

FEBRUARY 6, 2016 AWSC

Dear Members,

Happy New Year to everyone! May 2016 bring you a year filled with Al-Anon recovery and joy!

As I travel the road “delegate” on my journey to recovery I am constantly reminded that we all want what is best for Al-Anon, but we all have different views of what that looks like. For me I sometimes have difficulty seeing everyone’s view and being open minded. Part of that is fear, fear that the program could be changed in a way that I don’t agree with or have not considered, fear of the unknown.

What I am learning on this journey is that change can be good, it can be healthy, it can be energizing. I love this program so much and am so grateful that I finally succumbed to all my Higher Powers pushing and prodding to get here that I want Al-Anon to be here, and be flourishing for all of us now and in the future afflicted by the Family Disease of Alcoholism. And it will be, I am sure of that, but it may look different as I am sure it looks different now to those who came in the beginning.

From “Many Voices, One Journey” page 5

“From the beginning, Al-Anon’s leadership wanted to include as many voices as possible. The founders made a practice of sharing leadership and seeking as wide a range of member participation as possible. They sought to strengthen the spiritual unity of the fellowship as they let go of fear and increased their own capacity to share, to trust, and to love. Throughout many conflicts and challenges, Al-Anon members continually renewed their shared commitment to the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, and Twelve Concepts of Service—the three Legacies that are the fellowships spiritual foundation. These Legacies have helped members to find the courage to change in their personal lives, and have guided the fellowship on a path of continuous spiritual growth that extends into the future, without limit. “

The Big Question

The “Essay on Leadership” in Concept Nine reminds us that leaders must possess that all-important attribute of vision—the ability to anticipate the future.

New members in meetings may not know it yet, but they are relying on us to plan ahead, just as Lois and Anne did when they began the historic journey of establishing Al-Anon Family Groups, Inc.

Our co-founders, Lois and Anne, were considering our future when they formed the Conference of 1961. We didn’t know they were thinking of us, but they were. They had a vision.

At the 2015 Conference one of our workshops was “The Big Question” CHANGE! It was announced that in 5 years Conferences could be virtual, not that they would be, but it is a possibility, what did we

think about that?? Today we will explore some possible changes that could happen in our Area. Come along with me to the “Big Question Workshop”.

Concept 8 Amended

The amended descriptive text for Concept Eight--approved by the 2015 WSC--is now available on the Members' Web site, al-anon.org/members.

The replacement pages may be downloaded, printed, trimmed to size, and inserted over current pages 198 and 226.

Meet The Board 2016

The purpose of the Meet the Board event is to provide an opportunity for Al-Anon members, the Board of Trustees, and Executive Committee members to interact and to share information about how the WSO serves the fellowship. Thirty-Three Areas submitted applications to host the initial 2014 Inaugural Meet the Board event. Given the number of applications, the Board decided the only fair way to choose where to have the event was to draw an Area from a hat. The first Meet the Board event was held last July in St. John’s Newfoundland, 2015 Meet The Board was held in Edmonton, Alberta. There were presentations and personal talks round-table discussions, opportunity to talk during lunch, and a gallery walk of WSO committees.

We are pleased to announce that the 2016 “Meet the Board” Event will be held in Fayetteville, Arkansas on Saturday, October 22, 2016. Thank you to the twenty-one Areas that submitted bids; your enthusiasm is greatly appreciated. North Florida did submit a bid.

Annual WSO Vacancies

From the Executive Director;

As part of the twice yearly solicitation for service volunteers at the WSO level, I am writing to remind you of the process for submitting candidates, and to give you any updates related to that process. The résumé for Trustees at Large and Regional Trustee candidates is available electronically to Conference members on AFG Connects/WSC Members/Forms. The résumé includes text boxes which limit the length of a nominee’s response. Nominees should print out and review their résumé before submitting it to make certain they haven’t modified the form or exceeded the amount of space provided. ANNUAL VACANCIES The number of positions available annually is as follows: · 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 · 2 at-large member, Audit Committee Trustee at Large*: Potential candidates’ résumés must be postmarked, faxed, or e-mailed to the WSO on or before August 15, 2016. The Delegate from a TAL candidate’s Area is notified when we receive the résumé and can send in writing any concerns he/she might have about the candidate to the Nominating Committee prior to the October meeting. 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.

