

**Expanding our Community of hope by embracing:  
Yesterday's foundations Today's successes  
Tomorrow's possibilities**

Delegate's Report to the Connecticut Area Spring Assembly  
277 Main St. Hartford, CT  
June 11, 2011

Dear Friends,

Hello and welcome to our Spring Assembly titled expanding our community of hope by Embracing: Yesterday's foundations Today's successes Tomorrow's possibilities. This theme reminds me in 1951 Lois and Ann wrote to 87 groups to ask if they wanted to set up a location (clearing house) to be able to provide help and information to members, register groups, receive literature and become more unified. The unity a home group provides continues to be a cornerstone in "Yesterday's Foundations". The groups are the building block of the whole structure. As we strengthen our groups we have expanded our community of hope. As we move forward and maintain our spiritual principles we will embrace tomorrow's possibilities! We grow in recovery and work together no longer having the need for the old alcoholic type attitude/relationship. (Them vs. us) All members are striving for unity as we enjoy our many successes. Our primary purpose continues to be to help families & friends of alcoholics. I wish to convey today my experience at Conference and how working together we are able to accomplish great things. Let it begin with me.

In 1961, the First World Service Conference was formed to further develop the growth of the Al-Anon Family Group Fellowship. As we maintain the links of service by having our service positions filled, our Group Representatives, District Representatives, service arms and Area Officers attend our Assemblies, the voice of the members are brought to the Conference and the Delegate returns with a broader view of the Worldwide Al-Anon Fellowship. As we embrace our spiritual structure through the principles of Al-Anon and as we apply the three Legacies, Steps, Traditions and Concepts our foundation will remain firm. The Conference demonstrated how a culture of trust will allow us to enjoy our successes and expand new possibilities for tomorrow. The outgoing chairperson of the Board of Trustees, Mary Ann Reid, challenged all of us to place the good of Al-Anon Family Groups foremost in all of our decisions as we look to the future and discuss "Tomorrow's possibilities" while preserving our spiritual foundations. The culture of trust we have has made our Al-Anon Family Group's Foundation strong. The spiritual tone of the Conference was evidenced by the mutual respect and acceptable conduct of the conference members. A consensus was taken and the goals and rules of the Conference were accepted, including still photos to be taken. Anonymity is not in the fellowship. I have used some last names to bring this point home in this report. Hi my name is Rita Corzo Panel 51 CT.

The 51st Annual World Service conference was held April 11-15, 2011 held at the Wyndham Virginia Beach Oceanfront Virginia Beach, VA. I arrived a day early to meet with my service mentor, Shirley T, from British Columbia to help organize my conference notebook, review the agenda, and register. My room was on the 14<sup>th</sup> floor overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. Each morning I spent a few minutes with my higher power, the sunrise, reading through notes of encouragement from the Al-Anon/Alateen members from CT and asked for the wisdom, courage and strength to complete my many responsibilities and duties followed by the opening dinner when new Delegates received their conference pin by their conference mentors.

Our week continued with the motion to seat the following persons at the 2011 WSC with voice, but no vote:

David Zach, Director of Business Services Non-Al-Anon member

Maria Evangelina de Leon Gome, International Representative – Mexico Al-Anon member

Rose Adam, International Representative, New Zealand, Al-Anon member

Rose Adam from New Zealand reported that there are 90 Groups and 2 Alateen groups in her country. She shared that her program begun in Alateen and believes that the members are the most valuable resource. Her most memorable comment in her presentation was leaning how “love myself like my higher power loves me.”

The World Service Conference had 97 voting members in attendance. The meeting included 66 Delegates throughout the United States and Canada, the Board of Trustees, the Executive Committee and the World Service Office staff. It was a life altering experience to be part of something so very special. I’m here to let you know that we are in very good hands. The Conference members displayed dedication, endless hours of preparation, professionalism, great care to maintain our spiritual principles in all Our Affairs.

Motion #2 –CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY To approve the 2011 Finance Committee Report.

