

WSO DELEGATE REPORT

NOVEMBER 9, 2024

AREA ASSEMBLY

The WSO Delegate – Acts as a bridge between WSO and the Area

Welcome all new District Representatives, Alternate District Representatives, Group Representatives and Alternate Group Representative you are now officially Panel 21. I want to thank the outgoing District Representatives for their service and support to the Al-Anon/Alateen Fellowship. Thank you to DR, district 1 Janet S for keeping me on my toes, Alt DR, Deborah C, DR Carol D, District 2, Alt DR Lauren L, District 7, Bob McG, and DR District 9 Hank B and Alternate DR Jenn I. hopefully you will continue to your journey in service. Thank you to Eric B, Public Outreach Coordinator.

Chairperson of the Board Letter (COB) – Jayme July 2024

The purpose of the Board (COB) letter is to share continued information the Board of Trustees' Quarterly Report meeting. All this information is now available on-line to find updates from our Policy Chairperson, the financial update which I provided to you back in September from the Treasurer, and updates from our Conference Leadership Team (CLT).

The information is available in both English French and Spanish.

During the Board meeting back in July 2024 they visited Refreshing Spirituality as members.

Additionally, the Trustees and staff were invited to watch a new WSO Archives asset: an interview of a 100-year-old-Al-Anon member. The members family joined in answering questions about Al-Anon during her time in the program. The film was inspiring and uplifting, reminding us of the power of service to the worldwide fellowship.

Documenting Hidden Norms of Behavior

Since July 2023, the board has been working to identify "hidden norms" of behavior for Trustees that were understood but undocumented. At each Board meeting, the Board continues its review, discussion, and identification of specific actions needed for each hidden norm which have been incorporated into the WSO Volunteer Handbook, the Board of Trustees Governance Handbook, or the WSO Volunteers orientation materials. Documentation of behavior norms represents one of the actions the Board is taking to translate its commitment of inclusion in action.

Welcoming and Developing Leadership

The orientation for new WSO Volunteers (Trustees and At-Large Executive Committee members) happens in two phases. The first occurs online in May, and the second part happens before the Board meeting in July. This year, a concerted effort was made to update the orientation to reflect the items covered during

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sessions on hidden norms, which also led to the development of a new “Tips for Volunteer Mentors” document.

Next Steps both have been completed and assigned to WSO Staff.

WSO is asking individuals to share on Personal and Service Sponsorship, I encourage all of you to share your ESH. The Task Force was dissolved with the following for guidance (see attached). How do we feel about holding a workshop on Personal and Service Sponsorship?

The Task Force for Revitalization of Alateen is still under production and hopefully will be available soon to the membership.

Strategic Planning

The EFWG is a work group of the Board charged with bringing forward-looking generative discussion on strategic topics. The topic this time was “How Do We Grow Future Leaders?” The Board held a robust and enlightening discussion that generated different ideas, thoughts, and suggestions about the possibilities of moving forward with this topic.

eBooks Globally Strategy-This topic of availability of having eBooks Globally is still being reviewed.

Artificial Intelligence

The Executive Director (Vali) shared important guidance regarding Artificial Intelligence (AI). WSO Staff and Volunteers were asked not to use AI tools unless licensed by AFG, Inc., which includes translation features for web conference meetings. This approach is designed to protect personally identifiable information and the confidential nature of Board and other Committee discussions as it was described, when we use free AI, “we are the product?” While offering this caution, the Executive Director assured the Board that Staff understand and appreciate that AI is here to stay, like the internet, so Staff will continue its investigation into how to safely utilize the technology to improve efficiency at the WSO while Protecting our fellowship from harm.

Committee Work Public Outreach

The Public Outreach Committee (POC) is made up of Delegates, At-Large members, and Staff. They have formed several work groups to address all the work that needs to get done. They meet quarterly and report their progress to the Board.

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Nominating Committee

At-Large Executive Committee Member role: The Nominating Committee is now working on the Board of Trustees' request that it create an At-Large Executive Committee Member role description like what exists for the Trustee role.

Policy Committee Meeting at the 2024 WSC:

Discussion is mindful of how our Policies affect Al-Anon members and Groups worldwide, not just in our WSC Structure.

The purpose of the update sent each quarter by the Policy Committee Chairperson is to report progress and provide information on the following:

- Topics that are generated by the fellowship and discussed by the Policy Committee regarding issues or concerns that need clarification or interpretation in consideration of the Twelve traditions and the Twelve Concepts of Service.
- Progress of work being completed by Policy Committee work groups, task forces, and thought forces.
- Policy motions to be presented to the World Service Conference (WSC).
- Policy motions passed by the WSC.

