

WSO DELEGATE REPORT

CONNECTICUT Assembly

June 1, 2024

THE WSO DELEGATE – ACTS AS A BRIDGE BETWEEN WSO AND THE AREA

Welcome everyone to my second AWSC Delegate's Report. Who is here for your very first Assembly? That is wonderful, I hope you find the information informative and easy to follow. You are welcome to take notes, however, I will try to capture as much of the information I can share with you in my report.

Personal Experience: This was my second year at the Conference and part of my commitment is to prepare for the WSC Conference by reading documents and reports and attending a couple of zoom meetings. In doing so, I was given the opportunity to practice personal integrity and respect the process allowing KBDM into my thought process. This preparation allowed me to contribute to the discussion as well as listen intently with an open mind.

I want to personally thank everyone for sending cards of encouragement. Also, there are Love Gifts for everyone to take and share with your groups.

Now for the Conference information.

I am part of Panel 63 and our slogan we all chose last year is "Service is the Key". Our panel's charge was to present a five-minute presentation on sharing tips in keeping the Alternate Delegate informed with information we receive from time to time. As one would expect, there was quite a bit of discussion.

The skit identified diverse types/styles of individuals(delegates)

- Hoarders
- Too busy/don't have time to share.
- Too much information
- Is everything Confidential?

Hoarders who kept all the information to themselves, or some who were just too busy and did not have the time. At that point we shared how to utilize the conference theme grace, unity and understanding. What is essential in any role is to always keep the lines of communication open, whether you are a delegate, district representative, group representative or area coordinator.

Heart of the Conference

Prepping for Conference, Delegates prepare by reading all reports to submit questions in advance or at Conference. We agreed on Guidelines for the Conference and the Chairperson shared responsibilities (Concept 6) of the Board and the Conference members and identified the number of voting members as well as individuals who had a voice but no vote.

Motions:

Brought to the Conference floor were 8 motions which motions passed.

- Approval of the 2023 Audit Report
- Approval of the 2024 Finance Committee Report
- Changes to the "Local Services" and "Answering Services"
- Approval of the Annual Report
- Approve new piece of Literature Finances in Al-Anon Recovery
- Delegate's Participation on CLT
- Approval of the Board
- Approval of non-members present with a voice/no vote

2023 Annual Report – Audited by Brown Edwards , LLP issued a clean report.

Budget Overview- the Executive Director carefully reviewed the budget, WSO Staff and the Executive Committee. Considering the services the WSO provides to its members, it is a reasonable and comprehensive budget ensuring services provided in all areas of the fellowship are in line within the organizations strategic mission.

Budget process- The budget is formulated, and the Finance Committee and BOT approves the budget. The WSC members (Delegates) review the budget and the budget is executed. This is followed up by budget oversight.

Budget Discussion- 100 percent of the groups are using services, however only 61% of the groups contributed in 2023. Services of the WSO used by groups include, registering, reading CAL at meetings, calling WSO to find meetings, using the Mobile App for a zoom meeting and running PSAs on TV Stations.

AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP HEADQUARTERS, INC. 2024 OPERATING BUDGET			
	2024 Preliminary Budget	2023 Revised Budget	2023 Audited Actual
Revenue			
Literature Sales less cost of printing	2,956,030	2,768,930	3,217,630
Contributions	2,643,700	2,532,900	2,916,398
Magazine sales	265,000	235,000	262,050
Subscription income	53,000	48,000	54,634
International convention - net	-	-	187,468
Investment Income/Transfers	280,600	275,600	20,014
Total Revenue	6,198,330	5,860,430	6,658,194

Major expense categories include salaries, payroll taxes and benefits, office expenses, occupancy, public service announcements (PSA's), professional fees, travel, Conference costs (including interpretation), and bank and credit cards.

Contributions are budgeted lower than the 2023 actual based on a review of historical trends. The 2024 goal still reflects increased giving overall. Continue with a targeted message of how much each group should contribute to reach the goal.

