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April 2021

Dear Conference Members:

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc., it is my privilege to welcome you to the 61st World Service Conference. This year's Conference theme, "Moving Forward with Unity, Courage, and Perseverance," is perfect considering the changes that have happened this past year, not only in Al-Anon, but in the world. This week, we will move forward and continue the conversation that was started 61 years ago.

When I think about unity, I think about working together for the greater good. I look for a balance between what I want and what is *best* for the common good. I ask myself, are my actions contributing to the unity or am I part of the dis-unity? Unity keeps me focused on the idea that we are all working towards the same goal of fulfilling AI-Anon's primary purpose of helping families and friends of alcoholics.

Courage is one of the gifts I receive from a relationship with a Higher Power. Courage helps me to be open-minded enough to take the risks necessary to find effective solutions to problems. With courage, I can trust the process and remember that a Higher Power is in charge.

Perseverance is the ability to keep doing something in spite of obstacles. You, our Al-Anon members, showed amazing perseverance in many ways this past year. Even with all the obstacles brought on by not being able to meet face-to-face, Al-Anon groups are continuing to meet.

In 1961, Bill W. welcomed Conference members at the very first World Service Conference. He concluded his welcome with this quote, "Each one of these yearly meetings, be they dull, be they controversial, are really an insurance policy which can guarantee the future unity and the functioning of your society. You will surely look back upon this day as a great one in the annals of the Al-Anon Family Groups."

I am not expecting that this week will be dull! I will not be surprised if there is some controversy. I hope that this week will, as Bill said, "guarantee the future unity and functioning" of Al-Anon. During this 61st World Service Conference, if we rely on the greater wisdom that guides us, and work together with unity, courage, and perseverance, we will be able to make the best decisions—decisions that will shape the future of Al-Anon Family Groups.

With gratitude,

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Lynette K.

Chairperson, Board of Trustees

Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc.

Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc., 1600 Corporate Landing Parkway, Virginia Beach, VA 23454-5617

61st World Service Conference April 12-16, 2021

Moving Forward with Unity, Courage, and Perseverance Avancemos con unidad, valor y perseverancia Allons de l'avant avec unité, courage et persévérance

Welcome to the 2021 World Service Conference!

The Board's Goals for the Conference

The Conference, Al-Anon's largest group conscience, will act in the spirit of unity and goodwill to assure that Al-Anon's world services are continually available to the Al-Anon fellowship:

GOAL 1: The spiritual tone of the Conference will prevail by the demonstration of Al-Anon's core principles in action.

GOAL 2: The Conference will provide guidance to Al-Anon's Board of Trustees and the World Service Office (WSO) on services to the fellowship and guardianship of Al-Anon's Twelve Traditions.

GOAL 3: Conference members will understand the purpose of the Conference, relationships within the Structure, and be able to articulate Conference discussions and decisions.