

Delegate's Report  
Our Members: Our Hope for the Future  
Hartford, CT  
June 10, 2017

Welcome to the Area World Service Delegate's Assembly, "Our Members: Our Hope for the Future". Group Representatives, District Representatives, Area Officers, Past Delegates, Area 11 Officers, Alateen members, Alateen Sponsors, translators and Guests. Thank you to District 6 and District 7 for hosting this important Assembly and for the members who helped them and a special Thank you to Sue G2, Webmaster, for the screen presentations.

Our groups have given us the permission to deliberate on important matters, give guidance, and to guard our Traditions. Without you, our groups, we would not be able to practice spiritual recovery through our group conscience process in making decisions for the unity and growth of Al-Anon in keeping with our Traditions and Concepts of Service. The World Service Conference is the active voice and the effective group conscience of our society in world affairs as stated in Concept two.

It is an honor to share the information from the 57th World Service Conference and I am so grateful for the opportunity to represent our great Area of Connecticut. We were lucky enough to have one beautiful day to have lunch outside and to converse at the Atlantic Ocean before heading back to the business of World Service.

Present at the Conference were World Service Office Conference Staff, World Service Delegates from the US including Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, and Puerto Rico. Also present were the Executive Committee and Board of Trustees and guests from UK/Erie and New Zealand. The two international guests spoke individually during the conference.

The first day, we were all split up into Task Force Groups, Workshop Groups and various other groups. I was put onto the Literature Committee and we met that afternoon to go over what we will be working on over the next year. We went over voting procedures and voted on how we will vote over the next several days. We voted for electronic voting. Panel 57 was asked to send in ahead of time our Area Highlights. This was our first breakout session and the new delegates such as me had to go up front to give a 2 minute overview of our breakout groups. This is how they get the new people to participate. Over the next several days, our schedule included, Panel 55 three minute recorded farewell talks. I purchased these talks for possible keynotes for our future Area Conventions.

Thank you to those of you who sent "Love Gifts". It amazed me to see all the gifts sent to Delegates from all the different states and the sharing that went on in the Hospitality Room. I have brought back several of these gifts for you to take back to your groups.

We had Al-Anon meetings at 6:00 am every morning and I attended all but one. They were needed!

On Tuesday, we went to the World Service Office and were welcomed by Mary Gregory, Interim Executive Director. As we all walked into the office, she said, "Welcome Home"! Those words, alone made us all feel grateful and very special to be present.

**2023 International Convention:** Thirteen Areas submitted a bid to host the 2023 International Convention. All were approved for consideration. At the end of the conference the members of the Convention Site heard the presentations and the three chosen were: Albuquerque, New Mexico, Denver Colorado, and Seattle Washington. WOW! Places I would love to see. This summer, a WSO Convention Site Selection Committee, comprised of one Trustee, the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees, the Executive Director, the Director of Programs, the Director of Finance, and the International Convention Coordinator, will visit the three sites. Based on its findings, the Committee will make a recommendation to the Board of Trustees. The Board will select one of the three cities in the fall of 2017 and notify all Conference members in 2018.

Good time to talk about the **2018 International Convention**. July 6 through 8, 2018, prices are: \$130. December 31, 2017; \$165; by May 31, 2018; \$195; by June 1, 2018. How about it? Baltimore, MD is not too far away! **Think About Going.**

## DELEGATE PART 2

**2016 Audit Report, 2016 Financial Report and the 2016 Budget Report:** All these reports were sent to the Delegate's in advance to look over and send questions to WSO prior to the Conference. This was done to save time and give everyone time at the Conference and for the Delegates' to have more involvement in the process. In the baskets you will see the 2016 Contributions U.S.A. and Canada comparing 2015 and 2016, and what our state shared with WSO and the percentage of our groups contributing. **I am proud of all of you for helping WSO come out of their deficit. THANK YOU.** The average cost per groups for World Service Organization services is \$261.10. This is what WSO needs to receive to maintain their services to all the groups. 64.70% of groups contribute and average of \$116.46. The Pie Chart shows us how a \$15 contribution is split up and used. You can see this graph on the WSO website: [http://al-anon.org/members/wso/financial/item/185-how-your-\\$10-is-used](http://al-anon.org/members/wso/financial/item/185-how-your-$10-is-used).

The AWESOME news is Connecticut contributions increased from \$23,164 in 2015 to \$34,812 in 2016. 76.2% of our groups in Connecticut donated to WSO in 2016. What all this tells us is we have successfully, as a fellowship, corrected our financial position for now at WSO. It also tells us that now is not the time to stop talking about finances, or to stop giving abundantly. The 2017 Budget shows they expect expenses to be \$10,500 less than revenue for the year. Expenses are projected to increase due to addition of new staff, cost of living and merit increases. WSO is estimating income from literature sales to be less than last year and the Forum subscription income to be about the same. WSO is looking to spend more money on technology to best reduce costs and offer better services, providing electronic documents to save on printing costs and streamlining processes in the office with the help of staff. Please carry a message of abundance, enthusiasm, and gratitude back to your groups. There is great deal of Financial Information you can read for yourself when the Conference Summary is available for purchase. I will be purchasing a copy for the members of the 2017 AWSC.

During the week at WSO there is a basket on the front table of the conference room for individuals may want to make monetary donations. The collection was tallied at the end of the week and received \$8,670.00. I couldn't believe it! I just put in what I could afford. Come to find out, some of the Areas and Regions give their delegates checks to donate. I heard from one delegate that her State gives her the donation money to donate when she attends the Conference. However, all donations whether large or small make a huge difference.