Messaging proved to be effective in 2023—let's continue for 2024

Overview of Finances- Net revenues decreased by 8 percent over 2022 but higher than previous years and revenues were restored back to pre-pandemic levels, 91% of the revenue is funded from contributions and literature sales. In addition, a transfer was made from the Reserve fund to balance the budget. The sales of the new book "A Little Time for Myself" exceeded projections of revenue. The book sold over sixty-nine thousand copies and brought in a revenue of around nine hundred thousand dollars. WSO is projecting/forecasting a 7-8% decrease in revenues for 2024.

Revenues Forecast- Operating Budget 2024The projections for the operating budget in 2024 are at 6.1 million and the source of income from contributions of 2.1 million and the sales of literature of 4.2 million. Due to favorable market conditions during the year, the organization experienced a gain of \$1,089,174. I sent out an email asking for the members to consider innovative ways we could carry the Al-Anon/Alateen message. The deadline is December 9th, 2024 for receipt of suggestions.

International Coordination Committee (ICC) International Coordination Committee (ICC) Report Our International Team at the WSO works to support Al-Anon Globally! In 1978, the ICC was formed as an avenue of communication to support international growth and to perpetuate worldwide unity of Al-Anon and Alateen. Our international structures consist of 40 General Service Offices (GSO), 1 Evolving structure, 14 AISs, 12 Individual or Collective groups. International Al-Anon General Services Meeting (IAGSM) and Zonal meetings are held annually to support our worldwide fellowship. CAL Translation was approved for these 6 countries! This year the Board granted first-time translation and reprint permissions to Bulgaria, Latvia, Mongolia, Romania, and Thailand. Paraguay was also granted first-time *reprint* permission as they are a Spanish-speaking country, so translation permission was not required. Is anyone among us bi-lingual? Your expertise can be of help to another individual.

Choosing a Group Name

- We were reminded how important our mission is to provide help and hope for families affected by the disease of alcoholism and the importance of inclusion for all seeking help from the Al-Anon program.
- When registering a new group one thing to consider as reflected in the Policy Digest when choosing a group name is to keep in mind that is the first impression that the individual comes into contact with upon trying to find a Is it the welcoming and comforting focus of the Fifth Tradition?
- It is vital that group names are inviting, attractive, and avoid public controversy.
- Common welfare and unity for the greatest number in Al-Anon
- Al-Anon does not affiliate with or endorse any outside enterprise, such as, other Twelve Step groups, self-help groups, religious groups, rehabilitation facilities, or commercial businesses.
- The only requirement for membership in Al-Anon is that there be a problem of alcoholism in a relative or friend.
- The name does not affect another group, Al-Anon, or A.A. as a whole.

(See additional guidance found in the “Al-Anon and Alateen Groups at Work” section.)

[Choosing a Group Name - 22-25 SM Policy v3.pdf](#)

Group Records- Area Group Records Coordinator, the Staff Policy Implementation Round Table (SPIRiT) recognized that a straightforward solution existed to help members and newcomers recognize hybrid meetings. We could simply include the word “Hybrid” in the group name. Our AFG Records team already added AFG to the group name. The addition of “Hybrid” requires little additional work and would provide those seeking a meeting clarity on meeting location options. The plan to include “hybrid” in group names was shared with the Policy Committee at its January 2024 meeting. The WSO staff Policy Committee Implemented a Round Table called (SPIRiT) these members review the new group name registrations to ensure that the naming of the is inviting to the newcomer.

Our spiritual growth has its roots in the principle of anonymity, to enhance the sense of belonging and unity.

Worldwide number of Groups Statistics

<u>Alateen International Physical meetings</u>	662
<u>Al-Anon International Physical meetings</u>	8,578
<u>Al-Anon Electronic Global meetings</u>	961
<u>Alateen Electronic Global meeting</u>	6
<u>Alateen Canada Physical meetings</u>	16
<u>Al-Anon Canada Physical meetings</u>	974
<u>Alateen US Physical Meetings</u>	490
<u>Al-Anon US Physical meetings</u>	10,790

2023 International Convention Albuquerque The international convention was held in Albuquerque New Mexico 4,517 attendees.