Register new groups and update existing group names only when their name does not contain community-identifying designations. As a result of the 2024 WSC's approval of the "Choosing of a Groups Name" Policy, the Staff Policy Implementation Road Table (SPiRiT) brought forward recommendations for the Policy Committee related to WSO implementation of new procedures to reflect the updated Policy. The recommendations were accompanied by background on the WSO procedures related to group names, including the historical preference of groups across the WSC Structure for using the "focus" (now called "Participants") field for community identification. When the "focus" field had been removed earlier, trusted servants reported their groups still wanted that feature to help members search for a meeting in which they felt comfortable.

A thoughtful and spiritual discussion occurred, which resulted in the Policy Committee confirming that the proposed WSO procedures align with the new Choosing a Group's name Policy.

Through this confirmation, the WSO was directed to:

- Guide groups seeking to encourage community-specific participation to use the "Participants" designation. The Committee directed Staff to communicate widely through the links of service so

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that groups with names containing such designations would be encouraged to practice “obedience to the unenforceable” by aligning their group name with the new Policy. Question, have you downloaded version 4 of the replacement pages on your service manual.

- Jackie B, our Group Records Coordinator, will provide you with more details.

Next World Service Conference:

The 2025 WSC will be held in person, Thursday, April 24 through Sunday April 27, 2025, at the Marriot Hartford/Windsor Airport Hotel, 28 Day Hill Road, Windsor, CT 06095. Please start planning your love gifts, I can transport them myself in my car. I will have the opportunity to visit Stepping Stone on Monday, April 28th, 2025.

World Service Office Annual Report is available on line in 3 languages.

English: [Annual Report - Al-Anon Family Groups](#)

Also available in Spanish and French.

Al-Anon 2028 International Convention

In my previous report I made a mistake, yes, it is possible. Connecticut did not submit a bid with Massachusetts for the International Convention, it was for the Road Trip. My understanding is that we did not submit this time, HP must have different plan for us.

AA Internation Convention with Al-Anon/Alateen Participation

Are you ready? Did you sign up yet? The International Convention will be held in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, July 3-6 celebrating AA's 90th Anniversary.

There will be programs for both Al-Anon and Alateen on Friday and Saturday at the Hyatt Regency Vancouver Hotel. The sessions will include speaker meetings, service workshops, book studies, and panels. We hope you will join the 4,000 Al-Anon attendees, including the members of Alateen, whom we are expecting along with 50,000 AA members to celebrate recovery in beautiful Vancouver. Personally, when I attended my very first International Convention and heard the Serenity Prayer in other languages it gave me goose bumps, it is something I will never forget.

The registration is open <https://www.aa.org/international-convention>

Advanced rate \$160 through April 15th per person; after April 15th the rate is \$185 per person. Hotel reservations are secured only through registering for the event. My understanding is that this will also be available to those who cannot attend in person virtually.

Please share this with your members.

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Chosen Agenda Items –

The CLT is inviting all Conference members to submit one or two topics.

Delegates are asked to submit two (2) items for discussion at the World Service Conference. I invite you to send me topics for the Chosen Agenda Items (CAI). A fellow delegate suggested that the suggestion (must be a bigger fellowship issue and discouraged duplicates of recent CAI-refer to the CAI database as well as the WSC Summaries. This is an opportunity to open dialogue with others and understand the resources that are available to solve group fellowship concerns. The submission has a limit of 100 words. Name the CAI topic in 25 words or less and provide the rationale and explanation of why you think this CAI is important in 75 words or less. **Please forward your submissions to me by January 17, 2025.**

Employment Opportunities at WSO

WSO position availability <https://al-anon.org/employment-at-al-anon/>

International Specialist [PR-International-Specialist-08-2024.pdf](#)

Communicates and supports members outside the WSC Structure in a manner that consistently conveys the warmth, understanding, and love that characterizes the Al-Anon program and fosters unity among structures. Oversees the World Service Office (WSO) efforts to facilitate expanded availability of Conference Approved Literature as translated and reprinted by our international structure partners.

The International Specialist supports the manager and 130 Countries, the reason I decided to identify the number of countries is that there is a broader understanding of the World-Wide Fellowship of Al-Anon and Alateen.

Public Outreach Resume

A call for resumes for Public Outreach and Spanish Liaison, if you are interested, please send your resume to me at ctdelegatepanel63@ctalanon.org. Both service positions descriptions/responsibilities you can find on the Connecticut “Gratitude in Working Clothes”.

Lastly, thank you to the Past Delegate’s who have helped me through navigating my journey over almost 2 years now, your experience, strength and hope have been invaluable to me. Also, to those of you who have served on committees who gave up your time to continue the growth in Al-Anon/Alateen and thank you to my support group my Al-Anon/Alateen Family, I couldn’t have done it without all of you.

Lastly, I want to remind everyone about the links of service and the importance of working together as a “Team,” as you have heard there is no “I” in team.

With gratitude,

Elaine M, Connecticut Delegate Panel 63 – “Service is the Key”