

Celebrating One Day at a Time

AI-Anon's International Convention 2018

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 AI-Anon's place in it and ensure that the necessary resources are available.

STRATEGIC PLAN PRIORITIES

AI-Anon's spiritual principles permeate our policies and practices; we apply emerging technology and communication options:

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

October 2017

The continued purpose of the Chairperson of the Board letter is to share highlights from the Board of Trustees Board Week and the Board of Trustees Meeting. You will find updates from actions taken by the Board of Trustees, updates from our Policy Chairperson, Finance update from our Treasurer as well as an update from our Conference Leadership Team (CLT).

The October Board Week and Board of Trustees meeting was held in colorful Colorado. As you may recall, Colorado was selected as the site of the *2017 Road Trip! You and Your Board Connect*. There are no words to describe the level of enthusiasm and participation that occurred throughout the Road Trip! Over 110 members were in attendance, travelling from near and far. Members from Colorado, Nebraska, Missouri, Texas, Wyoming, Minnesota, Missouri, Arizona, New Mexico and Utah were in attendance. Some "*got in the car,*" others arrived by jet plane or train. On behalf of the Board and our Executive Committee, thank you to all who attended. A special thank you to the members of the Colorado Area who took the step back in 2016 by submitting their intent to host Road Trip! We are extremely grateful to you and all those involved in making this day a resounding success. The site selection for the 2018 Road Trip! You and Your Board Connect has been made. An announcement will be made once the hotel contracts are finalized. Stay tuned for further information.

As the October Board Week was held outside of our WSO offices, the Board made use of virtual meeting technology when staff reports and discussions were required. As with any adventure in the use of technology, some of the sessions transmitted perfectly and others were slightly off kilter. However, we are all continuing to learn in the areas of being flexible and the few hiccups gave way to opportunities for humor and acceptance.

Our October Board Week was the first for our new Executive Director (ED), Vali F. and our last for outgoing ED, Mary G. As shared in July, Mary committed to working side-by-side with Vali beginning September 5th through the October Board meeting. This transition period has ensured that our new Executive Director, our WSO staff and our fellowship experienced a smooth transition. The Board wishes to take this opportunity to once again thank Mary for her dedicated leadership during these past 18 months. We wish her much joy as she begins a new adventure. Conference members will be given an opportunity to meet and get to know our new ED during the 2018 WSC. In the meantime, please welcome Vali in her new role as Executive Director.

As shared in July, the 2018 World Service Conference will be held in West Harrison, New York. The site will allow the opportunity for the full Conference to visit Stepping Stones. As a reminder, the 2018 World Service Conference theme is:

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!

Please refer to the CLT Update contained within this letter for additional information regarding the 2018 World Service Conference.

We hope you have continued to visit our newly designed website. If you have not visited please take the time to visit and share your enthusiasm with our membership by encouraging a visit. Staff are currently working on migrating information from the “members” website to the public site. We ask for your patience and understanding during this process. The goal is for the migration to be completed by the first of the new year.

Our 2018 International Convention *Celebrating One Day at A Time* is quickly approaching. Registration opened online and by mail September 15th. Online registration can be easily completed by going to www.al-anon.org and clicking on the International Convention link in the top right hand corner of the website. Our Convention block of hotel and lodging options will be available once you complete your registration. Be sure to note your registration number as it is required to complete your hotel reservations. Dates for the 2018 International are Friday, July 6th–8th. Registration fees are \$130 through December 31, 2017; \$165 January 1–May 31, 2018; \$195 June 1, 2018 through the event. As of this writing 1,010 enthusiastic members from around the world have registered. Can you picture yourself in Baltimore in 2018?

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 5th. 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 is a separate fee of \$40 and will increase to \$45 after May 31, 2018.

The Day of Connecting will include several formats from which you can choose:

Presentations with topics such as:

Al-Anon’s International Reach – Our Worldwide

Telephone Book or the Internet - What’s Your Digital Age? Al-Anon on Social Media, Know Your WSO—Service IS Its Middle Name!

Money, Money, Money – Al-Anon’s Financial Stewardship – Gratitude in Action

Discussion Meetings:

Dusty Bookshelves Full of 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? The Twelve Traditions

The 3 T's of Public Outreach - Tips, Tools, and Techniques --Successful Public Outreach

Panels:

Are They Still the Best Kept Secret in Al-Anon? Living the Twelve Concepts of Service

Young Members Wanted: Alateen Opportunities

Big "P" or little "p" – Big "T" or little "t"

"Face Time" it's not what it used to be! - The Changing "Face" of Meetings

There will also be opportunities to listen and learn more about how Al-Anon works through participation in Leadership Talks and Roundtable Discussions.

