



# Delegates Report

AWSC

AWSC | Wendy R | August 18, 2017

Dear Members,

I hope you are enjoying your summer. I can't believe this is our last AWSC for panel 55. Time flies!

I am going to start out my report with a wonderful announcement!

### New Executive Director!

It is with great pleasure that the Board of Trustees, Al-Anon Family Groups, Inc. announces that on September 5th, 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 has a keen understanding of the world's ever-changing landscape and how those changes have and will continue to impact the growth and diversity of our fellowship. 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 September 5th through the October Board meeting. This transition period will ensure that our new Executive Director, our World Service Office (WSO) staff and our fellowship as a whole experience a smooth transition. As shared in the April 2017 Chairperson of the Board Letter, 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. We then let go and allow the new Executive Director the freedom to oversee the World Service Office in her own way as outlined in Concept Eleven.

### Al-Anon Alateen Groups

For 2016 the total number of Al-Anon and Al-Alateen groups worldwide is 24,919

US/PR/BDA Al-Anon 12,786

US/PR/BDA Alateen 866

Canada Al-Anon 1217

Canada Alateen 56

International Al-Anon 9,307

International Alateen 687

The total electronic meetings for 2016 is 157

106 phone meetings include:

99 English

7 Spanish

51 on-line meetings include:

20 English

17 Spanish

4 German

3 Russian

3 French

1 Danish

1 Polish

1 Portuguese

1 Icelandic

As you can see we are everywhere!

### [WSO Finance Committee Update](#)

This is an update from the finance committee to delegates July 24, 2017.

As you will read in the Chairman of the Board July Letter Finance update, Literature Sales are a little over budget at the six-month mark **but Contributions are falling a little short of target**. Your message after Conference in 2016 resulted in a significant increase in Contributions but we did not see that bump this year, which caused the Finance Committee some concern. We were wondering if we, as presenters at the Conference, did not adequately convey to you the ongoing financial needs of AFG Inc.

As you know, we built our 2017 budget based on a projected \$2,100,000 in Contributions. As you remember, the abundance realized in 2016 allowed us to

make significant investments in technology. We have brought much of the work in-house, resulting in the near completion of our completely re-worked website, a Conference app, improved communication applications and hints and promises of great things to be unveiled in the very near future.

All these improvements and more are dependent on the message being carried that there is still a great need for support of the operations of the World Service Office. Last year's abundant and unexpected response was a direct result of your effectiveness in carrying that message to the fellowship.

Please also express our gratitude to your Areas. In addition, please also continue to keep them aware of the need that is as great, or perhaps even greater than last year.

**The following update is based on the unaudited financial statements for the period ended 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. That represents a net negative of \$352,280 over this period last year.

This is mainly due to full staffing in the office this year, which was not the case last year. It is also reflective of the amazing bump in Contributions this time last year after the World Service Conference.

Revenue from literature sales was slightly above that of 2016, and is tracking ahead of budgeted expectations. The General Fund investment income totaled about \$27,000. We are hopeful that Contributions and Sales increases will allow us to grow the Reserve Fund by not transferring funds from the Reserve Fund to the General Fund.

Income: Literature sales were \$1,899,251 for this period, compared to \$1,845,798 at this time last year, Gross profit on literature sales was \$1,506,554 (81% of sales), compared to \$1,495,171 for 2016.

Contributions are at \$1,015,231 for 2017, compared to \$918,718 last year—an increase of 10.5% but falling a little short of budgeted projections.

Forum subscription income was \$134,767 for 2017, an increase of 13%.

Expenses: Actual operating expenses were \$2,709,426 for the first six months of 2017, compared to \$2,321,645 last year and slightly over budget.

Full staffing, notably in the Digital Strategy Department, is reflected in the increased expenditure over last year.

Reserve Fund: The fair value of investments in the Reserve Fund totaled \$5,585,360 at June 30, 2017, an increase in value of over \$400,000.

Outlook: While Contributions dipped a bit in the month of June, we are hopeful that the abundance demonstrated in 2016 will carry on in 2017. That level of participation, along with some encouraging Literature Sales numbers will allow the World Service Office to continue to support all the members carrying the message of help and hope.

### Board of Trustees (BOT)

One of the most enjoyable and enlightening parts of being a Delegate has been to further understand the role of the BOT. We are blessed to have these wonderful members who give their time, experience, strength and hope to ensure the future of Al-Anon.

