

Delegate's Report  
Our Legacies: Our Spiritual Journey Changing "Me to We"  
Hartford, CT  
June 8, 2013

Dear Friends,

Good afternoon and welcome to the World Service Delegate's Assembly titled "Our Legacies: Our Spiritual Journey Changing "Me to We". Each member of the assembly has a unique role and intricate part to play in this important link of communication. Our Area Officers and Area Coordinators are a great support to the Area, and I look forward to their reports. The District Representatives participate in shared leadership, the past Delegates continue to provide their experience, strength and hope, and the Group Representatives are the first and vital link that leads to the World Service Conference and maintains the unity of the worldwide fellowship. No one voice is more important than another. In Al-Anon, we are all equals. Let's not forget that it may be the soft voice that leads to a resolution and / or great idea. We all have different duties and responsibilities and the key is to fully participate in harmony. My role is to bring the view point of the Area and return with a broader perspective of the Worldwide Al-Anon/Alateen fellowship. I have a lot of exciting news to share from the 53rd World Service Conference. It is through open communication, trust and unity which make the process work.

Service work has always been an important part of my recovery and I'm ever so grateful for the opportunity to work with dedicated, committed and honest members. The Conference had 11 World Service Office Conference Staff, 67 World Service Delegates including Canada, Bermuda, and Puerto Rico, 9 Executive Committee members, and 19 Board of Trustees. I'm happy to report that we worked diligently throughout the week and late into the evening. Sometimes words can't convey the true meaning but I will do my best to report back to you the work and activities of the conference. We had an opportunity to work our Al-Anon program in service and witness our spiritual principles in action. It has been a privilege and growth opportunity to represent Connecticut.

I like to extend a sincere thank you to Districts 3 & 4 for hosting the Assembly. It is through your service work which enables us to meet and become informed, united, and able to pass the message of hope to families and friends of problem drinkers. I like to extend a sincere thank you to Ann B., Alternate Delegate for the organization of the morning workshops: How to become an Alateen Sponsor chaired by Bob B., Alateen Coordinator and Loving Interchange to Conflict Resolution, chaired by Ann B., Alt. Delegate. I would like to extend a special welcome to our invited guests, and past Delegates. I encourage all members of the Assembly to welcome the new Group Representatives. All the new Group Representatives please stand to be

recognized. As we conduct our business today may we apply our spiritual principles and gain a broader perspective of this Worldwide Al-Anon fellowship. It's important to support and communicate the decisions of the Conference because it builds unity, changing "Me to "We".

My final World Service Conference was held at the Wyndham Hotel Virginia Beach, Virginia. My room was on the 8<sup>th</sup> floor with an ocean front view. During brief breaks I sometimes went to my room took deep ocean breaths, read notes of encouragement from my friends from Connecticut and thanked my Higher Power for this life altering experience. I truly appreciated all the "love gifts" and I have returned with gifts from the members of the conference for you and for the members of your group.

I was assigned and worked collaboratively with 8 members of the conference throughout the year on the Thought Force: Tool Kit for Service and Personal Growth. We had two face to face meetings, numerous conference calls and email communication. Our task was to develop text for at least five pieces that could be included in a "Take out Tool Kit" for use at the group, district, or Area level. We made our final PowerPoint/ Presentation on Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup>.

We were assigned to new Selected Committees and Task/Thought Forces. I will be the Chair for the Thought Force: Create Strategies on the Importance of a Home Group. We had our first meeting, reviewed the charge, our roles and responsibilities, made a commitment to fully participate and complete the process. At Conference we continued to use Knowledge- Based, Decision, Making, (KBDM). We began the process to answer the 5 KBDM questions. Our findings will be presented to the 2014 World Service Conference.

The 54<sup>th</sup> 2014 WSC will be held at the Wyndham Virginia Beach Ocean front Hotel, Virginia Beach, Virginia, and Friday, April 25 through Tuesday, April 29, 2014.

- Coming soon Online 2013 Alateen Sponsors & AMIAS annual recertification by the AAPP.
- Registration for the Al-Anon 2013 International at [www.alanoninternationalconvention.org](http://www.alanoninternationalconvention.org). \$ 165.00 after June 1, 2013. There are 3,100 people registered as of 2013 April for the International. How many of you have already received your badges?
- The new Legacies work book (P-92, \$15) will be in English, Spanish, and French. It's the first time the launch of a new book is in 3 languages. The Conflict Resolution using our Twelve Traditions (S-72) packet of flash cards will be available today.
- We have a new envelope for individual contributions that has the shoe design and a quote from Lois Remembers. It was presented at the WSC, and will be launched at the 2013 International.
- The basket was passed at the 2013 World Service Conference and \$7118.50 was collected for the World Service Office/Worldwide Al-Anon. (Tradition 7 in action).

