

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

Delegate's Report to the Connecticut Area Fall Assembly

277 Main St. Hartford, CT

November 5, 2011

Dear Friends,

Hello and welcome to the largest Al-Anon business meeting in Connecticut. I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to District 11 for accepting the responsibility to host our Voting Assembly. This is where Connecticut's Group Conscious will take place. You will witness how Knowledge Based Decision Making (KBDM) elicits an informed group conscious. You will be voting on the revision of the CT AFG, Inc. by-Laws and a proposed 2012 CT AFG Budget. John B. the President of the CT AFG, Inc. Board of Directors has provided pertinent information regarding the revisions to the by-laws in numerous venues, most recently at the Fall Workshop. I look forward to his presentation today to provide clarity, address additional questions, and learn why this topic is relevant to our Area. The Area World Service Committee has approved a 2012 CT AFG Budget for your review. Our Area Treasurer Stacie ensures us that our members have received this Budget prior to the Assembly and she has been available to answer questions. Her presentation today will provide important information and the opportunity to have a greater understanding of the Budget. The three key elements of KBDM are: background/ history, relevance and context. Stacie has the ability to explain financial matters in a simplistic format which we all can understand. How many Districts and Groups have invited our Area Treasurer to present a workshop on Becoming a Treasurer/Does working with money intimidate you? She is willing to travel so please take this opportunity to increase your knowledge of basic treasurer fundamentals. I ask all the Group Representatives' when voting today is to listen with an open mind, trust in your Higher Power and maintain a warm spirit of fellowship.

A special thank you to the outgoing District Representatives and Group Representatives from District 3, 8, 10, & 11. We are grateful for your leadership and willingness to participate in service work. As we say goodbye to the outgoing Representatives, let's all embrace the new Group Representatives and District Representatives who are here

today. You are now on a journey of a life time. If you do not have a service sponsor, I encourage you to look around the room to find your service sponsor today. At times, you will find yourself in challenging situations which will provide opportunities of growth and recovery. As we all presume goodwill, rely on a higher power, utilize our service sponsors, practice the Steps, Traditions, and Concepts each step of the way, the gifts of the program will change your life.

The message that I received at the 51st World Service Conference is: professionalism, serious service commitment and the desire to be successful. As you fulfill your duties and responsibilities remember that you are not alone, you are a trusted servant who is not perfect but has the willingness to complete the task at hand to the best of your ability. Doing what is best for Al-Anon/Alateen as a whole encourages us to reason things out and focus on the solution rather than the problem.

I would like to extend a special hello to our A.A. guests. Although a separate entity we continue to support and cooperate with each other. I had a wonderful opportunity when the A.A. Area Chairperson Craig and I were invited to share our experience, strength and hope at the Al-Anon Thurs. 8:00pm New Haven Groups' Anniversary on October 13, 2011. We both shared how the benefits of service has enriched our lives and accelerated our programs.

I'm ever so grateful to our Past Delegates who have a voice at our Assemblies and remain active Al-Anon members. At times, discussions can get off track and the Past Delegates graciously provide historical background information, which puts a discussion in perspective and brings clarity and focus to the topic. Thank you again for your guidance and support. How many people have had the opportunity to purchase a book of memories by our Longtime CT Al-Anon members? Kudos to the Long Range Planning Committee for another job well done. Your efforts will also increase our revenue, increasing our ability to provide Area Services. As we find ways to raise money and increase our individual contributions we are able to provide the services Connecticut Al-Anon Family Groups desire. The affects of alcoholism on the family are many but those who think abundantly understand that by giving it away you will receive the gifts of the program. Our Primary purpose is to help family and friends who are affected by someone else's drinking. During difficult economic times more services are needed and new perspectives members will seek out the Al-Anon/Alateen program. How does Connecticut Al-Anon Family Groups want to expand our Community of Hope?

How many of you had the pleasure to participate in the October Alateen Awareness month? District 6 had a Pasta Dinner/ Speaker event on October 15, 2011 and I

enjoyed excellent speakers and received a powerful message on the importance and rewards of Alateen Sponsorship. If you are interested in becoming a certified Alateen Sponsor please contact our Area Alateen Coordinator Bob B. Also, please support the bake sale today to help send the Alateens to the Connecticut Alateen Workshop Weekend (CAWW).

At the 51st World Service Conference there was a thought force on “How to include Dual Members in Service Work while maintaining our Policies.” There was a considerable discussion and focus on what dual members can do rather than what they cannot do in service. The thought force developed three strategies to help with this topic. Strategy One- Develop a workshop to begin a productive discussion and share what they have learned via the World Service Office Member’s website blog and Area Highlights. Strategy Two- Create guidelines to support the fellowship in identifying service positions for dual members. Generate a list of available service opportunities. Strategy Three- Encourage members to write Forum articles that support dual members in service. An open discussion on this topic will increase our understanding of our current policies. Dual members do not serve in Al-Anon policy making positions to avoid conflict of interest or give the appearance that we are not separate entities. Our policies identify how we have a unique relationship with Alcoholics Anonymous. In 1966, A.A. and Al-Anon worked together to clarify the policy that differentiates the two fellowships. At the 1967, Al-Anon’s ultimate informed group conscience World Service Conference approved the guideline which supports group separation between A.A. and Al-Anon. This is periodically updated in consultation with the A.A. General Service Office. Our program chairperson of the Fall Workshop organized a workshop titled “Voices of Dual Members.” A productive discussion on this topic has begun and I look forward to positive results.

I received letter on October 26, 2011 from Karen R. Chairperson, Board of Trustees Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc. asking if we would allow the discussion of Conference Approved Electronic Literature to take the place of our chosen agenda item time at the upcoming World Service Conference. I am aware of many Connecticut Al-Anon/Alateen members who have expressed the desire for electronic literature. The World Service Office is preparing to offer the Forum, as well as a book, that is currently out of print electronically to start this process and gather more data for a productive discussion at Conference. Do I have a consensus from the floor to support the change to the WSC agenda? The theme for the 2012 World Service Conference is: “Our Spiritual Journey-We Get as we Give”. “Nuestro viaje espiritual- es al dar que recibimos”. My journey to the World Service Conference will begin on Sunday, April 15 through

Thursday, April 19, 2012 Stamford CT. I will also have the privilege to visit Stepping Stones during the conference, Lois and Bill's home.

How many of you can picture yourself at the 2013 Al-Anon International Convention in Vancouver, British Columbia July 5-7, 2013? It is a celebration of Worldwide Unity! Take this opportunity to make new friends and reconnect with old ones. The registration information will be available in the Fall of 2012. There also will be a Preconvention event on Thursday, July 4th, 2013.

In closing, I wish to express my gratitude for allowing me to represent you at Conference and supporting me in my service position as your Delegate. It is truly an awesome experience to participate in the largest Group Conscious and know that I carry the spirit of Connecticut Al-Anon/Alateen with me.

Upcoming Events

- CSCYPAA XXVI 2011 with Al-Anon participation November 25,26,&27, 2011. Crowne Plaza, Cromwell CT.
- CT Al-Anon Serenity Breakfast- January 15, 2012 Crowne Plaza, 100 Berlin Rd. Cromwell
- CT AFG Convention March 30, 31, & April 1, 2012 Crowne Plaza Cromwell, CT.
- World Service Conference April 15-19, 2012 Stamford CT.
- Al-Anon International Convention, July 5-7th 2013, Vancouver, British Columbia
- CT Website: [http:// www.ct-alanon.org/members](http://www.ct-alanon.org/members)
- World Service Website: www.al-anon.alateen.org/members

Love in Service,

Rita C., Delegate
Panel 51 CT