The World Service Office (WSO) is comprised of paid staff and volunteers, some who are Al-Anon members that provide services to our membership, many functions and activities of the fellowship circulate through this office. It is the center not the head; it serves but does not control or direct.

The Trustees, along with members of the Executive Committee, direct business operations of the World Service Office, observing the By-Laws of Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc. The Board acts as the chief service arm of the World Service Conference as it guards the legal rights of the Al-Anon fellowship and controls the finances. The Board serves as guardian of our Twelve Traditions, our Twelve Concepts of Service, and the Al-Anon World Service Conference Charter.

To aid in members' better understanding of the actions and duties of the Board of Trustees, it is important to know that Trustees, Executive Committee members, and employed staff have a fiduciary duty to the organization of AFG, Inc., including duties of Care, Loyalty, Obedience, and Foresight. In short, this means they are required to act reasonably, prudently, in the best interests of the organization, to avoid negligence and fraud, to avoid conflicts of interest, and to look continuously into the future.

Strategic planning for Al-Anon began in the 1990s. The Strategic Plan is connected to the Vision and Mission and is the plan for how the Vision and Mission will be

carried out. The Board of Trustees strives to have its work focused on 80 percent forward thinking toward Al-Anon's future.

**BOARD VISION STATEMENT** All people affected by someone else's drinking will find help and recovery in every community.

**BOARD MISSION STATEMENT** Anticipate the future and Al-Anon's place in it and ensure that the necessary resources are available.

**STRATEGIC PLAN PRIORITIES** Al-Anon's spiritual principles permeate our policies and practices; we apply emerging technology and communication options:

- To increase the visibility of Al-Anon so that it is recognized as the number one resource throughout the world for helping friends and families of alcoholics
- To empower the Al-Anon fellowship to be vibrant, inclusive and flexible
- To achieve a viable future for Al-Anon Family Groups, the Board will be adaptive and strategic in its use of talents, skills and abilities

### [Al-Anon International Convention Baltimore 2018!](#)

"Celebrating One Day at a Time" is the theme for Al-Anon's 2018 International Convention in Baltimore, Maryland. Al-Anon and Alateen members from around the world will come together at the beautiful waterfront of Baltimore, Maryland, **Friday, July 6 – Sunday, July 8, 2018**, for fun and fellowship.

It's hard to believe, but by this time next year our 2018 International Convention will be a memory. WSO remarks how exciting it has been to receive emails from those of you planning to attend. Some are coming by train, car or plane. A number of Areas are in the midst of making plans to charter a bus to Baltimore!

Registration information is being finalized and will be available on our 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 5<sup>th</sup>**. We have planned a fun and inspiring day, one that you will want to include when planning your attendance at the 2018 International Convention.

Registration will be a separate fee from the International Convention. The "Day of Connecting" will include several formats from which you can choose:

Presentations with topics such as:

Our Worldwide Fellowship: Al-Anon's International Reach Telephone Book or the Internet—

What's Your Digital Age? Al-Anon on Social Media Know Your WSO—Service IS Its Middle Name!

What Happens at the Office Al-Anon's Financial Stewardship:

Gratitude in Action Discussion Meetings:

Dusty Bookshelves: Falling in Love with All Our CAL: Going Beyond the Daily Readers

Tag—You're It! NOW WHAT?

Becoming the Leaders Others Know You Can Be

Attitudes – Are Mine Worth Catching?

Searching for the Answer in Our Twelve Traditions

The 3 T's of Public Outreach – Tips, Tools, and Techniques – Successful Public Outreach Panels:

Are the Twelve Concepts Still Al-Anon's Best Kept Secret? Hear the Secret of Our Service Structure

A.A. will participate by holding daytime meetings on Friday and Saturday. The Friday and Saturday evening and Sunday morning “big meet- ings” for all attendees will feature U.S., Canadian, and International speakers. There will be a dance too!

There will also 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” with presenters and participants. Keep your eyes open for further details regarding the opening of the online registration for our 2018 International Convention and “Day of Connecting.”

Members can celebrate their recovery by marching in the opening night “Language of Love” parade and can choose their costumes for fun.

Beginning in September 2017, the WSO will provide information to the fellowship through articles in The Forum magazine, Group eNews, AFG Announcements for members, the WSO Members website, print and electronic group mailings.