- A study/ Task Force discussion on Memorial Contributions was brought to the floor of the conference. We reviewed the definition of outside contributions, background information and studied the Traditions in reference to supporting the family during this difficult time. When the policy was first written it was allowed for a family member to donate a onetime donation. It was decided to continue the discussion on accepting non-member memorial contributions from family members to the next conference.
- The E- book (eB-25) \$ 9.99, "Having had a Spiritual Awakening" can be downloaded at the WSO website: [www.al-anon.alateen.org](http://www.al-anon.alateen.org). The Forum will become electronic but the 3<sup>rd</sup> party vendors aren't prepared to handle the work load. Smart phones or computers may download a version even if you don't have the reader. A program-doby digital manger can download a PDF and open it on your computer.
- The trial of the soft cover book "How Al-Anon Works" (B-32) in English has been extended for only 3 additional years. You can buy the book to give to a newcomer! ( To pay your gratitude forward) The new cost will be \$ 6.00. Please note the Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc. Literature prices haven't increased since 2006. Please continue to support the Connecticut Literature Distribution Center (LDC) by ordering your literature through them. (Again Paying Gratitude Forward).
- How does your Group welcome newcomers? Many members shared "Let it begin with me"- Car pool, suggested CAL readings, listen, love, respect, give a newcomer packet, the hug brought me back, phone list, stop chanting, hearing impaired and translation equipment and support the transition from Alateen to Al-Anon. Now that's attractive!
- We enjoyed a presentation by several Trustees of trips to an International Al-Anon General Service Meeting held in Cape Town, South Africa. A Regional Service Seminar in Mexico, where there are 3,662 groups, including 460 Alateen groups, and a trip to Columbia. The theme was to celebrate what we have instead of what we don't have.
- The Audio version E- book "How Al-Anon Works" will be available this summer at \$24.99, digital format only.
- Areas have permission to create and sell Legacies posters at the cost of creating them.
- The book titled "Many Voices, One Journey will be translated in Spanish and French by the end of 2013.
- The Conference Summary is the annual report to the groups about the World Service Conference and World Service Activities. It will be available in August 2013 on the Members' site at [www.al-anon.alateen.org/members](http://www.al-anon.alateen.org/members) and or purchased at the CT LDC for \$5.50. Now available in Spanish.
- Meet the World Service Board of Trustees- Cost to WSO. Areas will create flyers for the event.
- "Why Conference Approved Literature? " Using a variety of our literature informs people of all our literature. How do you handle it when someone brings out side

literature to the meeting? Have the discussion before it happens. The presentation and power point were fantastic!

- Motion #1 – That the following persons be seated at the 2013 World Service Conference: David Zach, Director of Business Services, Laura Castro Fuentes, International Representative-Mexico, Beverly Surface, Chairman, Executive Committee for Real Property Management, and Pamela Walters, Marketing Information Analyst.
- A Task Force was created to revise the reference to the name changing process because it was not clear in the “World Service Handbook” section of the Service Manual. In response to the Conference Structure Discussions, four Areas brought forward a request and much discussion for a name change. Motion #2 To approve the Conference Leadership Team’s recommendation that the requests of the Alabama Area, the New Mexico Area, the Manitoba Area, and the Wisconsin Area to officially change their Area names to Alabama/Northwest Florida, New Mexico/El Paso, Manitoba/Northwest Ontario, and Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. –Motion Carried.
- Motion # 3 – To approve the 2012 Audited Financial Report. – Carried.
- Motion #4 – To approve the 2013 Finance Committee Report. – Carried
- Motion # 5 – To approve the 2012 Annual Report. – Carried.
- Motion # 6 – That the 2013 WSC give conceptual approval to develop a new pamphlet to address parents and grandparents whose children (teenagers and young adults) are problem drinkers. – Carried.
- Motion # 7 - To amend the text on pages 88-91 beginning with the section “Anonymity and the Media” on page 88 and ending with the new section “Anonymity in Al-Anon/Alateen Publications” on page 91 in the Policy Digest section of the 2010-2013 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual. – Carried.

