

Delegate's Report – 2017 Spring Assembly

Just a few weeks ago I attended for the last time as your delegate, the World Service Conference. The theme was Our Members: Our Hope for the Future. The World Service Conference convenes annually. During this time, one elected Delegate from each Assembly Area along with the Board of Trustees, the Executive Committee, and Al-Anon administrative staff members of the World Service Office come together to discuss and make decisions on important matters affecting Al-Anon/Alateen as a whole.

The Al-Anon Family Groups, Inc. vision statement: All people affected by someone else's drinking will find help and recovery in every community. The Board mission statement is Anticipate the future and Al-Anon's place in it and ensure that the necessary resources are available. The strategic plan is Al-Anon's spiritual principles permeate our policies and practices; we apply emerging technology and communication options: To increase the visibility of Al-Anon so that it is recognized as the number one resource throughout the world for helping friends and families of problem drinkers.; To empower the Al-Anon fellowship to be vibrant, inclusive and flexible; To achieve a viable future for Al-Anon Family Groups, the Board will be adaptive and strategic in its use of talents, skills, and abilities.

In just a year, the World Service Office has made some major transformations. The structure has been rearranged and new people are in the offices. There was an air of excitement and energy. The World Service Office is now fully staffed with the addition of several younger, energetic employees eager to help Al-Anon Family Groups reach all those who need help. The addition of a Digital Strategies Department has enabled us to reach out to more and more, especially younger family and friends of alcoholics. Recent additions include an Al-Anon Instagram and most recently an Alateen Instagram. The World Service Office Warehouse is run by 4 people and sends literature all over the U.S. and the world.

New Executive Director Search: Mary Gregory's job is to serve in the interim.

May 1 – June 15, 2017 Application and Resume submission period

June 26 – 30, 2017 Video conferencing Interviews

Week of July 17, 2017 Final Candidate Interviews with the Board of Trustees Virginia Beach, Virginia

September 5, 2017 Desirable start date for New Executive Director at the WSO in Virginia Beach

Finances: Tradition Seven: Every group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions. (Including Al-Anon Family Groups, Inc. and the World Service Office, its offices) Finances at Al-Anon Family Groups, Inc. have drastically improved over last year. Literature Sales down from this time last year but exceeded budgeted expectations by almost \$115,000. Forum subscription income up by 9.18 %. Contributions last year up by almost 17%. The success of last year was that we each did a little and it added up to a lot. We did not receive any enormous contribution (we are still waiting!!). What we did receive was thousands of fifteen dollar checks. What if we surpass \$2,100,000 in contributions? Dare we even think of such abundance?

Thank you, OHIO!!!! Contributions from Groups increased by 42%!!! WOOHOO!!! Slight drop in contributions from other sources by 17%. Keep it Up OHIO!!!! This level of giving will help AFG and the WSO be able to provide services and support in the coming years. General Fund gained \$88,153 this period in 2017 In 2016, it lost \$361,025 this period last year. That represents an improvement of \$449,178 over this period last year. Able to pay back money taken from the Reserve fund.

WSO Revenue sources are Literature 50%, Contributions 38%, Investment Income 7% and Forum Subscriptions 5%. Expenses fall into three service areas: 56% is Programs, 28% is General Administration, and 16 % is Literature. How is your \$15 used? Communication Services, Toll Free Numbers, Member Services, Volunteer Oversight, Public Service Announcement, and the Conference.

The World Service Office would like to encourage members to seek answers to their dilemmas by talking to each other and reasoning things out with less looking to WSO to provide the "correct" answer. This starts with

looking for the answer in the Service Manual. Areas have autonomy so refer to your Ohio Handbook. Where is your group copy? Do you have your own copy? Do you keep an electronic copy of the Handbook or Service Manual? They are both easily downloaded into a smart phone. One of the breakout sessions provided a handout on Empowering Ourselves by Using Al-Anon's Legacies and Policies When Seeking Solutions.

In 2018, a New Service Manual will be issued with a rearrangement of the material to help make the material more understandable as well as more user friendly. Due to some cost containment measures as well as other considerations, the printed copies will only be sent to new groups. Each group will need to purchase their own printed copy or refer to the online version (which will always be up to date). The World Service Conference worked hard to approve changes in wording to approve changes to at least 20 pages plus the policy changes in record time, thanks to electronic communications prior to the conference. After at least a couple years of discussions, the Policy committee and the World Service Conference finally approved some much-needed changes to the policies regarding conventions and other events and announcing events.

“Conventions and Other Events: Al-Anon and Alateen events attract many members, drawing them to celebrate and share their experiences. These events can vary in size and content. Conventions: Among common Al-Anon/Alateen events are Area conventions, bringing together members from across the Area to celebrate recovery, often for a weekend. Conventions hosted by Areas for Alateen are often referred to as conferences. (See the Guidelines *Area Conventions* [G-20] and *Alateen Conferences* [G-16] for more specific suggestions on selecting organizers, planning the program, finances, etc.)”