The Convention has its own website, <http://www.al-anoninternationalconvention.org/>. Al-Anon and Alateen members and their A.A. guests will be able to register for the convention online. Members will also find information and sign up for housing and learn about activities connected with the Convention happening before and after the event. Members are encouraged to register early to save money.

Once you have registered to attend the convention, you can:

- Reserve a hotel room. Al-Anon has reserved a number of rooms at a guaranteed rate with several hotels in the area. If you book an “Al-Anon” room, you will receive the lowest possible rate and be supporting the Convention.
- Register to march in the “Language of Love Parade.”
- Purchase tickets for the Pioneer Luncheon (limited seating/ first come, first served).
- Come a day earlier for a separate service-oriented day of workshops on July 5th.

Registration Fees (in U.S. Funds) \$130.00 until Dec. 31, 2017 \$165.00 from January 1 - May 31, 2018 \$195.00 from June 1 - July 7, 2018

### [Spirituality in District Money Discussions](#)

Due to the effects of living with alcoholism, many Al-Anon members have fears about financial matters which carry into service making it difficult to have discussions about District finances.

This workshop will be presented during AWSC to help uncover the fears and barriers to District discussions about money as well as the spiritual principles that can help overcome them.

### [Worldwide Al-Anon has a new Website!](#)

<https://al-anon.org/>

The World Service Office (WSO) has launched a brand new interactive website. This website now combines the Public Outreach and the Members websites into a single source for all information from the WSO.



The website will have a Newcomers section which features information to help Newcomers understand what Al-Anon is and how it may help them. It features many stories from Al-Anon members based on the relationship with the alcoholic. We're also introducing Teen Corner, a group of pages where teens can read stories from other teens and Get Connected with Alateen via social media.

As for the Members website, it is now a designated Members' section of the new website and will continue to feature important documents relevant to Al-Anon members and groups, such as the Al-Anon Guidelines, the *Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual* (P-24/27), and many more. We will make it easier to find up-to-date information on our WSO News page, to locate Area events near you, and to make contributions. Please visit it soon!

### [2018 World Service Conference](#)

The 2018 World Service Conference will be held in West Harrison, New York Monday April 16-Friday April 20<sup>th</sup> 2018. The site will allow the opportunity for the full Conference to visit Stepping Stones.

The Conference Leadership Team (CLT) recommended and the Board and is pleased to announce the approval of the 2018 World Service Conference theme:

[Al-Anon – There is no standing still!](#)

[Al-Anon – ¡No hay razón para detenerse!](#)

[Al-Anon – Il n'y a pas de place pour l'immobilisme!](#)

This theme, an excerpt from a statement made by our co-founder Lois W., is both a reminder and a call to action for every member. Al-Anon must continue to grow if it is going to fulfill its primary purpose of reaching millions who need Al-Anon's help but are not yet aware of the existence of our fellowship.

### [Policy Update](#)

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

- Topics discussed by the Policy Committee that are generated by the fellowship and need clarification or interpretation in light of the Tradition and Concepts
- Policy motions presented to the 2017 World Service Conference (WSC)

- Policy motions approved by the WSC

The following topics were discussed at the July 2017 Policy Committee meeting: Group Autonomy: Tradition Four and Warranty Four discussion, which was started at the Open Policy meeting at the 2017 World Service Conference, continued.

Electronic Meetings discussion, started at the 2017 WSC Open Policy meeting, resulted in a thought force created to produce a KBDM for the July 2017 Policy Meeting.

The Policy Committee reviewed the KBDM and after a discussion decided to create a work group that will explore ways to reach out to electronic meetings and find ways to allow them to fully participate in the fellowship.

“Open” and “Closed” Terminology discussion continued. The Policy Committee agreed, by consensus, to remove the term “Closed” from the Policy Digest. The Policy Committee decided to wait for the report back from the “Policy Digest Thought Force” in October 2017 before deciding on the next steps to take.

As always, members of Al-Anon are 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.

That is all for now my friends. Once again, I am so grateful for this opportunity to be your Delegate, it is such a wonderful experience! I urge you all to think about your next step in service as this panel draws to a close. The growth in my recovery has been enormous. If you have some twinges remember, as the old saying goes, “FEAR” = Face Everything and Recover!

Hugs,

Wendy R

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