Motion #3 –CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY To approve the 2010 Audited Financial Report. The Financial Audit received an unqualified opinion which is the best report to receive.

Motion #4 – CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY To approve the 2010 Annual Report.

The board of Trustees meets quarterly, executive committee meets monthly and required to make administrative decisions in the interim between board meetings. I had the opportunity to attend and open board meeting following the Conference on Saturday morning. It also was a great experience visiting the World Service Office and witnessed the volumes of work the WSO staff provide for our fellowship. The World Service staff conveyed a message of professionalism, serious service commitment and the desire for us to be successful. The Delegates received welcoming words and warm embraces as we toured the World Service Office. Welcome Home!

The conference broke out in song as we embraced the ideology of thinking abundantly in all our affairs. An increase in contributions = increase in services! We have budgeted contributions to be 1,500,000 which is about 294,000 more than last year's actual. Anticipation of the positive impact of the spirit of generosity message and the new book in 2011 remains high!

We discussed the Spiritual benefits one receives when you give of your resources. The more you give, the more you receive. I personally have found many benefits of the time I have put into service. Please remind all members where your donations go when you support the World Service Office. The average cost of service to each group is \$238.23 a year. The value of \$1.00 in 1951 would be equivalent to \$8.10 in 2011. Our donations to WSO provide many beneficial services. Watch how the Generosity of Spirit grows as the message flows throughout our groups! We had a Thought Force on the Personal Benefits of Service and received a Service Inventory Tool which charts members' responses to the question. "What does service give me? Shown are some favorable responses.

- A community- keeps me from isolating because I have a commitment
- A place where I learn to chair meetings, set agendas, and stay on topic.
- Taught me how to say "no" when necessary, without feeling guilty.
- Helped me venture out and become more proficient with technology
- Taught me more tolerance and patience.

Please review the new and friendly Public Outreach Website which is easy to explore. We also have e-communities which is a private website where service members can have access to discussions boards and receive information from WSO in a timely and efficient manner. Further development with a broader access will be available to Area Chairperson's by August and the District Representative's in the Fall.

More support to the Groups and Group Representatives via podcasts will be available to address common group problems, and how my group functions structure of Al-Anon & Alateen. It is an interactive service and a great service tool. A podcast on Sponsorship has just been posted on the Al-Anon/Alateen Members' Web site. The development of a workbook on the three Legacies which used sharing's from the Legacy blogs will be available soon. The Board will continue to research on what external changes might affect Al-Anon in the future and how the use of electronic books will affect the revenue of the World Service Office and Literature Distribution Centers.

Motion #5- CARRIED that the 2011 World Service Conference gives conceptual approval for a new piece of literature on Intimacy in general, including sexual intimacy, in an alcoholic relationship.

Our service manual can now be read in French and Spanish. We have 6 Alateen modules, Alateen chat rooms with a secure password and comments screened by Alateen Sponsors. Currently, 15 Areas have chat meetings. Alateen podcasts will soon be available.

A new DVD on the role Al-Anon and Alateen's in Family Recovery (AV-31) the multipurpose DVD format offers three stand-alone- ten-minute presentations: to adults; to teens; and to professionals who might refer families and friends of alcoholics to Al-Anon and Alateen. \$5.00

Public service Announcement provide a clear description on how one is affected by someone's drinking and how to get help PSA's continue to be very successful top 10% rating. Please call local stations and ask and thank the radio stations for playing them.

Forum/ Literature Coordinator: Jackie Z.

Schedules Coordinator: Janet M

Public Outreach Coordinator: Deborah C.

Conflict Resolution Presentation: Mary Ann Reid outgoing Chairperson of the Board of Trustees, newly appointed Chairperson of the Executive Committee, and World Service Delegate Panel  
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I hope you all take the opportunity to purchase literature at our LDC for your personal and groups' needs. Our newest book, Many voices One Journey (B-31) is now available. It has a broad range of experiences and reflects the history & recovery of the program. It contains personal sharing's, long time memories discussion/question segment. We will now hear a few favorite quotes found our CT members.

