



## **Hello Florida North Panel 61**

I am humbled by the opportunity this service position has offered to my recovery during the past 6 months. As your Delegate, it was an honor to represent the Florida North Area at the World Service Conference (WSC) in April. The past year was historic not only for Al-Anon but for the world, and being a part of this 2021 Conference made the experience unforgettable. What a learning experience!

### **The following are the 2021 Conference Highlights: (as presented by the WSO)**

Al-Anon's largest representative group conscience, the World Service Conference, was held virtually April 12–16, 2021. The theme was "Moving Forward with Unity, Courage, and Perseverance." The 61st annual Conference brought together 64 Delegates, two Alternate Delegates, and one past Delegate who represented the 67 Areas in the US (including Puerto Rico), Canada, and Bermuda. Other voting participants included members of Al-Anon's Board of Trustees and Executive Committee and voting members of the World Service Office administrative Staff. Office "Tech Team" and Events Staff attended to facilitate the meetings, including a virtual hospitality room.

Each year, the Conference Leadership Team invites all General Service Offices (GSO) to send a representative to attend with voice and no vote. With the Conference being held virtually, a record-breaking 12 GSOs sent a representative, which was amazing!

### **Electronic Meetings Motions:**

The Electronic Meeting Work Group (EMWG) presented two motions to the Conference for consideration: \*Both motions passed.

1. Update the World Service Handbook's definition of Area to include non-geographically based groupings, such as Groups that meet electronically with members that represent no single geographic location such as an Area or Service Structure.
2. To eliminate the specific Policy on Electronic Meetings in accordance with Tradition Three that states "The relatives of alcoholics, when gathered together for mutual aid, may call themselves an Al-Anon Family Group" and recognize these meetings as Al-Anon Family Groups.

These two motions were passed by the Conference Members and they now pave the way for Al-Anon Family Groups that meet electronically (formally known as Electronic Meetings) to elect a Group Representative (GR). These Groups and their GRs now can establish a service structure that supports all non-geographically based Groups, which will follow the "Area Procedures for Joining the Conference" according to the "Conference Procedures" starting on page 165 in the 2018-2021 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual (P24/27) version two (2). This is a

historic moment for our fellowship, as we fully embrace the many ways Al-Anon members are able to find recovery—by attending meetings no matter the location; physical, virtual, or both—and members of groups meeting electronically become fully represented at Conference by their elected representative.

As a result of the presentation and discussion, the 2021 WSC members voted by substantial unanimity to support the recommendations offered by the EMWG, and approved by the Policy Committee and Board of Trustees, which include the following:

- Removal of the "Electronic Meetings" portion of the Policy Digest to recognize permanently registered electronic Al-Anon meetings as Al-Anon Family Groups, eligible for representation through an elected Area Delegate with voice and vote at the World Service Conference.
- Revision of text found throughout the World Service Handbook to support the creation of non-geographically based Areas. This change immediately created a non-panel Area to which all the registered Al-Anon Family Groups which meet electronically now belong.

In other words, the World Service Conference and the WSO are now delighted to be able to say, **"Welcome CMAs of Al-Anon Family Groups!!!"**

### **Simultaneous Interpretation:**

Marking the end of a three-year trial to provide simultaneous interpretation to French- and Spanish-speaking Delegates, Conference passed a historic motion to approve the ongoing availability of Spanish and French interpretation at future Conferences when requested by Areas to support their WSC Delegates. It is hoped this decision will widen the Delegate candidate pool by welcoming the contributions of many non-English-speaking trusted servants.

The Board Interpretation Task Force shared estimated and actual in-person interpretation figures for the last three Conferences. The trial, approved by the Board of Trustees, had been funded from the Reserve Fund as a special project. Since ongoing funding as a special project would not be a prudent financial principle and a financial commitment from the WSO operating budget would not be sustainable, Conference members concentrated on the implications of allocating future costs evenly across the Areas as part of the equalized and full cost.

It was noted that Al-Anon has been trilingual from its very beginning, and quoted from the Service Manual and other Conference Approved Literature to highlight how Al-Anon principles pertain to the discussion. Conference members immediately acknowledged the importance of this step toward increasing unity within our WSC Structure and globally before focusing discussion on the financial implications of the decision.

### **Literature:**

The 2021 World Service Conference held three separate discussions regarding Conference Approved Literature, which were all based on recommendations from the Literature Committee.

1. The first discussion considered the development of a new Alateen bookmark based on the Just for Tonight Al-Anon Bookmark (M-81). This suggestion was received from Alateen groups that love the bookmark and would like an Alateen version. Like the Just for Today Alateen Bookmark (M-13), its contents would come from the teens themselves. After thoroughly discussing the matter, the Conference voted in favor of creating the bookmark.
2. The second discussion centered on the book, *The Dilemma of the Alcoholic Marriage* (B-4), which was first introduced in 1967. Members of the fellowship have expressed that the book is outdated and needs revision. By using the Knowledge-Based Decision-Making Process and

studying the pros and cons of various options, the Literature Committee eventually reached a solution. Rather than discontinue or update the book, the Committee proposed adding a new Preface to the book that would place it in historical perspective and develop a booklet made up of “gems” from the original, possibly including some new material. Following discussion, the Conference agreed with the Committee’s recommendation.

3. The final literature discussion was prompted by increased concerns from the fellowship about our first daily reader, *One Day at a Time in Al-Anon* (B-6) from 1968, and what some members consider the dated or non-inclusive language of the book. After considerable discussion, the Committee rested on the idea of creating a new introduction to the book, similar to its recommendation for *The Dilemma of the Alcoholic Marriage* (B-4). This could provide a historical perspective on the book, and at the same time, emphasize the timeless nature of Al-Anon’s spiritual principles that the book so wonderfully exemplifies. After having its own spirited discussion of the topic, the Conference agreed.

