

Delegate Report - 2019 Fall Assembly

OPENINGS AT THE WSO

Paid positions for Al-Anon members with various lengths of service are always posted with information about the necessary qualifications and with the résumé applications. These are updated on the Employment at Al-Anon page on the World Service website both as positions are filled and become open.

As you have seen in your recent In *The Loop* mailing, there is currently an open position at the World Service Office (WSO) for a Group Services Specialist – Alateen. This job is located at the Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters World Service Office in Virginia Beach, VA. Remote location will not be considered for this position. See job description at

- [https://al-anon.org/employment-at-al-anon/Group-Services-Specialist – Alateen](https://al-anon.org/employment-at-al-anon/Group-Services-Specialist-Alateen)

While there are paid positions, there are also always volunteer opportunities in World Service for Al-Anon members. Twice a year, reminders are sent announcing upcoming openings for At-Large Members for various committees.

- These require varying lengths of time in Active Al-Anon/Alateen membership
- Past members of Alcoholics Anonymous are not eligible

The duties and qualifications for these positions can be found under the Members heading on the WSO website at <https://al-anon.org/for-members/board-of-trustees/wso-volunteers/> Terms begin in May for all positions and go through the April WSC (World Service Conference) meetings.

Some résumés were due at the WSO by August 15 and will be due next year by August 15.

- Executive Committee for Real Property Management (ECRPM) limited to one 3-year term
- Regional Trustee 3-year term
(We are in the US North Central Region and the next time our Area can nominate a member to stand for Regional Trustee will be in 2021)
- Trustee-at-Large 3-year term
Trustees may be appointed to serve a second term for a maximum of 6 years of service. You do NOT have to have been a past Trustee or a Delegate to serve.

Several of the résumés are due at the WSO by January 1, 2020. Members still have time to apply for any of these!

The following are appointments for one-year terms up to a maximum of 6 years.

- Audit
- Forum Editorial Advisory
- Literature
- Public Outreach

Executive Committee members serve a maximum of three one-year terms.

- Executive Committee (does NOT have to have been a Trustee though many times they are)

I encourage members who meet the qualifications to consider applying for these important volunteer positions.

85TH AA INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

Online registration for Alcoholics Anonymous (A.A.) International Convention with Al-Anon participation is open.

https://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/international-convention-2020

The Convention will be held July 2–5, 2020 in Detroit, Michigan with the theme "Love and Tolerance is our Code." A.A. members and guests from around the world will celebrate A.A.'s 85th year at this event with big meetings held Friday night, Saturday night, and Sunday morning in the Ford Field Stadium.

Advanced registration for the Convention is available through April 15, 2020 for \$115.00 US per attendee.

Registration after April 15, 2020 will be \$140.00 US per attendee.

Al-Anon participation will include a variety of sessions held during the day on Friday and Saturday.

Al-Anon members are also welcome to attend the A.A. big meetings. Many attendees come early or stay late for a vacation. There are many fun things to do, so see you in Detroit!

WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE SUMMARY

Having been your Delegate for two World Service Conferences (WSC), I can now read with more understanding in the WSC Summary about what actually happens at the WSC. I am also amazed at what all was done and can truly appreciate why I was both spiritually/emotionally energized AND physically exhausted afterwards.

I encourage you to look through the most recent WSC summary as it contains the organizational chart of the World Service Office (WSO) on pages 126-7; the current Bylaws of Al-Anon Group Headquarters, Inc. (pp.111-115) The amended text for Alateen is on pp.122-125 with the open Policy Committee discussion about this on pages 56-58. The descriptive changes to Concept Five in our Service Manual (P24/27) that were suggested by the Task Force are discussed on page 30 and the motion that was approved by the Conference is on page 83. Our Service Handbook P24/27 is being continually reviewed by our Trustees WSO Staff to keep it up to date and as clear as possible. (That work is never done!)

For lighter reading, Jennie and Vali's presentation on Housekeeping changes (the placement of a comma in Warranty Three) is on pages 45-46.

The spiritual leads at the opening and closing dinners and the sharings of outgoing Delegates are also less "intensive" though emotionally rewarding parts of the WSC Summary.

I particularly want to call attention to pages 62-62 where the Thought Force Presentation on "Welcoming Potential Members Dealing with Drug Addition in a Family Member or Friend While Staying True to Our Primary Purpose." Though the skit is not in the WSC Summary, this is where what was performed at Spring OAA (and at the 2019 Ohio AA Convention during an Al-Anon session) came from. I hope that sharing the follow-up discussion, including suggested strategies; will continue at your groups, districts and Information Services (IS). Vali (our Executive Director and Sustaining Trustee) has sent out a message to the groups via IN THE LOOP (Announcements) to remind us that

"We are all messengers of Al-Anon's purpose and have the responsibility to accurately communicate it to avoid confusion, misperception, or dilution of our program.

