

AFG AREA 9 DELEGATES REPORT

AWSC Feb 7, 2015

Hello Florida North!

Dear Members,

I am so proud to be representing our Area for P55. I hope to bring a clearer understanding of the relationship between WSO and the Areas, Districts, and Groups. The Service Manual states;

"The Delegate is the bridge of understanding that links the groups in his area with world Al-Anon/Alateen to help them continue to function in Unity".

I know when I first came into the rooms of Al-Anon I did not want to hear about "business" and I could have cared less about "WSO "(what is *that* anyway??). I just wanted to stop the pain and I was convinced that getting the alcoholic sober would make that happen. Today I know while the consequences may have been lessened when the alcoholic become sober, without this program / would have remained in pain and suffering, never knowing the freedom and joy of recovery. Today I want to do my part/give back to ensure that Al-Anon remains abundant for everyone still suffering and service has been that vehicle for me.

Each year in April I will spend a week at the World Service Conference in Virginia Beach with the other 67 Delegates from the US, Canada, Puerto Rico and Bermuda. I can't wait!

This year (2015) is the Fifty-Fifth World Service Conference and it is entitled;

"Living Our Spiritual Principles: Expanding Our Vision"

As of this writing I have not been anywhere ☺ but I still have some information to share with you.

Annual Vacancies- The resumes have specific criteria and have been included as attachments to this report and are also available on the Florida North member website for easy retrieval by our membership.

Florida North does have a vacancy for a South East Regional Trustee in addition to the positions below.

- 3 at-Large Trustees
- 3 Regional Trustees (rotates depending on Region)
- 1 at-Large member, Executive Committee for Real Property Management
- 1 at-Large member, Alateen Work Group (trial)
- 5 at-Large members, Forum Editorial Advisory Committee
- 5 at-Large members, Literature Committee
- 5 at-large members, Public Outreach Committee
- 1 at-large member, Audit Committee

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Please note all Trustee resumes' and the ECRPM resume are due to WSO by August 15, 2015. All Committee resumes' are due to WSO by April 18th 2015. Resume forms have been sent to each District Representative and AWSC Member and are on the website.

SERT (South East Regional Trustee)* The current process is briefly explained below, we will also discuss at AWSC in more detail.

The Area Delegate provides the current resume' forms to each District Representative. They may also be posted on the Area website for easy access to all members.

Each District Representative has access to the resume form for distribution to interested Al-Anon members to complete for the SERT position. WSO asks that all resumes be filled out electronically (the forms are PDF documents). The form would then be emailed or mailed/delivered to the District Representative.

After the District's consideration, review and approval, the District selects one and only one candidate (if any). The District Representative will submit that candidate's resume to the Area Chairperson no later than Friday evening, (time designated by Chairperson), at the Area Assembly weekend. Please provide 200 copies of your District's candidate's single page resume' at that time. The candidates will be voted on by Group Representatives using the paper ballot method at Assembly. 2/3 majority must be reached to elect a candidate to be presented to WSO.

Trustee at Large*: Potential candidates' résumés must be postmarked, faxed, or e-mailed to the WSO on or before **August 15, 2015**. Up to six candidates are selected in October by the Nominating Committee, in consultation with the Conference Committee on Trustees (CCT). The Nominating Committee will forward the names of the selected candidates to the CCT Chairperson. The Chairperson will then send the names of the selected candidates to the members of the CCT. Any member of the CCT may file an objection to any of the selected candidates by **December 15**. Then, up to three nominees are selected by the Board in January. The selected nominee's name will be presented to the World Service Conference (WSC) for traditional approval. Please note the requirement for length of continuous Al-Anon membership, as well as the requirement that Delegates must wait until two WSCs have passed after their terms end before they can be considered. Also, please keep in mind the requirements regarding stamina, the willingness to share a room, and the need to be available 28 – 60 days a year.

*In January 2011 the Board of Trustees voted to give all Trustee candidates an additional question to answer in writing. Candidates will receive the question after the August 15 deadline and have a short time frame to return the answer. The Nominating Committee and the Conference Committee on Trustees/Regional Committees on Trustees will evaluate the answers as part of the scoring and ranking process. The additional question provides valuable insight related to each candidate's ability to communicate clearly in writing, originate ideas, and meet a deadline.

Executive Committee for Real Property Management (ECRPM): The nominating process is the same as for Trustee at Large. Members serve one three-year term and may not be re-elected. Remember,

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August 15 is the deadline. Please note the difference in length of continuous Al-Anon membership as well as the need to be willing to share a room.

After selection, all Trustees and ECRPM nominees, having received traditional approval by the Conference, are elected at the Annual Meeting of the Board of Trustees immediately following the World Service Conference.