3,776 registered attendees

741 virtual attendees

The event was self-supporting, no funds from operations were used to support the event, in fact there was a return of \$19.

Steppingstones – Prior to the conference I sent out information and asked for feedback from our membership as to whether Delegates should continue to visit the home of our Co-Founder. At Conference there were pros and cons, but the pros weighed out. The CLT will take the information back to the Board and the conversation is to continue- stay tuned.

Audit 2023 Audit was conducted by Brown, and Edwards LLP, issued a clean report with no irregularities. The audit will be available to all the members at one point. It was noted that the sale of the new book was the highest grossing in history. Group contributions were lower than expected in 2023 in the amount of \$421,520.

Here is the breakdown.

Total Revenue \$6.9 million
 Literature Sales \$4.4 million
 SALE of new book “A little Time for Myself” B34 sold over 69,000 copies.
 Total Contributions \$2.9 million
 Group Contributions \$1.2 million (41%)
 Individual Contributions \$468 or 16%
 International Convention \$995,00 (net income \$187,468)
 Motion to approve the Audit passed.

Doctoral Thesis “DOES IT WORK IF YOU WORK IT”

Jayne Kenney, a PhD candidate, completed a doctoral dissertation in 2023 based on the WSO's 2018 Al-Anon Family Groups Membership Survey. The findings were presented to the Board of Trustees at the July 2023 Board Meeting. The thesis entitled "Does It Work If You Work It?" identified the benefits of working the Al-Anon program and how longevity in Al-Anon is a key component to better overall mental health and spirituality of the members overall well-being.

The four key elements she identified were the improvement of the lives of Al-Anon members: regular meeting attendance, spirituality, engaging in service, and sponsorship. We, as members, already know how this program works, and now we have professional validation of the improved life that is available to us.

Questions we can focus on include: “How do we keep our program relevant? And “How can we encourage increased participation?” and “How can we focus on the continued growth of members who are no longer “newcomers” but may have settled into the comfort zone?”

2028 International Al-Anon Convention

- 14 bids were submitted
- 400 volunteers are requested
- Soon all the bids will be reviewed
- May 23 three cities will be selected
- June visits to these cities will begin
- October a selection will be made A location announcement will be made at the 2025 WSC or before!!

2025 ROAD TRIP! You and Your Board Connect applications are being accepted. The chosen city must have an airport that supports the major carriers serving the U.S. and Canada. There must be full-service hotels with affordable airport transportation. The event space must be large enough to comfortably seat up to 200 attendees. The BOT is responsible for hosting the event and developing the agenda and content for the program. The WSO Staff is responsible for hotel logistics, registration, and publicizing the event in AFG Connects, In the Loop, and the WSO website calendar. The selected Area and its Area Welcome Committee are responsible for encouraging attendance and sharing information about the event with local members.

Chosen Agenda Items

- A total of 38 chosen agenda items were submitted and voted upon prior to Conference, these were the two topics that received the highest number of votes.

11.	CAI 59 Votes
Membership and Unity of Purpose. When is something diverting us from our purpose and spiritual aim?	Rationale: The idea arose from comments regarding keeping the Al-Anon and Alateen Principles as we expand our membership to include individuals with a wide range of life experiences and perspectives. Our common purpose is to help families of alcoholics and to grow ourselves through the steps, traditions, and concepts. Ways to keep Al-Anon/Alateen focused included chairing meetings on Al-Anon/Alateen tools, the importance of sponsorship, and avoiding outside influences
CAI Retaining groups in Areas	Rationale. How can we Retain, Regain, and increase the number of groups in our Areas?
CAI- Is Al-Anon able to fulfill its primary purpose going forward?	Rationale- The world and Al-Anon changed due to the pandemic. The disease of alcoholism is stronger than ever. Is Al-Anon's current spirituality strong enough to meet the needs of members and newcomers going forward? Has unity eroded? Has isolation increased? How will our future trusted servants learn the skills they need to lead in the new world? What spiritual principles must Al-Anon strengthen or ever rediscover to fulfill its primary purpose?
35.	CAI -42 Votes