The 2018 Membership Survey states that 35% of members came to our program specifically because of someone's use of drugs. The survey also showed that 78% of these members eventually came to realize that someone else's drinking had also affected their lives.

When developing and implementing public outreach activities, members are urged to keep Al-Anon's Twelve Traditions in mind. This includes reviewing the words of the Traditions in their entirety. The following summary of applicable Traditions may assist your communication efforts with members, newcomers, professionals, and the media:

- Tradition Three states that "the only requirement for [Al-Anon] membership is that there be a problem of alcoholism in a relative or friend."
- Tradition Four tells us that "each group should be autonomous, except in matters affecting another group or Al-Anon or AA as a whole."
- Tradition Five clarifies that we have "but one purpose: to help families of alcoholics."
- Tradition Ten tells us that "the Al-Anon Family Groups have no opinion on outside issues."

Therefore, conveying that Al-Anon is for families and friends of alcoholics and drug addicts in local- or Area-produced public outreach materials is an expansion and misrepresentation of Al-Anon's purpose (see Tradition Five). This includes but is not limited to posters, flyers, websites, etc."

SOME OTHER UPDATES/NEWS

Seattle won the Road Trip! You and Your Board Connect for 2019. The Board of Trustees have been meeting in Seattle this past week. The location for the 2020 Event will be selected and the Area will be notified sometime in November/December.

Some reminders of the July meeting of the Trustees - Chairman of the Board (COB) and updates letters (<https://al-anon.org/for-members/board-of-trustees/chairperson-letter-archives/>)

- The whole Board participated in a lively Knowledge-Based Decision-Making (KBDM) gallery walk exercise on replacing Together Empowering Al-Anon Members (TEAM) Events, as our TEAM Events will conclude in 2019. A task force will now be created to come up with the next exciting, engaging, and energizing mode of connecting WSO Staff and Volunteers with other Al-Anon members
- The two questions we delegates were asked to discuss with are trustees were presented at Fall AWSC and will have follow-up today.

- How are your groups/Areas dealing with a cashless society?
- How will you, your groups, and your Area utilize the 2020 Conference theme?
- The Policy Committee voted to form a Thought Force to further consider if the policy on AI-Anon members who are also members of A.A. participating in AI-Anon service applies to prior members of A.A., and how or if former members of A.A. might be defined and by whom.
- We are half-way into 2019 and contributions are trending below both budgeted and historical levels. There was a bequest in May which helped put our budget on track. But without the bequest, the budget for the remainder of the year would have been below budget amounts.
- August appeal letter has been sent. <https://al-anon.org/pdf/Aug19-Appeal.pdf> Remember this is asking individuals to consider what they can give in gratitude to the World Service Office (WSO) for what they have received from AI-Anon.
- There are many other items of note in the reports, some of which will be updated in the next COB and Updates following the October Board meeting in Seattle. Please remember to look for these at <https://al-anon.org/for-members/board-of-trustees/>

PUBLIC OUTREACH

WSO came across the following article featuring Alateen in our Area and wanted to share it with us. Click here: <https://www.cantonrep.com/news/20190922/inside-look-at-alateen-and-guidance-it-offers-teens>

In keeping with our policy for Public Outreach and Anonymity in public media, it may be helpful to remind members of available resources where there is a possibility that a full name may be used. There is great information on al-anon.org that offers a list of questions and answers that can be used to newspaper, TV, radio or streaming broadcasts. Click here for details: <https://al-anon.org/media-kit/media-and-interview-arrangements/>.

LITERATURE COMMITTEE

As an avid reader of *The Forum* and a regular subscriber to *In the Loop*, you've probably already read all three articles about the CAL (Conference Approved Literature) process. But have you shared this information with the members of your Area? Now you can easily do so by passing on these three links to downloadable versions of the articles!

al-anon.org/blog/the-cal-process-al-anons-group-conscience-in-action/
al-anon.org/blog/can-we-use-discontinued-literature-in-meetings/
al-anon.org/blog/who-changes-our-literature-and-why

This month the new Member Blog is focused on Conference Approved Literature! We're asking members to share their favorite non-daily reader Conference Approved Literature (CAL) book, and why.

Visit <https://al-anon.org/for-members/members-resources/member-blog/> for more information.

INPUT NEEDED

This will be my last meeting to hear from the Group Representatives before I attend the 2020 World Service Conference (WSC). The Delegates will soon be asked to submit suggestions for items to be discussed at the Conference (Chosen Agenda Items -CAI's). A list of all the CAI's since 1976 will be attached to these minutes. Please put in the Ask-It Basket or email me ideas/questions that you wish to have brought up for discussion at the 2020 WSC. Remember, the theme is

Dreaming Big with 20|20 Vision
Rêver grand avec une vision 20|20
Soñar en grande con visión 20|20

Thank you for allowing me to be your Delegate on this incredible service journey.

Theresa M, Panel 58