

Delegate's Report
Fall Assembly, November 3, 2018
Strengthening Recovery through Service

Welcome to the Fall Assembly and Thank you to District 1 and District 13 for hosting the Assembly. Welcome District Representatives, Group Representatives, Area Officers, Past Delegates, Coordinators, Guests, Area 11 Guests, Alateens, Alateen Sponsors and welcome incoming GR's and DR's. Thank you all for attending.

Remember, the Alateen Bake Sale going on today. Please help purchasing goodies for the CAWW weekend in May.

Today, we will be voting on the one year term left of the Area Chairperson's position replacing Stacie V. who has chosen to step down. We will also vote for the 2019 CT AFG Budget and hear reports from our dedicated Coordinators, the LDC, the LDC Finance Committee and the Board of Directors.

Up on the screen is a short video from the 2018 International convention showing your Connecticut members marching in the "Language of Love Parade". We had a wonderful time. If you attended, I hope your trip was as rewarding as ours.

WORLD SERVICE OFFICE:

Remember, the 2023 International will be held in Albuquerque, N M.

The 2019 World Service Conference (WSC) will be held in Virginia Beach. The dates will be Saturday, April 13 through Wednesday, April 17, 2019. Delegates are scheduled to arrive Friday, April 12 and depart on Thursday, April 18. The Conference will be held at the Sheraton Virginia Beach Oceanfront Hotel, 3501 Atlantic Avenue, Virginia Beach, VA.

The 2019 Theme is:

Action is Attraction –There is No Growth in the Comfort Zone
La accion es atraccion – No hay crecimiento en la zona de comodidad
L'action, c'est l'attrait – Il n'y a pas de croissance dans la zone de confort

I reported the following information at our last AWSC meeting but felt this was important to repeat for the membership.

Over the past year a Task Force of the Conference Leadership Team (CLT) was charged with discussing the possibility of offering professional interpretation in Spanish and French during the WSC. The CLT and the Board of Trustees recognize that, while the WSC is English speaking, our WSC Structure serves three languages: Spanish, French and English. The Board realized that in order to remain true to their Mission and Vision Statements and Strategic Plan priorities, it needed to take a look at the interpretation during the WSC and how offering or not offering interpretation could impact the WSC Structure and Al-Anon as a whole.

MOTION: to approve a special project to provide professional interpretation, when required, to support Spanish- and French- speaking Delegates who attend the WSC. The project will start in 2019 as a three-

year trial, with the annual net Conference cost of over \$100,000 to be transferred from the Reserve Fund.

This is our World Service in action!

The 2018 International Al-Anon General Services Meeting (IAGSM) has met in Virginia Beach in October. The purpose of the IAGSM is for General Service Offices to share the experience of Al-Anon national services around the world through their Delegates. Delegate participation encourages growth of a sound service structure while maintaining worldwide unity through our Traditions. This helps fulfill the primary purpose of Al-Anon as a whole—to seek the best way to carry the message of recovery to families and friends of alcoholics amidst cultural and language differences.

Our Al-Anon groups are spiritual entities. However, we are finding that we are not immune to the same difficulties that affect the world around us. Over the past several years, it has been reported that we are having an increase within groups of the same behaviors demonstrated outside our meeting rooms; stalking, bullying, financial coercion and presentation of outside issues. Recent correspondence from members, conversations between the Executive Director and members of the fellowship, discussions at the 2018 WSC and increases in member use of the WSO online meeting search led to a discussion with Conference Staff and the Board of Trustees during the July meeting. The conversation centered on the potential legal and financial risk to Al-Anon Family Groups stemming from potentially dangerous and harmful situations.

Following the recommendations by the WSO Staff---the Board of Trustees identified the need to **take proactive action to encourage Al-Anon Family Groups to discuss safety and to support Areas who have created robust “DO NOT REFER” policies, particularly in matters where safety and affiliation with outside entities are involved.**

In 2011 and 2012, the WSC held two policy discussions related to Area “Do No Refer” policies. The 2012 discussion offered encouragement for Areas to create these policies.

Since then, several Areas have acted to create thoughtful and balanced policies and have removed meetings from local listings while maintaining their rights as groups. However, those meetings remain accessible to current or potential new members through the WSO meeting search and toll-free number.

MOTION: that the Board of Trustees directs the WSO to send a statement alerting all registered groups on the importance of discussing and creating safety guidelines.

MOTION: that the Board of Trustees direct the WSO Staff to utilize the Policy Committee criteria presented at the 2012 WSC to ensure that an Area has established a fair and balanced “Do Not Refer” and “Re-Refer” policy. These criteria allow the WSO to support Area “Do Not Refer” group conscience decisions and remove group meetings from the WSO meeting list. Groups not being referred by the WSO remain active and registered.