Concept Ten “service responsibility is balanced by carefully defined service authority”	Rationale-How do we balance service authority and service responsibility? When out of balance, what spiritual principles can we use
CAI Concept Nine What spiritual principles help define good personal leadership?	Rationale- Bill’s essay on leadership in the service manual (pg. 200)

Comments: Service starts by setting up chairs, making coffee, sharing your experience of how service has helped you, inviting a newcomer to help, the importance of Sponsorship just to name a few.

“Look to the past to retrain the future.”

2024 Al-Anon Membership Survey-The survey is open from **June 20th to July 31, 2024**. I just want to reference back to the doctoral thesis that I shared with you, without these statistics the professional community is unaware of the benefits of Al-Anon and Alateen.

Delegate’s Participation in Conference Leadership Team the Delegates were provided with questions from the CLT (Conference Leadership Team) regarding including Delegate’s on the Conference Leadership Team. A motion was made to form a task force consisting of members from CLT and a minimum of three Delegates. The charge- How Delegates could be selected and participate on CLT to contribute to WSC agenda development.

Trustee at Large, Regional Trustee and Officer of the Board- We were responsible for reviewing the resumes of Trustee at Large, Regional Trustee and Board Officer’s which were approved. Just a gentle reminder someone from the Northeast Region could represent the Northeast. Please refer to our website for the process.

Local Services Brought before the Conference members were to make the following changes to the "Local Services" section of the "Policy Digest" of the *2022-2025 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual (P-24/27) v3*:

- Eliminate the subsections “Naming a Service” and “Answering Services” from the Policy Digest
- Move the updated “Information Services [Intergroups]” subsection to the “Public Outreach” section and rename the subsection as “Al-Anon Information Services (AISs) or Intergroups.”
- Move the updated “Employees in Al-Anon Services” subsection to the “Membership and Group Meetings/Conventions” section and rename the subsection as “Service Participation by Employees in Al-Anon Services” in accordance with the changes recommended by the Policy Committee and adopted by the Board of Trustees.

You will find it on the WSO website as replacement pages in your service manuals.

Electronic Alateen Validation and Implementation Planning Team- EASBR (Electronic Alateen Safety Behavior Requirements)

We were provided with a presentation on the status of the EASBR Project. The survey results and feedback from our international structures who participated in an International Town Hall regarding Alateen Feasibility and last year’s World Service Conference. All WSC members and international structures participated in the same set of questions, which yielded the following results. The feedback they received was as follows: hopeful, excited, Safe, and open. International Structures are incredibly supportive of this project. The chart below reflects the responses WSO has received thus far.

The chart below reflects the responses WSO received from both International Structures and structures within the WSC Membership.



For context, we surveyed over 100 international participants and 92 WSC members.

WSC Members – 92% said Yes.

International Structures – 73% said Yes.

As you can imagine there was quite a bit of discussion on this topic at Conference. Such as, are we keeping with our tradition of anonymity by requiring teens present a form of identification and parental (custodial parent and legal guardian) permission? I can't tell you I have the answer, nor do I know the 92% of the members that were polled. I voiced the concerns that were expressed to me by the membership as well as my individual concerns and hopefully some of the answers will be forthcoming. I will keep you posted as the answers are received. I asked several questions and am waiting for responses from WSO. Once I receive the responses I will share the information with you. My thoughts are to start to have discussions if this EASBR moves forward do we want to participate? I will work closely with the Alateen Coordinator as well as our membership to hear your feedback.