Through AFG Connects, Delegates have received numerous means of sharing the message of our 2018 International Convention and the Day of Connecting. PowerPoints outlining both are available on AFG Connects as well as a printable flyer for the Day of Connecting. Please let your Trustee contact know if you have been unable to locate these important communication tools.

An additional exciting piece of news related to the 2018 International Convention is the Board's approval of a 50th Anniversary *One Day at a Time in Al-Anon (ODAT)* commemorative edition, complete with gold lettering on the cover and gold ribbon book mark. A commemorative book plate will be included only for those purchased at the convention. This special edition of the *ODAT* will be available at the 2018 International Convention and for the remainder of 2018 until supplies are gone. A limited number of books will be printed and for a purchase price of \$15 US each.

Additional legal actions taken by the Board of Trustees:

Approval of the Finance Committee's recommendation to cease selling the hardcover version of *How Al-Anon Works* (B-22) for a three-year trial, to be reviewed annually, once current supplies are depleted. The decision came following a sharp decline in hardcover sales since the introduction of the softcover version. Softcover versions will be available in English, Spanish and French.

The Board approved the staff's project proposal for a one-year trial to print *The Forum* in full color starting in 2018. A key factor in our decision was the potential for continuing to improve readability of *The Forum* through the use of additional font color combinations.

And finally, based on recommendations from the 2023 International Site Selection Committee, the Board, in our legal responsibilities, selected one of three Areas: Denver, Seattle and Albuquerque as the site for the 2023 Al-Anon International Convention. The Board and our Staff wish to thank those members from the Areas of Colorado, Washington and New Mexico/EIPaso for the time and effort involved in submitting bids and most importantly, the trust you placed in the selection process.

It is with great excitement that the Board announces, given no unknowns in the finalizing of our convention contracts, the site for the 2023 Al-Anon International Convention as:

Albuquerque, New Mexico

The Board is encouraged by the requests from Delegates regarding the desire for updated information of the overall financial health of AFG, Inc. While detailed information can be found in the Finance Update, we will share that contributions are currently below projections based on our 2017 budget. What does this mean in numbers? We are dependent, as always, on our individual members and groups to continue the expression of abundance. In order to meet our 2017 budget goal of \$2,100,000 in contributions, we will need to receive \$600,000 in contributions during the months of October, November and December. If you are like me I need things broken down visually and into smaller numbers to understand what \$600,000 could look like and how attainable that number really is. If 60% or 9,000 of all our registered groups contributed \$60 and 5,000 members contributed \$15 each and 55 Areas contributed \$500 we would easily meet our budgeted 2017 contributions goal. The Board and staff thank you for continuing to think abundantly.

Two weeks following the posting of this letter, the Trustees will begin making contact with their assigned Delegate. The purpose of this contact is to serve as a resource for clarification or questions from this letter, if desired. If you prefer not to have the Trustee phone you, please let him/her know when the initial contact is made.

To aid the Board and staff in understanding current use of *In the Loop* as a communication tool, we are asking current Delegates to please share your response to the following question when your Trustee contacts you:

Describe ways in which you are using and ways in which you are encouraging or can encourage members in your Area to subscribe to and use *In the Loop*.

This will be the last COB Letter and Updates to our Panel 55 Delegates. We thank you for your service and deep commitment to our fellowship. We look forward to seeing you in the near future, hopefully in Baltimore and if not there, then through your attendance at a Road Trip! or Trustee visit to your Area or in service as an At-Large member of one of our committees. Or perhaps, through submission of a résumé to serve as Trustee. Either way, look forward to the time we meet again.

With continued gratitude and respect,



Debbie L. G.
Chairperson, Board of Trustees
Al-Anon Family Groups, Inc.



Finance Committee Update

Jennie M., Treasurer

October 2017

The following update is based on the unaudited financial statements for the period ended September 30, 2017:

The General Fund recorded a loss of \$73,089 for this period, compared to a gain of \$303,315 this period last year. That represents a net negative of \$376,404 over this period last year. Revenue from literature sales was slightly behind that of 2016, but is tracking ahead of budgeted expectations. The General Fund investment income totaled about \$38,000. We have transferred \$142,200 from the Reserve Fund to the General Fund, as budgeted.

Income:

Literature sales were \$2,656,585 for this period, compared to \$2,663,981 at this time last year. Gross profit on literature sales was \$2,157,888 (81% of sales), compared to \$2,174,164 for 2016. Contributions are at \$1,427,956 for 2017, compared to \$1,459,358 last year—a decrease of 2.1% and falling short of budgeted projections by \$150,000 for the first nine months of the year. *Forum* subscription income was \$200,230 for 2017, an increase of 8%.