The Literature Committee recommended to the 2011 World Service Conference conceptual approval of a book of Interviews with long time members having 40 or more years of Family recovery in Al-Anon. It was not approved to go forward by the 2011 Conference.

A soft covered book How Al-Anon works for Families & Friends of Alcoholics B-32 \$5.00 is now available in a soft cover and priced inexpensively so that we can give it away to each newcomer and any other professional.

Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism 2012- The deadline to place new orders for the Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism 2012, is 5 p.m. ET, July 6, 2011

The Forum is a great magazine to use for topics in our meetings. The tagline is now focused on "Sharing recovery, Unity, and Service" rather than just a meeting in your pocket. It continues to provide the instant connection to the fellowship. Have you taken the opportunity to write in the Forum? Forum subscription income was 69,400 this year compared to 67,600 last year, an increase of 2.7%. My experience has been that most members love the Forum however; the numbers imply people are not reading the Forum. It would be wonderful if Connecticut increased their personal subscriptions. The Forum committee is satisfied that the magazine is

continuing to improve and provide unique meeting topics. The magazine has published a greater number of sharing's from parents of alcoholics. All members are encouraged to write to the Forum. Are Groups using their free copy? The Group Representatives are also the Forum Representatives. Please continue to encourage all members to use the Forum in their Al-Anon program?

The Area highlights news letter will become an electronic publication in the Fall 2011. Members who received this newsletter by mail will receive notification by e-mail when future issues are posted on the Members Website at [www.al-anon.alateen.org/members](http://www.al-anon.alateen.org/members). I encourage all members to utilize this venue as another valuable resource in your recovery. This is your news letter! Please submit your service events and experiences.

There were considerable discussions on the Presentation by Dr. Vivian Jackson, a Research Instructor at the National Center for Cultural Competence at Georgetown University Center for Child and Human Development. The presentation led us through an exercise how our cultural awareness and values impact others. We were provided with strategies and tools to foster belonging rather than exclusion. We were informed how to reach out to diverse populations. Diversity and Inclusion was a chosen agenda item and Paul G. Delegate from New Jersey encouraged us to try to focus on how enriched our program will be rather than on just how can I help them. Using forward thinking efforts today, we can develop our fellowship and increase minority membership! This was a thought provoking session and all agreed there will be further discussion on this topic.

Today we have 15,760 total groups in the United States/Canada total group contributions are 9,137 which is only 57.98% of the 15,760 groups who are contributing. WSO realizes not all groups can afford to contribute, but they will still receive the same amount of services. 64.7% of the Connecticut Groups are contributing an average of \$ 155.55 per year to the World Service Office which is a slight increase from last year. Our Area Treasurer Stacie is still available to help educate members, Groups and District how their groups can support Al-Anon Family Groups financially. What does self supporting mean? Money is a means not an end. "Our spirit soars with every gift." At the close of the Conference a collection was held for the World Service Office and a total of individual contributions reached \$3125.16.

Encourage the Spirit of Generosity and watch how the message flows. Lois has stated, "If you ask the group, they will provide".

We had a thought force to identify information for guidelines on memorial contributions and the consensus from the conference floor to review the memorial gifts from family members.

I was assigned to a Thought Force on How to utilize the Service Manual. We have started a dialogue and will have a conference call on June 12<sup>th</sup> to continue the work. Our deadline is in August to have power point presentation for the Board of Trustees' to review.

We heard from outgoing Delegates Charlie Panel 49 Maryland- A group is based on Al-Anon principles. My position is of stewardship not to lay down the law.

Theresa Panel 49 Indiana-It's not about waiting for the rain to pass but to learn how to dance in the rain.

Debbie Panel 49 from Michigan shared – Expanding our Circle of hope is energized through Districts visits by Area World Service Committee members that connect our links of service and collect feedback from all the service arms.

Alateen Coordinator: Bob B.

Literature Distribution Center Manager's Report: Sue G.

Fall workshop Co-Chairperson: Katie B.