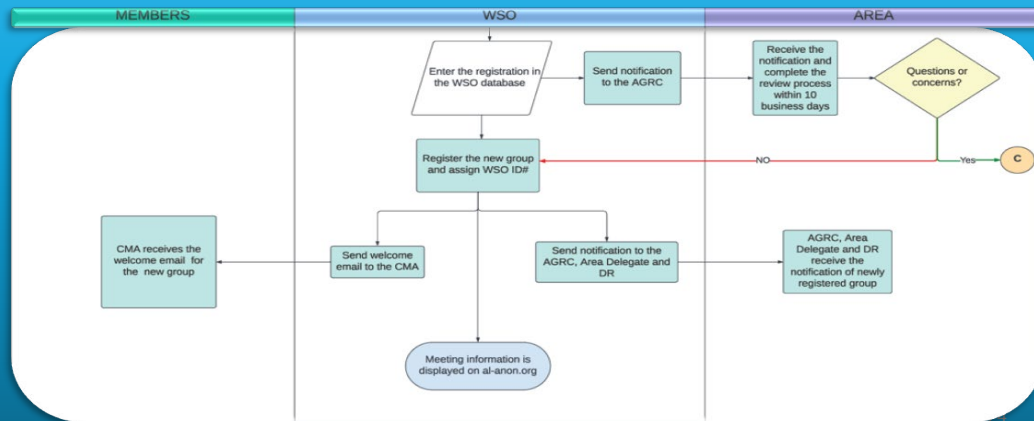
Transforming Electronic Groups- Global Electronic Meetings Search (GEMS)- WSO heard feedback from the membership on the inability to visually see both physical and geographic meetings. So, what was required was improving the existing system to streamline it. Please have patience, the system is old and WSO recognizes it will require upgrading. WSO had planned to complete the search capacity by this year, again we were reminded that we can make plans, but HP has a different plan.

Group Records flow chart.



AGRC Training Available

AFG Records Staff trained AGRCs in navigating Online Group Records, so they could better support both electronic and physical groups in their Areas



Three Year Trial of a Four Day Conference-Three years ago, a motion was made and approved that the WSC Conference would be cut back to 4 days, which this year is the end of the three-year trial period.

An enthusiastic discussion ensued regarding the fact that the conference is packed with information and the only time to really talk with the other Delegates is during the 1-hour meal breaks. As Delegate's we shared on Concept 9 which was immensely powerful for me and I was surprised that it was echoed by the WSO Staff as well, which made me feel as if we were heard but it is the Board's decision. The Conference Leadership Team will take the feedback and we will see what the agenda looks like next year and if the 4-day conference will continue. Luckily for me the Conference will be held in South Windsor Connecticut.

Task Force (1)-A presentation on Sponsorship was presented to the Conference which as one would guess was funny that at first you may not think you need a sponsor and then how much sponsorship in both personal and service recovery is important. There is a skit that is available and just maybe, just maybe that might be something to explore as a workshop. Any takers? I

Task Force (2)-Revitalizing Alateen to the Professionals, this task force was one of my passions and as we continued to work through the presentation and submit the finished product to the Trustees, we heard that this presentation was going forward nationally and could very well be presented internationally. There were a team of six Delegates Canada, Connecticut, New York South, Vermont, North Carolina/Bermuda, New Mexico, and Oregon. We were asked not to show the presentation until it has been professionally finalized. More to come.

News!

Literature- A new piece of literature will be coming out this fall "Healing Within Our Alcoholic Relationships" for \$4.00.

Conceptual approval for a new piece of CAL on Finances in Al-Anon Recovery.

Coming Soon-

Road Trip: October 2024, South Carolina will be the host for the BOT Saturday 10/26/24 in Columbia South Carolina—stay tuned!

AA Convention with Al-Anon participation July 3-6, 2025, Vancouver. Registration availability in September, but I will be on the lookout for it.

Lastly, If I can convey just one take-away from my experience it is this:

Our World Service Office (WSO) its staff, volunteers, Executive Committee, Board of Trustees and Chairperson of the Executive Property Management (ECRPM), are all dedicated to Al-Anon/Alateen well-being. This was evident in the transparency of information and the willingness to address and answer questions and concerns, and in their practice of the Al-Anon/Alateen Spiritual Principles.

I am grateful to

Gratitude in Service,

Elaine

Mitchell Panel 63 "Service is the Key"