

Delegate's Report August 25, 2017

WSO

I received the August 2017 Chairperson of the Board Letter. "It is with great pleasure that the Board of Trustees, Al-Anon Family Groups, Inc. announces that on September 5, 2017, Vali F. will begin her tenure as our next Executive Director, Vali brings with her over 15 years as an active Al-Anon member. She served as a Panel 53 Delegate from Arizona, Area Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. Additional Al-Anon service roles include AIS Chair and Alateen Coordinator. Vali also brings over 20 years of business experience including management of teams of staff throughout the world. Vali fully embraces the continued need to find new ways to reach those whose lives have been affected by someone else's drinking."

Our current Executive Director, Mary G., has committed to working side-by-side with Vali beginning in September through the October Board meeting.

The Board believes this transition period is supported by the spiritual principles of our program by offering the sharing of our experience, strength and hope. They will then let go and allow the new Executive Director the freedom to oversee the World Service Office (WSO) in her own way as outlined in Concept Eleven.

The 2018 World Service Conference will be held in West Harrison, New York. The site will allow the opportunity for the full Conference to visit **Stepping Stones**. The 2018 World Service Conference theme:

Al-Anon - There is no standing still!

Al-Anon - No hay razon para detenerse!

Al-Anon - Il n'y a pas de place pour l'immobilisme!

The 2018 General Services Meeting will meet in October 2018. The purpose of the IAGSM is to share the experience of Al-Anon national services around the world through their Delegates. The Delegates use the Traditions to maintain worldwide unity. This leads to Al-Anon's primary purpose - to seek the best way to carry the Al-Anon message of recovery to families and friends of alcoholics amidst cultural and language differences.

The theme for the 2018 International Al-Anon General Services Meeting is: "Leading by Example: Structures Supporting Structures".

This year's "Road Trip! You and Your Board Connect" will be held Saturday, October 21st in Aurora, Colorado. You may make plans to attend but make your reservations early as there are only 150 seats available. It will be held at the Radisson Hotel, 3155 South Vaughn Way, Aurora, Colorado. Registrations forms can be located on the Members' website.

Please take a few minutes to visit the newly designed website. The entire staff, led by the Digital Strategy Team, has been involved in the redesign of the web.

By this time next year the 2018 International Convention will be a memory! A number of Areas are in the midst of chartering a bus to Baltimore! Make your plans! Registration information will be available on The Members' website and mailed directly to registered groups by mid-September. In addition to the International Convention, a "Day of Connecting" has been planned by the Board. The "Day of Connecting" will be held on Thursday, July 5th. It will be fun and an inspiring day, so plan your attendance. Registration will be a separate fee from the International Convention. More to come!!!

There will be opportunities to listen and learn more about how Al-Anon works through participation in Leadership Talks and roundtable Discussions. The Day of Connecting will end with a "Meet and Greet."

Finance Committee update as of June 30, 2017. The General Fund recorded a loss of \$10,349 for this period compared to a gain of \$341,931 this period last year. This is mainly due to full staffing in the office this year, which was not the case last year. Last year was due to the amazing bump of contributions last year. WSO is hopeful that Contributions and Sales increases will allow the Reserve Fund to grow by not transferring funds from the Reserve Fund to the General Fund.

Income: Literature sales have increased over last year but contributions have fallen short of their budgeted projections. Forum subscriptions have increased by 13% in 2017.

Expenses: Actual operating expenses were slightly over budget as compared to last year. Full staffing, in the Digital Strategy Department is reflected in the increased expenditure over last year.

Reserve Fund: The Reserve Fund saw an increase in value of over \$400,000.

Contributions came down a little in June, hopefully the abundance demonstrated in 2016 will carry on in 2017. That level of participation, along with some encouraging Literature Sales numbers will allow the WSO to continue to support all the members carrying the message of help and hope.

The changes to the Service Manual are available on line and can be printed and added to your current Service Manual. The new Service Manual will be available for purchase in January 2018.

Electronic Meetings: Discussion started in 2017 and resulted in a thought force to produce a KBDM for the July 2017 Policy Meeting. The Committee reviewed the KBDM and decided to create a work group to explore ways to reach out to the electronic meetings.

"Open" and "Closed" Terminology discussion continued. The Policy Committee agreed, by consensus, to remove the term "Closed" from the "Policy Digest Thought Force" in October 2017 before deciding on the next steps to take. No final decisions have been or will be made at this time. Words that have more clarity will be determined.

Members of Al-Anon are always encouraged to submit questions or shared experiences to the Policy Committee for more interpretation according to our basic guides, i.e., the Twelve Traditions and the Twelve Concepts of Service. Consider how this issue might affect worldwide Al-Anon as a whole, remembering that Al-Anon policies are simply interpretations according to principles and not rigid rules.

AREA

I put all this World Service Office information into this report because I believe it's important for our members to understand Al-Anon/Alateen is a worldwide fellowship of recovery.

Thank you to Alateen for inviting me to visit CAWW on Saturday, May 20, 2017. It was an extra special day for me and I enjoyed being with Alateen again.

The June Assembly went well. Thank you to District 6 and District 7 and to everyone else who participated.

I received a resume for Literature Coordinator who cannot attend this month's Area Meeting due to a previous commitment. We will hear her resume at our next Area Meeting in October and give her a vote of confidence at that meeting. I requested that she help with the AA Convention in September/October.

I attended our Area Budget Meeting where we had a lot of participation. Thank you to Marsha, Area Treasurer, for a productive meeting.

I have a concern: District 5 and District 13 do not have District Representatives. This means they do not have any communication with our Area unless someone comes to the Area Meeting. No one has been coming for District 13 and one or two GR's have been coming from District 5 and bringing information back. Stacie has been attending their district meetings for some time and nothing has changed even with her efforts. Also, District 10 has an on-going problem with lack of GR participation. The District Representative has done everything she can to pull the district together without success. As an Area, we need to work together to find a way to help these districts succeed.

I have some ideas but would like your participation by sending me suggestions or some input as to what we can do.

HAPPENINGS

The 59th Annual Area 11 Convention, "A New Freedom & A New Happiness" will be held September 29 through October 1, 2017, at the Radisson Hotel in Cromwell, CT. See Al-Anon website for registration.

Alateen 60th Birthday Party, October 15, 2017 to be held in Newington, CT.

Al-Anon/Alateen Assembly, November 4, 2017

Area 11 Assembly, November 12, 2017.

CSCYPAA, November 24 through 26, 2017, the Radisson Hotel in Cromwell, CT.

Love in service,

Gail L.
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