Resumes' and the timeline are available on the Area website under Delegates' Corner and here;

<https://drive.google.com/a/afgarea9.org/file/d/0B-U6ReyXj7Bsa1dIUk14MvVUelk/view?usp=sharing>

WSO Conflict Resolution Workshops Available on Members Website

The workshops provide members in service an opportunity to identify spiritual principles that can be used to resolve conflict in their groups, districts, Area, and Al-Anon Information Services. The workshops encourage discussion so attendees will leave with new approaches to avoid as well as resolve conflict that may arise.

The workshops are available in the Service Structure navigation tab under Presentations, Workshops, and Skits.

- Group Conflict Workshop: Debate or discuss?
- Workshop for Resolving Conflict in the District
- Workshop for Area Members in Service Using the *Conflict Resolution* USING OUR TWELVE TRADITIONS (S-72) Cards
- AIS/LDC Training Workshop for Office Volunteers

<http://www.al-anon.org/members/service-structure/area-resources/item/475-presentations-workshops-and-skits>

WSO Member Survey

Involvement in Al-Anon surveys is also considered service work and is greatly valued as we seek to reach out to those who are dealing with the effects of someone else's alcoholism, but haven't yet found help in Al-Anon. Survey results are used in communicating with professionals who are in a position to refer patients and clients to Al-Anon. Results of surveys are also used to improve communication with the membership.

Please help spread the word about a new survey opportunity now available on the Members' Web site. The purpose of this anonymous, 15-question survey is to evaluate the effectiveness of some of the WSO's communication strategies.

To participate in surveys, the WSO is currently offering, please find link(s) here:

- [Al-Anon Program Survey](#)
This anonymous survey is open for all members' participation, from January 15 - February 26, 2016. The purpose of this survey is to gather feedback about some of the WSO's messages to the

fellowship. The survey should take no longer than ten minutes to complete. Thank you for your participation in this important project!

WSO Knowledge Based Decision Making Presentation

WSO has developed a presentation that can be very helpful in understanding KBDM as it relates to Districts, Groups and all decision making within the fellowship. We will be showing this presentation and discussing Friday evening at AWSC.

2016 World Service Conference

2016 World Service Conference Theme:

Realizing Our Spiritual Potential

Reconociendo nuestro potencial espiritual

Reconnaître notre potentiel spirituel

The dates for the WSC 2016 are Monday **April 11 thru Friday April 15**. There will also be a 60th Birthday Bash following the Conference in Virginia Beach.



Birthday Bash!

Please join Al-Anon members and their guests in celebration of the extraordinary work started by two ordinary women! In recognition of 65 years of AlAnon Family Groups and the beginnings of the Clearing House, the World Service Office (WSO) will host an Open House followed by a banquet at the Wyndham Virginia Beach Oceanfront Hotel on Saturday, April 16, 2016.-

The **Open House**, free of charge, will have tours from 1:00 – 3:00 pm at the World Service Office (WSO), 1600 Corporate Landing Parkway, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23454. The office will close at 4:00 pm.

The **Banquet**, a ticketed event, will be from 6:00 – 10:00 pm at the Wyndham Virginia Beach Oceanfront Hotel, 5700 Atlantic Avenue, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23451.

[Click here for more information and to download the order form.](#)



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. It was wonderful to arrive at my first Conference and receive cards and love gifts from all of you!

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

*****Packages will not be accepted by the Hotel before April 5, 2016*****

**Wendy R (Hold for WSC April 11-15, 2015)
Wyndham Virginia Beach Oceanfront
5700 Atlantic Avenue
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23451**

**Please put my name and address in the return address section in the event mail delivery is delayed.
This can be found on the CMA.**

WSO Contributions

Thank you to all Groups and Districts in Florida North that have increased their contributions to WSO. We know that today WSO needs our contributions to continue providing the services that are so critical to our fellowship, and so important to the growth of our membership. If you do not have a budgeted line item for WSO contributions in your Group or District I urge you to create one!

With Joy and Gratitude in Service,

Wendy R.

P55 Delegate

Area 9, Florida North