As noted within the motions, the Board, in their legal authority, has directed the WSO to send a statement alerting all registered groups on the importance of discussing and creating safety guidelines. This will be communicated through AFG Connects, and *In the Loop*.

Finance Update: The following update is based on the unaudited financial statement for the period that ended June 30, 2018.

There was a change in net assets in the General Fund resulted in an operating deficit of \$59,612. This was related to sluggish literature sales and expenses that only occur in the second quarter, like Conference costs and audit fees.

Income:

Gross literature sales through June were \$63,800 (3%) less than sales through June 2017 and \$104,000 (5%) below budget. Contributions through June 2018 were \$68,000 lower (6%) than June 2017 but tracking \$15,000 above budget. Forum subscriptions are \$128,966; when compared with last year's subscriptions of \$134,767, they show a decrease of 4.3%.

Expenses:

Actual operating expenses have decreased by \$47,800; they are down 1.76% from last year due to unfilled positions at the World Service Office and general timing of invoices.

Reserve Fund:

The Finance Committee Investment Philosophy is one of growth and income with a moderate risk tolerance; the Board seeks to balance potential risks with higher potential returns.

Investment income includes a monthly transfer of \$17,300 from the Reserve Fund. There was an increase of \$129,000 in the value over last year. The total fund value as of June 30, 2018 was \$5,714,509.

The Finance Committee scrutinized the recommendation from the CLT for estimated interpretation costs for the 2019 Conference and found the proposed costs to be financially feasible.

AREA NEWS:

I brought up the World Service motions and discussion on "Do No Refer" and "Re-Refer" discussion as I would like the Area of Connecticut to talk it over with your members and let me know if you would like to form a Thought Force to consider Connecticut becoming a "Do Not Refer" State.

All this becomes my Segway into a discussion with Area 11 AA members that the Big Book and one of our Al-Anon members is attending AA meetings and is requesting to speak at AA Events as an Al-Anon member. This member is using the "A.A. Big Book". This has also come to the attention of the World Service Office. The Al-Anon member by A.A. was pointed to the WSO and has contacted World Service asking why it is not considered for Al-Anon use. In kind, WSO has sent me the information that was sent to this member.

The information I will read now is quoted from World Service in the response.

The Big Book is not Al-Anon Conferenced Approved literature. "When our cofounder, Lois W., wrote *The Al-Anon Family Groups* (B-5) in 1955, with the help of other pioneers and the support of her husband Bill, she intended it to be our "big book." Bill has not allowed her to write any part of the A.A. Big Book—even the chapters to wife and family—because his book was written from his perspective and

experience as an alcoholic and member of A.A.” “Conference Approved Literature” resulted from discussions held at Al-Anon’s first World Service Conference in 1961. “The first few Conferences developed a process to give conceptual approval for the development of Al-Anon literature and were the will of the Conference to recommend exclusive use of CAL in Al-Anon meetings.”

“CAL is developed by and for Al-Anon members and undergoes a rigorous process of review. This encourages Al-Anon unity and assures that the Al-Anon message at our meetings is consistent with Al-Anon principles and policies.” The 2018-2021 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual (p24/27) provides detailed information about CAL on pages 110-117 and policy regarding exclusive use of CAL at meetings is also stated on pages 112 of the “Digest of Al-Anon and Alateen Policies” section of the Service Manual.

“To keep Al-Anon’s message in focus and encourage unity, only al-Anon/Alateen Conference Approved Literature and Al-Anon/Alateen service tools are displayed, distributed, and used at Al-Anon and Alateen meetings, including meetings at conferences and conventions and Al-Anon/Alateen events.”

I attended the District 6 Workshop on October 20, 2018. Thank you to District 6 for a well-run workshop.

GREAT NEWS:

Area 11 Assembly, Sunday, November 4, 2018, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm at the VFW Hall, 41 Veterans Drive, New Britain, CT. This is a voting Assembly. I will be attending.

The Connecticut State Conference of Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous (CSCYPAA XXXII) will be held on November 23 through 25, 2017, at the Red Lion Hotel in Cromwell, CT.

Al-Anon’s Serenity Breakfast will be held January 20, 2019, in Southington, CT. More to come on this event.

42nd CT AFG Convention will be held March 29 through 31, 2019, at the Red Lion Hotel, 100 Berlin Tpke., Cromwell, CT.

Love in Service,

Gail L., Delegate, Panel 57