CT AFG Convention Chair & Co-Chair: Sam C. & Gina R.

Chosen agenda Item: Considering yesterday's foundations, today successes, tomorrow's possibilities, how can we expand our community of hope by embracing the use of technology to enhance communication at the group, district, Area, and the World Service Office levels? We had a thought provoking discussion and highlighted some of our current successes.

What does Al-Anon need to do to prepare ourselves, keeping our spiritual principles in mind? How can Al-Anon make the best use of technology while maintaining all of the meaningful aspects that make Al-Anon effective? At this juncture e-books are paying 60% to Amazon and are an outside entity. An audio recording of How Al-Anon works would cost approximately \$ 80,000 today. Additional consideration is warranted at this time. The Board will continue to review were current procedures need to be updated.

There was a task force on ways to safely hold an electronic meeting and there were no conclusions at this time.

Area Officers, District Representative, and Coordinator will receive a complimentary World Service Conference Summary in August. However, each interested member may view it on the member's website from WSO and or order free with \$5.00 for shipping and handling. It will provide a full report in the 2011 World Service Summary (P-46). The Summary will be on the members' website in August.

A Property Ownership Discussion was led by Judith Philson, the Chairperson of the Task Force. The Conference members had an opportunity to ask additional questions and received answers to questions previously submitted. All reports consistently support that ownership of real property is a good step financially and no negative impact to the fellowship as a whole. The Board of Trustees will continue to report triennially and will amend its B-laws to establish a separate committee to ensure the management of the real property be done in a prudent manner.

Following the discussion the motion #6- To end the trial period and authorize the ownership property CARRIED by an overwhelming margin.

The Conference members gave Joan Vergean Panel 36 CT traditional approval to be a member on the Executive Committee for Real Property Management. A special thank you to Joan for her ongoing dedication and willingness to collaborate with other members to help safe guard our new home!

We were assigned to several different workshops on Leadership. Topics included understanding different leaning styles, techniques on how to be active listening and exploring different ways to communicate. Each workshop was intended to be skill building. I hope you enjoyed the workshops our Alternate Delegate Ann organized for you this morning.

A thought force on Personal Benefits of Service was presented. "What does service give me?" We gained a fuller understanding how service contributes to growth and is an integral part of the program.

I have six suggested Strategies to reach members not yet in Service. The strategy #6 received the most interest. Use the AFG Members' Web site to host a service blog with, for example a "Service Project of the Month" for groups. Members could share their experience, success, challenges, and ideas for district/Area service events and workshops.

Carol Vandenberg, the Conference Chairperson and Trustee shared her experience trip to Northern Europe. They did not allow their native language to become a barrier. They used signs, pictures, some help from translators and an open heart to embrace different cultures. They attended a Convention and were able to meet many different faces from different countries. They were able to provide financial assistance to Sweden by reviewing the criteria to

publish literature. Your contributions make it possible for visits to worldwide structures and groups. Expanding our circle of hope!

500 guests filled the room to celebrate 60 years of Al-Anon Family Groups. We enjoyed the speakers' as they shared about the early times in New York clearing house and how the legacy of Al-Anon's early members lives on.

The Associate Director of Members Service Suzanne Martin has begun making plans for 2018 International Convention. If our Area would like to submit a Bid to host this event a Bid Questionnaire must be submitted to the WSO by the Area Delegate by December 31, 2011. (It will be keen in 2018) All interested members please see me to review criteria.

The World Service Conference concluded Friday evening with spiritual speakers and distribution of scrolls to outgoing Delegates. My guest to the closing dinner was my husband Miguel Panel 39 CT. I had attended his closing dinner 10 years ago. It was exciting to see many familiar faces at the 60<sup>th</sup> Al-Anon Anniversary. CT was well represented. My heart is filled with gratitude for allowing me to represent CT at the 51<sup>st</sup> Annual World Service Conference. Thank you for listening to my report and having the willingness to share it with others.

Love in Service,

Rita C. Panel 51 CT