Committees: Since 2006, the Board of Trustees has been reviewing and revising Selected Committee structures to determine if each of the Committees is meeting the needs of the fellowship. Some Committees have been disbanded and others have had their membership or meeting times restructured to allow members to serve without spending time on airplanes or in cars to travel to the World Service Office. The trial Alateen Work Group is seeking one at-Large member. It will be appointing Thought/Task Forces made up of Alateen members, and Al-Anon Members Involved in Alateen Service (AMIAS) in those Areas selected by the Work Group. The Forum Editorial Advisory Committee, the Public Outreach Committee, and the Literature Committee have five at-Large members each. These members can come from anywhere in the World Service Conference structure. The Audit Committee is also seeking applicants in the fellowship who have auditing experience and/or education to oversee the interaction with the auditors of the World Service Office audit. The Work Group and other Selected Committees discussed above are one-year time commitments and run from May to April each year. Résumés are due by the time of the Conference (April); applicants are notified in May or June as the Committees are formed.

Short-Term Opportunities

Thought Forces and Task Forces: Other Thought Forces and Task Forces develop on an as-needed basis. Members with specific skills related to the purpose of the Thought or Task Force will be recruited to accomplish the goal for which it was formed. Time commitments are generally short-term and will be spelled out. As Thought Forces and Task Forces can be formed at any time, notices for those groups will go to the Delegates, and résumé forms will also be made available on Communities.

“Universal Understanding of Recovery”

WSC is seeking a definition for the statement above. The development of the definition has been a work in progress since 2009. It is felt there is a need for a statement on family recovery when working with professionals and engaging in other public outreach work.

Background:

Goal #3 of the Board of Trustees Strategic Plan under the topic of Universal Understanding of Recovery is “Everyone – both within Al-Anon and outside – will have a universal understanding of recovery.” The rationale being “There seems to be no universally understood definition of “family recovery “and-“ a universal understanding of family recovery could be useful to

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professionals and could encourage additional research".

There are 2 definition's below, please ask yourself the following questions and let me know which one you feel best describes family recovery.

1. Is this statement consistent with our spiritual principles?
2. Are we in agreement with the statement/can we live with it?
3. Can you see how you might be able to use this statement?

1. Family recovery is a process of healing and growth from the effects of living in a family affected by someone's problem drinking. This process helps individuals to make healthier life choices, and to develop relationships that are more positive and supportive.

2. Family recovery is a process of healing and growth for family members affected by someone's drinking. This process helps these individuals make healthier life choices and develop relationships that are more positive and supportive.

Chosen Agenda Items

Each year Delegates are asked to submit A Chosen Agenda Item (CAI) these are voted on and then the chosen CAI's are discussed at Conference. The agenda items for 2015 have already been chosen, they must be submitted in November. However I would like you all to keep this in mind for the CAI coming up for November 2015.

- ◆ If it's a question, be sure that it cannot be answered using the *Service Manual*.
- ◆ *Does the CAI merit time on the Conference agenda for an in-depth discussion that could shape Al-Anon as a whole?*

Below are some examples of CAI's;

- Thought Force: Create Strategies to Help the Membership Welcome New Trends into the Fellowship
- Thought Force: Create Strategies to Show Spiritual Connection of Being a Registered Group
- Thought Force: Create Strategies to Show the Importance of Abundance and Spirituality in Money Discussions
- Task Force: Create Ways to Raise Awareness of the Tools Available for Alateen
- Task Force: Identify, Gather and Present Practices that Demonstrate a Healthy, Thriving Group

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Please reach out to me with any potential CAI's from your Districts or Groups. The deadline for submission will be November 2015.

Love Gifts

Love gifts are items made by groups or districts that can be distributed to the delegates at conference. The Love gifts are mailed to the hotel (below) and distributed among the delegates. I have not experienced this yet but I have heard from past delegates that they are truly appreciated and all the delegates look forward to receiving them!

(PS I am taking 90 or so of the "bumper" stickers approved at October Assembly)

Love gifts may be sent care of me Wendy R to the Hotel (address below)

*****Packages will not be accepted by the Hotel before April 15, 2015*****

**Wendy R. (Hold for WSC April 19-23, 2015)
Wyndham Virginia Beach Oceanfront
5700 Atlantic Avenue
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23451**

I am looking forward to this exciting journey with all of you. Please feel free to reach out to me with questions, suggestions, concerns, and most of all hugs!

Love in Service,

Wendy R
P55 Delegate
AFG Area 9 Florida-North
delegate@afgarea9.org

Amended 1/28/2015

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