“Workshops: An Area, district, Al-Anon Information Service (AIS), or one or more Al-Anon/Alateen groups may host a weekend, day, or evening of workshops and meetings, luncheons, or banquets. These activities are planned in keeping with the spiritual principles of the Twelve Traditions to address various topics of interest to members or for public outreach purposes. Weekend events often combine workshops and speaker meetings. Distribution of Proceeds: Excess funds are often used to establish the next convention's “seed” fund. Since accumulating large sums of money is discouraged, in keeping with Al-Anon's Traditions and Concepts, excess funds over and above a seed fund for the next event can be donated to the district, Al-Anon Information Service (AIS), Area, or the WSO.”

“Various types of events are held for Al-Anon and Alateen members to gather for fun and fellowship, to celebrate recovery and enhance their understanding of the Al-Anon/Alateen program. It may be helpful for members to consider the following spiritual principles when announcing these events: • Cooperation • Participation • Responsibility • Singleness of Purpose • Unity or Common Welfare “

“What to Announce at Meetings: Al-Anon/Alateen recovery and service events cultivate a sense of community. Recognizing this spiritual need to belong, the principle of participation links the membership to these events. Members often wonder if a particular event is appropriate to announce. The following should be considered when deciding what to announce at meetings: Generally, those events put on by or connected to Al-Anon service arms are announced at meetings, in our newsletters, and on local Web sites. These events bring members together to connect through experiences and discussions. “

“Al-Anon is often invited by A.A. to participate in recovery events. Almost from its beginning, Al-Anon has taken part in these events. Such participation often led to the growth of Al-Anon and an enhanced spirit of cooperation between both fellowships. While we remain a separate entity from A.A., we cooperate whenever possible. When Al-Anon participates in an A.A. event with speakers or workshops, these events may be announced at meetings, in our newsletters and on our Web sites. “

“Al-Anon does not affiliate with other organizations; neither endorses nor opposes any other philosophies, therapies, or spiritual programs. Our experience suggests that confusion arises when such events are announced in Area newsletters and Al-Anon/Alateen local bulletins, on Al-Anon Web sites, and at group meetings. The Al-Anon/Alateen name, therefore, cannot properly be used to identify or publicize any retreats, events, or activities sponsored by others. This applies when most or even all of the participants are members of Al-Anon/Alateen. Otherwise there could be a misunderstanding of Al-Anon's purpose and function. In order

to avoid any appearance of Al-Anon/Alateen affiliation, it is important to keep promotion of such events outside of Al-Anon/Alateen meetings and meeting locations.”

“Whether to announce a particular event is a matter of autonomy, keeping in mind other groups, the district, or the Area may have different criteria. For example, an Area may choose to only make announcements at Assemblies of events sponsored by Al-Anon service arms. Just as we have no opinion on outside literature, we have no opinion on events outside of Al-Anon. Members may read or attend whatever helps them in their recovery; but we keep our events focused on Al-Anon principles and topics. “

Some of the spiritual principles used in making decisions regarding financial matters are: Tradition Seven, Abundance, Anonymity, Gratitude, Responsibility, Trust, Unity. The other changes to financial matters policy will be covered in the Fall AWSC and Fall Assembly.

The World Service Conference discussed the Prayer for Today KBDM and how feedback was obtained in each Area. The general consensus was that surveyed members were evenly divided on this issue. We voted to have no more discussions at the World Service Conference at this time.

Road Trip: You and Your Board Connect is the former “Meet the Board”. When: Saturday October 20, 2018. Where: OHIO?. Who: Al-Anon members, Trustees and Executive Committee members. What: WSO Program. Why: This is an opportunity for Trustees and the Executive Committee to interact with members, as well as for members to interact with Trustees and the Executive Committee. Cost: Registration fee, meals. How: Areas apply to the World Service Office using the Request Form. Area Participation: Publicize the event. Provide an Area contact person. Ohio would be responsible for publicizing the event, collecting the registration forms, checks, donations to WSO and meal payments, providing transportation between the hotel and airport if no hotel shuttle is available. In other words, this would cost Ohio very little. The Delegate has to submit the site request form by September 15, 2015. Does Ohio want to sponsor the Road Trip! You and Your Board Connect? It would mean our Fall Assembly 2018 would have to be October 13, 2018 unless another date was agreed upon in advance. This is an event that requires mainly volunteer effort and very little money. Other Areas that have done this have found increased participation in service activities after sponsoring this event.

Ginny C., Ohio Delegate, Panel 55