To help you feel more comfortable in discussing financial matters, we will now have a skit and then breakouts on discussing money matters.

### **Delegates Report:**

This year the Regional Committee on Trustees (RCT) will be receiving and reviewing resumes filling vacancies from Canada, Central, East and West, U.S. South Central, and U.S. Northwest. The WSO is looking for Trustees from past delegates from those Regional Areas. In 2018, the Conference will give traditional approval at the Annual Meeting.

### **Annual Vacancies:**

The number of positions available annually is as follows:

3 at-Large Trustees; 3 Regional Trustees; 1 at-Large members, Executive Committee for Real Property Management; 5 at-Large members, Forum Editorial Advisory Committee; 5 at-Large members, Literature Committee; and 2 at-Large member, Audit Committee.

Potential candidates' resumes must be postmarked, faxed or emailed to the WSO on or before August 15, 2017. If interested in applying, please talk to me for further information.

The Conference approved the Policy Digest on Financial Matters revision and Policy Digest on Announcing Events Revision of the Service Manual. It has been simplified, corrections and additions, pages changed to clarify the language to make it more understandable. This took many corrections and adjustments and a great deal of discussion. Each time there was a correction, the secretary had to reread each page over again for clarity before we could make a final vote of the changes. The new addition of the Service Manual will be available early 2018 for groups and individuals to purchase. It will not be mailed free to groups any longer. The price will be \$5.50 per copy and the Groups at Work Booklet will remain \$1.00.

We were able to meet the new Director of Finance, Niketa Bailey (non-member).

The Delegates discussed The Prayer for Today. Opinions were diverse but most requested we leave the prayer alone. We voted not to do anything about the prayer and not to make any changes at this time. If it comes up again in the future, we can look at this again.

Open and Closed Meetings was left for future discussion.

ROAD TRIP! (Formerly: Meet the Board) You and Your Board Connect site announcement for 2017 as well as invitation for the 2018 Road Trip was presented during the week. The 2017 event is being hosted by Colorado on October 21 in Aurora. The Delegate's received an invitation for the 2018 Road Trip. We received hotel planning forms that allow communication for Areas interested in submitting to host the 2018 event. Submission deadline to host the Road Trip is September 15, 2017. Let me know if you feel we should apply again for 2018. The Area must agree as you will host this event.

There will not be a TEAM Event in 2018 due to the International Convention. I would like to apply for the Team Event for 2019. Do you agree? Let me know.

#### **Literature and Forum:**

- Parents & Grandparents of Young Problem Drinkers (working title): We hope for the pamphlet to be introduced at the 2018 World Service Conference in English, French, and Spanish.
- Intimacy in Alcoholic Relationships (working title): Introductory text for the six sections of the book is currently being drafted. If completed on schedule, the book will be available in English at the 2018 Al-Anon International Convention in Baltimore.
- New Daily Reader (working title): We've received over 10,682 sharing's. No deadline has been set at this point for submitting sharing's and no publication date has been proposed.

- New addition to the Forum: The Forum has added several questions about the Step of the month to the “Instant Meeting” department of the magazine to encourage discussion when used as a meeting topic.
- The Forum continues to be in shortage of sharing’s about each of the Steps, Traditions and Concepts of Service.
- The Forum Book (working title): Please keep encouraging your members to let the WSO know which Forum stories you would want to see included in this book.
- Lois W. and the Pioneers Free Downloadable Audio interview: In celebration of Al-Anon’s beginnings in May of 1951, you can listen to the full audio interviews of Lois, Henrietta and Margaret on the Members site.

Go to [al-anon.org/members](http://al-anon.org/members). Enter your group names, followed by AFG as your password. Click on “WSO” on the home page. Click on “Inside the WSO.” Click on “History of the WSO and Al-Anon.” Under “Archives,” click on “Lois W. and the Pioneers Audio Interview.”

#### **Groups Services:**

- 60<sup>th</sup> Alateen Anniversary. The board officially recognized Alateen in 1957.
- 900+ meetings in the WSC structure and 680+ meetings in the International structure.
- Encourage your members and Al-Anon/Alateen groups to send World Service US postal and electronic “Happy Anniversary” cards for a special display to commemorate Alateen this year!

#### **Public Outreach/Media Update:**

- As of March, WSO Social Media channels reached a combined audience of 3.3 million and produced 65,000 engagements. This means people liked, shared, or posted comments 65,000 times for the WSO Social Media posts on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram during the first quarter of 2017.

#### **2017 World Service Conference staff update – Professionals:**

- A tally was taken of the 3 primary and largest sources of professional inquire at WSO: 38% mental health counselors, therapists and social worker; 19% addiction facilities counselors and 18% middle and high schools educators.

- Al-Anon group contacts at correctional facilities are distributing a new Writer's Guide for incarcerated Al-Anon Member to inmate members. This guide is an invitation to share and give incarcerated members a voice. To date, 4 Forum sharing's have been received.
- The 2018 Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism has a redesigned cover: A new "Help and Hope for Families and Friends of Alcoholics" focuses on Al-Anon's purpose. The title and year has been changed and a small block text lets the reader know that the AFA magazine is free.

There is just so much more to say but I will be giving you more information during my future reports at our next Area Meetings.

Love in Service,

Gail L.

Delegate CT

Panel 57 'Rockin Step 11'