The 2012 Auditor’s Report received an unqualified opinion on the Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters Inc.’s Financial Statements, which is an excellent approval rating. Please feel free to review all documents in my Conference notebook.

We had lengthy Policy discussions, and after much review, we accepted the 27th draft of this policy. The Chair asked us each step of the way if it was accurate, does it provide clarity and can we live with it? The “Policy Digest” is not a rule book but a collection of spiritually based conference structure group conscience discussions.

Finance Committee Presentation- In 1952 the first appeal letter went out to the groups. At today’s standards \$2.00 is equivalent to \$17.00 in 2013. Currently, 60% of the groups in the United States and Canada are participating at an average of \$ 111.00 a year. The service each group receives annually is \$253. Part of recovery is supporting our Worldwide Al-Anon/Alateen Fellowship. Our Area Treasurer continues to remind us that we first take care

of the group, District, Area, CT LDC, and the World Service Office. The WSO understands some groups are unable to send the full amount, which is why each group will receive the same services. Currently, 66.5 % of the Connecticut Groups are participating at an average of \$127.13 per year. The total 2012 CT Group contributions was \$19,196 and other contributions include individuals, AISs, LDCs, and Area meetings totaled \$3,353.

The Finance Committee Presentation gave insight into all of the activities and services of each department. Our contributions donated to the World Service Office support the Group Services, Administrative & business, and Membership Outreach Departments and the Fellowship Communication Departments. If the members and groups understand what their contribution does, they will give more generously to our worldwide fellowship.

The Group services registers new Al-Anon/Alateen Groups, sends a complimentary Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual (P24/27) and Groups at Work to each registered group, Alateen Chat rooms, and maintains Group Records.

The Administrative & business services reported though there is no flash or excitement attached to Administrative & business services- wasn't it Lois who said that "there is no romance in paying the rent- but, it is a vital and necessary part of the organization." Some of the activities include maintaining the Archives, receiving, and processing, literature orders, contributions and Forum subscriptions, and handling daily correspondence from the fellowship, designing and maintaining the Website.

The Membership Outreach Department translates Conference Approved Literature (CAL), Licenses, and maintains copyright of the Al-Anon literature in over 40 languages, manages e-communities, hosts anniversary parties & a World Service Office Open House every 5 years and will facilitate the 2013 International Convention. The Fellowship Communications department has 775 sharing's for the "Intimacy in Alcoholic Relationship" (working title), 76 from men, please send more sharing's.

The message I received at Conference was to find ways to increase our participation to 100%.

We have a total of 15,664 Al-Anon groups in the U.S. and WSO does not have e-mail addresses for all of these groups.

It is not the amount of the contribution but that each group participates. Ric B., the Exc. Director will send a hand written "thank you" to the Areas that have full participation. Some costs saving measures include: no raises for the World Service Office Staff, delay the printing of the new Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual, decrease Public Service Announcement (PSA). The Nielsen rating gives our Al-Anon's Public Service Announcements'

the top 5% of all of the PSAs that are played. A discussion has started to look for an alternative location (every 3 years the WSC is held in CT); a less expansive location will be considered.

I welcome members to come to the microphone for 2 minutes to answer the spiritual based question. What can we do to communicate to members so they realize their giving is as much a part of their gratitude and spiritual connection to the program as any other service opportunity?

The Committee members of the Thought Force: Use of Computer at the WSC brought a discussion to the floor. All information will be reviewed by the Board and discussion will ensue if a Task Force needs to be formulated. Mary Ann R., Chairperson of the Executive Committee requested that a Delegate with physical limitation be allowed to use her computer at the 2014 WSC.

Throughout the week we heard from the outgoing Panel 51 Delegates and enjoyed rich stories of growth and messages related to the conference theme.

We were invited to attend an Annual Open Board Meeting and Open Policy Meeting. We gained a better understanding of the organization.

The World Service Conference concluded with a closing dinner, spiritual speakers and distribution of scrolls to the outgoing Delegates. My husband, past Delegate Panel 39, Miguel C., was by my side. I truly appreciated your love and support each step of the way. In closing, I wish to express my gratitude to the Assembly for the opportunity to represent you and your willingness to share this report to the members of your group.

Love in Service,

Rita C., Delegate  
Panel 51 CT