon to be able to do? How can we ensure Al-Anon is there for future generations?

Individual members may contribute up to one percent of the total revenue of the WSO General Fund or through a birthday plan, memorial contributions, quarterly appeals to members or workplace giving campaigns. A member can also make bequests to WSO.

As Al-Anon/Alateen Groups, contributions can be made after meeting the group's expenses and contributions to local and Area service entities. Other groups include Al-Anon/Alateen Service Arms such as Districts, Al-Anon Information Services (Intergroups), Literature Distribution Centers, Areas, General Service Offices. Al-Anon and Alateen Conventions can contribute a portion of the funds derived from Al-Anon and Alateen conventions. A.A. Conferences/Conventions can contribute as an acknowledgment of Al-Anon's participation.

During the World Service Convention (WSC) in 2017, we completed a variety of changes to the Service Manual to help clarify some issues. Some changes I covered in my Spring report. The new changes are available on the members site. Sections regarding financial matters that were changed were *Contributions of Money, Goods and Services, Fund-Raising and Discounts of Goods and Services*. Outside Contributions of Money of Goods and Services can only be accepted subject to the Memorial Contributions Policy for family members. Other sections reworded were *Avoiding Commercialism, Program-Related Jewelry and Other Items, Public Meetings, Use of Group Funds, Fees for Speaking and Donations to Outside Agencies*. The word child care was substituted for babysitting.

In early August, Al-Anon.org rolled out its new website. The website is designed to be more easily read both on a computer and a mobile device, more eye catching and more user friendly. Later this year plans are in the works for updating the members website. I like the frequently asked questions section. There is a Teen Corner which is easily found as well as a user-friendly scroll down menu.

At the WSC, we discussed attracting younger members to meetings. Some ideas were: 1) Encouraging young people to get into service; 2) Having a Young people's meeting/ or Alateen Transition meeting; Electronic and telephone meetings; Public outreach to Family and Marriage therapists; Bringing meetings near college campuses; and 6) Share a babysitter with AA. What ideas do you have?

How do we attract, welcome, and support those who are affected by someone who is multiply addicted? This was the topic of a discussion I attended at the WSC. What do you think Al-Anon groups and members do? What do you think the position should be for Al-Anon as a whole?

Where will you be in 10 months, 22 days, and 4 hours? Baltimore, Maryland, is the site of Al-Anon's 6th International Convention. The Convention will be held **July 5, 2018 8:00 am - July 8, 2018 5:00 pm**. Registrations are open online and a mail in registration is available on the back table. Driving times to the convention are as follows: Akron 5 hrs. 45min.; Cleveland 5 hrs. 42 min.; Columbus 6 hrs.; Cincinnati 7-8 hrs.; Toledo 7-8 hrs.; Youngstown 4 hrs. 41 min. Bring a carload. Rent a large SUV. Bring your whole group!

The day before the International Convention is called the Day of Connecting. It will be Thursday, July 5, 2018. There is a separate fee for the "Day of Connecting." Some of the topics include: Presentations: Know Your WSO—Service IS its Middle Name! What Happens at the Office and Telephone Book or the Internet—What's Your Digital Age? Al-Anon on Social Media. Discussion Meetings: Dusty Bookshelves: Falling in Love with All Our CAL; Going Beyond the Daily Readers and The 3 T's of Public Outreach— Tips, Tools and Techniques. Panels include Young Members Wanted! Alateen Opportunities: Online meetings, Resources, Sponsorship, Outreach and Big "P" or Little "p"-Big "T" or little "t": What's the difference when making decisions in Al-Anon?

Any member can sign up to receive "In The Loop" through your email. Each month there will be news. This replaces the Group E-News as it will be open to all members. Encourage your group members to sign up.

Thank you for the opportunity to be your Delegate. Ginny C. Panel 55