### **Alateen Preamble to the Twelve Steps:**

The Policy Committee convened an Alateen Preamble Language (APL) Task Force led by WSO Staff and was assigned the following charge: “To recommend to the Policy Committee changes to the Alateen Preamble that will ensure its language is welcoming to potential teenage newcomers who are affected by someone else’s alcoholism and can be translated into the three official AFG, Inc. languages.”

The Task Force consisted of six members: five currently certified AMIAS and one Alateen. The revised Preamble has been approved by the 2021 WSC and now reads:

*“Alateen, part of Al-Anon Family Groups, is for young people who have been affected by alcoholism in a family member or friend. We help each other by sharing our experience, strength, and hope. “We believe alcoholism is a family disease affecting everyone emotionally and sometimes physically. Although we cannot change or control the alcoholics in our lives, we can detach from their problems while continuing to love them.”*

*“In Alateen we focus on our own program rather than outside issues such as religion, politics, social media, or other Twelve Step programs. There are no dues for membership. Alateen is self-supporting through its own voluntary contributions. Alateen has one purpose: to help young people affected by someone else’s drinking. We are careful to protect each other’s anonymity as well that of all Al-Anon and A.A. members. “By applying the Twelve Steps to ourselves, we begin to recover from the effects of the family disease of alcoholism mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. This allows us to encourage our alcoholic relatives and friends, and to give hope to other teens.”*

### **DELEGATE'S “El Gazette Online”**

The new page is up on the Area website. More information will be posted soon!

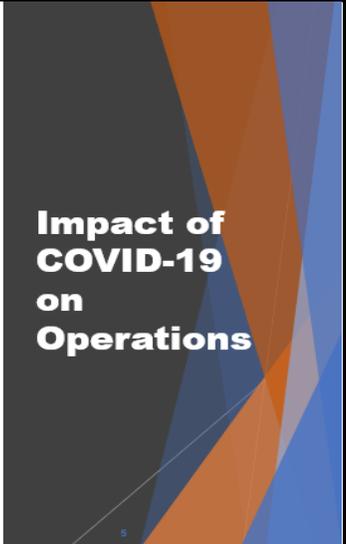
**Delegate's  
“El Gazette Online”**



**AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP HEADQUARTERS, INC.  
2021 OPERATING BUDGET**

	<b>2021 Budget</b>	<b>2020 Actual</b>
<b><u>Estimated Revenue</u></b>		
Literature Sales less cost of printing	1,924,400	1,846,492
Contributions	2,882,110	3,295,720
Magazine sales	295,000	291,963
Subscription income	38,400	4,662
Investment Income/Transfer from Reserve Fund	251,600	38,633
<b>Total Estimated Revenue</b>	<b>5,391,510</b>	<b>5,477,470</b>
<b><u>Operating Expenses</u></b>		
Salaries	3,292,220	2,977,188
Payroll Taxes	246,770	215,355
Employee Benefits	453,390	428,355
Total Labor Costs	<u>3,992,380</u>	<u>3,620,898</u>
Building Occupancy	278,500	272,702
Packing & Shipping (Net)	(45,000)	(46,412)
Postage	186,050	157,665
Telephone (Phone & Internet)	51,100	50,442
Stationery & Office Supplies	51,900	43,880
Office Services & Expenses	270,000	236,449
Repairs & Maintenance	13,070	11,709
Travel & Meetings	102,090	25,991
Direct Conference Costs (Net)	9,750	8,616
Conference Interpretation	11,250	5,000
Legal & Audit	71,800	76,970
Printing	148,600	167,508
Canadian Office	1,820	1,780
General services meeting	-	-
In-Office Volunteers	100	10
Membership Survey	1,000	-
PSA Campaign	91,000	103,097
Bank and Credit Card Fees	117,000	112,237
Miscellaneous	11,880	7,549
Postretirement Health Benefits	65,000	69,690
<b>Total Operating Expense</b>	<u>5,429,290</u>	<u>4,925,781</u>
Depreciation (Exc. Bldg.)	36,000	42,500
<b>Total Expense</b>	<u>5,465,290</u>	<u>4,968,281</u>
Net increase (decrease) from Operations	<b>(73,780)</b>	509,189

## IMPACT OF COVID-19

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ March 2020 was the first month in which operations were heavily impacted.</li><li>▶ The organization along with the rest of the country suffered significant losses in the stock market in February and March 2020.</li><li>▶ Literature sales experienced their lowest month in April 2020 only grossing around \$85,000 in sales.</li><li>▶ Based on the immediate trend, a large deficit was projected and in May a special appeal went out to the fellowship.</li><li>▶ Despite the increase of financial support, furloughs and expense reductions were required.</li><li>▶ The fellowship responded with a huge increase in contributions. June 2020 had over \$500K in contributions.</li></ul>	 <p><b>Impact of COVID-19 on Operations</b></p>
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### 1st Delegate's Virtual Workshop - Encourage Service!!

This a 2 ½ hour Workshop using the Twelve Concepts of Service. The Workshop was presented at the 2021 World Service Conference and now I will like to bring it to all the members of our Area 9. I will be available to bring the Workshop to the Districts starting in August and continue during the rest of 2021. DRs or DISLs please send me an email with at least 2 possible dates that your District is open to offering the Workshop. Once the date is confirmed I will send a Zoom invitation with all the details so you can inform all the members of your District.

***RESERVE YOUR DATE!!***

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More information will be presented at the Area 9 June 2021 Assembly.

Thanks for giving me the opportunity to serve as your Delegate!

*Evelyn T.*



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*"Talk to each other, reason things out. Keep it simple."*

*"Panel 61 Delegate's Slogan: The Legacies live on"*

See you at the Assembly...