Delegate’s Report

Spring Assembly, June 13, 2020

Hello All,

Welcome to our first Virtual Spring Assembly, “Dreaming Big with 20/20 Vision”. Who knew how big I would have to dream in order to participate in Al-Anon’s First Virtual World Service Conference! My experience at my first World Service Conference was very unique in that it took place in my home on my laptop. No traveling or packing involved!!

The World Service Conference was divided into two parts. The first part was the Hybrid World Service Conference which was done through AFG Connects. Each day we were presented with Thought Force, Task Force, Work Group presentations and Chosen Agenda Items. We had 24 hours to view and respond to each of the presentations.

The Hybrid items for discussion included:

* A Thought Force on Fear of Change.
* A Task Force on Reaching and Unifying Rural and Large Geographic Populations.
* A Thought Force on identifying ways to look at Al-Anon Service in relation to roles, terms and possible roadblocks.
* An Electronic Meeting Work Group.
* A Chosen Agenda Item (CAI) included *Our Envisioned Future sees Al-Anon being a global organization with barrier-free access to the program, how do you see this manifesting?*
* A Chosen Agenda Item (CAI), How *is AL-Anon going to reach new members in the 21st century and the millennial generation?*

The second part of the World Service Conference was virtual and took place on Tuesday, April 21, 2020 and Wednesday, April 22, 2020. It was an abbreviated version which was reformatted to encompass legal obligations of the World Service Conference including the 2019 Audit, the 2019 World Service Office Annual Report, the 2020 Budget and the voting in of new Trustees. All other business had been deferred to the 2021 World Service Conference.

The first day of the virtual conference opened with a welcome from the Chair of the Board, Gail G, who expressed excitement regarding our first virtual World Conference. The Board of Trustees had been in discussion about the future of new technology in regard to our Conference, who would have guessed that the future was here today!!

We jumped right in to the 2019 Auditor’s Report which was present by Niketa Williams, Director of Finance & Operations. The 2019 Audit was completed by an independent audit firm in January 2020. The Audit firm review the finance reports, check stubs, invoices, timecards, receipts and bank account statements.

The highlights of the 2019 Audit included:

* The General Fund net assets increased by $84,519.00.
* A net increase from the Reserve Fund was $998,237.00.
* Literature Sales were down by $280,000.00.
* Group Contributions increased by $233,000.00 secondary to an increase in bequests.
* Overall Revenue was down by $89,000.00.

The auditor issued an unmodified opinion which is the highest accolades given.

The next item was the 2020 Budget Presentation. This was also presented by Niketa Williams, Director of Finance and Operations. Highlight are as followed:

* The Budget Process includes Program Department [Public Outreach, Literature, Group Services, AFG Records, International, Conference and Digital Strategies] Finance and Operations, and Administration expenses:
* Revenue sources utilized for 2020 World Service Office budget:

a) Literature Sales- 54%

b) Contributions- 40%

c) Forum subscription- 5%

d) Investment Income 1%

* The 2020 Budget shows that we had projected expenses to be $129,866.00 more than revenue for the year; However, we are currently experiencing a $1.6 million dollar deficit secondary to a marked decline in literature and member contributions. This is a projected deficit is based on estimated Literature sales and contributions to not increase until end of the September.
* Overall expenses were budgeted to increase in 2020. The increase is related to the costs of French interpretation at the 2020 World Service Conference, execution of Strategic Plan Initiatives, expanded digital market for Public Service Announcements and facilitation of the International Al-Anon General Services Meeting (IAGSM) in London. Salaries are budgeted for normal cost of living increases, which represent only 1% increase.
* We are budgeting contributions of $2,000,00.00 which is comparable to last years’ budget. In 2008, The World Service Conference agreed on the transfer of up to 4% of the fair value of the Reserve Fund to the General Fund. We have budgeted a transfer of 4% for the 2020 Fiscal year.
* The Board of Trustees voted to fund the Strategic Plan Initiatives from the Reserve Fund. The transfer of those initiatives total $68,160.00. These initiatives are member strategies which are to expand technology and enhance trilingual communication, public strategies, address trademark & copyright violations.

The Selection Committee for Regional Trustees was our next task. Prior to Conference we received the prospective Trustees’ resumes to review. After discussion and vote the following individuals have been elected:

Trustee at Large:

            Therese (Teri) M.        Second three-year term

            Jeryl (Jeri) W.              First three-year term

Regional Trustee:

            Diane B., US South Central                First three-year term

            Cynthia (Cindy) M., US Southwest     First three-year term

The Board of Trustees, in its legal capacity, made the following one-year appointments:

            Julius (JP) M., US Southeast Trustee

            Mary W., US Northwest Trustee

          Nancy S., Trustee at Large

Our final item for discussion was the 2019 World Service Office Annual Report which was presented by Vali F., Executive Director of WSO.

Highlights of the Annual Report included:

* The first trilingual World Service Conference was held in 2019.
* The Member’s Blog, which can be found at Al-Anon.org under the membership tab, started in July 2019. New topics are published monthly.
* The Top selling books from 2019 were:

1)How Al-Anon Works-B32

2) Courage to Change-B16

3) One Day at a Time in Al-Anon-B6

4) Hope for Today-B27

5) Paths to Recovery-B24

* The AMIAS recertification process was updated for 2020.
* Electronic Meeting registrations are growing. In 2019 there were 252 meetings, and an additional 38 were registered by March 2020.
* The Road Trip,” You and Your Board Connect” in October 31, 2020 has been cancelled.
* A new PSA was released in 2020. It represents a diverse population and answering the questions taken directly from the 20 -Question pamphlets (S17, S20 and S25).
* As of 2019, WSO has included International meetings in the meeting search engine.
* The Member’s Strategic Plan Initiatives are as follows:

1. **Launch the mobile application** to increase access to recovery for all generations. Still working on the name of mobile application so that it is easy to find. Projected launch date July 2020.
2. **Enhance Trilingual Communications** by hiring freelance translators to help reduce the backlog of translated materials.

* Public Strategic Plan Initiatives are as follows:

1. Identify potential threats from other organizations and determine the differentiating characteristics of Al-Anon.
2. Address Trademark & Copyright Violation to protect Al-Anon’s name, which is paramount in the face of ongoing and increasing violations appearing on the internet in the form of social media and websites. I recently forward to all of you, a letter from the Chair of the Board of Trustees regarding this very matter.

As a FYI, I wanted to let you know as of 2019, 76.2 % of Connecticut Al-Anon groups have contributed to WSO. It should be noted that the cost of WSO service per registered group is $304.39. Connecticut’s individual group contributions were $142.49. We are falling short.

And finally, the planning for Al-Anon 70th Anniversary in 2021 is progressing as well. As is the 2023 Al-Anon International Convention in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Love in Service

Marcia Minervini

Panel 60-CT