Expenses:

Actual operating expenses were \$4,136,660 for the first nine months of 2017, compared to \$3,681,725 last year and slightly over budget which is normal for this time of year. Full staffing is reflected in the increased expenditure over last year.

Reserve Fund:

The fair value of investments in the Reserve Fund totaled \$5,676,705 at September 30, 2017, an increase in value of over \$800,000 for this year reflecting the overall increased value found in the equities market.

Outlook:

Believing that the fellowship would be able to repeat its strong 2016 support in 2017, the budget was built on that expression of abundance and faith. If members are able to match 2016 contributions in 2017, we will end the year on target. We are looking to collect \$660,000 during October, November and December of 2017. Area treasuries can only do so much – we are dependent, as always, on individuals and groups as we try to help those who carry the message of hope.

Policy Committee Update

John M., Chairperson

Bruce F., Co-Chairperson

October 2017

The purpose of the update sent each quarter by the Chairperson 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 October 2017 Policy Committee Meeting:

Policy Digest Review Thought Force presented the Policy Committee with a spreadsheet that made suggestions based on their review of the different sections of the Policy Digest. They marked each section as follows; *Policy with Spiritual Principles, Policy without Spiritual Principles, Not Written as Policy, but Should Be and Does Not Belong*. The Thought Force was thanked for their work and disbanded. Several task forces will be created in the upcoming weeks to work on various aspects of the Thought Force's findings.

Electronic Meetings Work Group reported on their progress. They have some good ideas about how to move forward and will begin working on one or two of them. They are also working on a breakout session for the 2018 World Service Conference.

“Open” and “Closed” Terminology discussion was continued. A task force will be created to change the language to be more welcoming to newcomers and professionals.

Getting in Touch with Al-Anon/Alateen (S23) pamphlet was discussed in light of changes in the way it is delivered to the fellowship. During the discussion, it became clear that what was in the Policy Digest about “*Getting in Touch with Al-Anon/Alateen*” is not policy. It does not interpret the Traditions or the Concepts. It is informational and most likely belongs elsewhere. The Policy Committee decided to leave it as it is until one of the Policy Digest Review Task Forces has a chance to make recommendations.

There was also a discussion about problems that come up when the Policy Digest is translated into Spanish and French. It was suggested that changes or additions to the Policy Digest be sent to the translators to review before the changes go to Conference for approval.

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.

Conference Leadership Team (CLT) Update

October 2017

Judy K., Chair
Teri M., Co-Chair

The purpose and responsibility of the Conference Leadership Team (CLT) is to prepare a World Service Conference (WSC) agenda that facilitates the active voice and effective group conscience of our fellowship. The CLT, which began its work immediately following the 2017 Conference, models the 2018 Conference theme “Al-Anon—There is no standing still!”

CLT has completed a revision of the *Conference Procedures* booklet. Besides reorganization of content, some additional terms and procedural information have been added to provide clarity about voting. It is our hope that the updated booklet will be a valuable resource for Conference members.

For 2018, CLT has scheduled time on the Conference agenda for Conference members to discuss *four* Chosen Agenda Items (CAIs). Two CAIs will be discussed in the General Session. Two of the three other topics will be discussed in small group breakout sessions during Conference week. Newly-elected Delegates of Panel 58 will also be invited to submit CAI topics when their term begins in January 2018. The deadline for submission of topics has been extended to February 1, 2018, so Panel 58 Delegates can offer suggested topics as well as vote on their priorities.

The CAIs will be compiled and fact-checked by a new Task Force that includes two Delegates, and two other Delegates will combine the submissions into similar topics for posting to AFG Connects.

CLT continues to find more ways for active Delegate participation in the Conference agenda. A Task Force of Delegates has been formed to present Conference Etiquette (formerly referred to as *Conference Rules*), the Conference theme, Conference Goals, and Conference voting procedures.

Time is scheduled on the agenda for Conference members to hear a talk from our new World Service Office Executive Director, Vali F., and on Wednesday, April 18, 2018. Conference members will be able to visit Stepping Stones, the home of our Co-founder Lois W.

As these updates reveal, the CLT continues to plan for another dynamic WSC, being mindful that a full and meaningful Conference agenda will truly reflect the active voice of our fellowship.

The six members of your Conference Leadership Team include the Associate Director—Conference (formerly titled Associate Director of Member Services—Conference), the Chair and Co-Chair, both Trustees; the Chair of the Board of Trustees; the WSO Executive Director and Director of Programs.