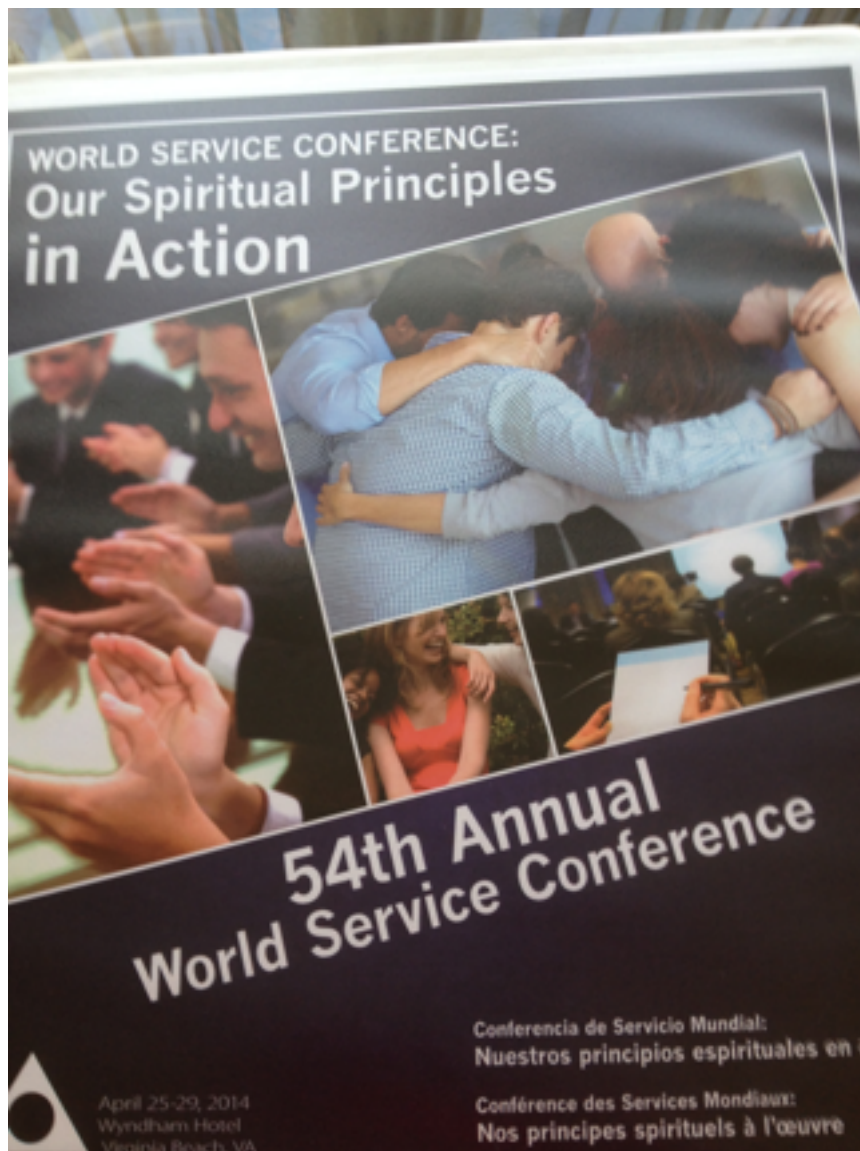
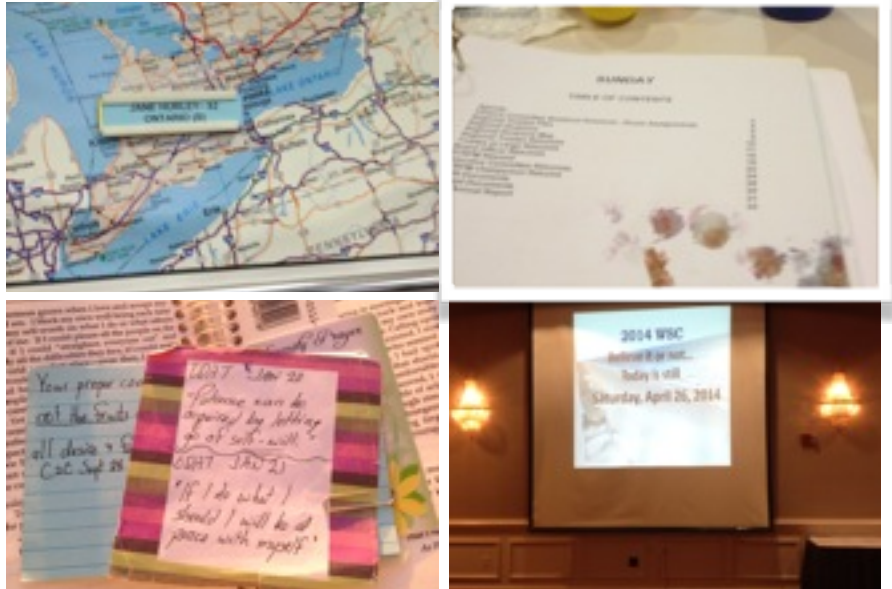


2014 World Service Conference Report
for AWSC, May 30 - June 1, 2014
Jane H. Ontario South Delegate
Panel 52

Our Spiritual Principles in Action



Random Snaps!!



Canadian Delegates' Meeting

- met with Canadian Delegates and Canadian Trustees on Thursday April 24 for dinner followed by our meeting
- Topics discussed: Review of Area Reports
 - Possibility of Changing the Boundaries of Northern Areas
 - Applying Our spiritual Principles in our Business Affairs
 - Concerns regarding Literature Costs to Canadian LDC's/members
- setting up a private Facebook page for Canadian Delegates to communicate with each other
- all Canadian Trustees (East, Central, West) will be elected for the upcoming panel

Chosen Agenda Items

CAI:

How can we encourage more participation in service in our groups including stepping up to serve as a Group Representative and having members sign-up to lead group meetings?

CAI:

How can we inspire service in Al-Anon?

Summary of Discussion

- members in service were initially asked to participate and in turn ask other members directly to participate
- personal connections - fellowship
- attitudes of energy, enthusiasm and fun
- working all the steps leads to step 12
- education - understanding the responsibilities of the service position and sharing the personal recovery benefits
- helping members - being available to be supportive

CAI:

What strategies have been used to address obstacles to success when they arise at the Area level? The three obstacles to success lead to dissension when the principles of our program are not foremost on everyone's mind, not only at the group level, but also at district and Area levels.

CAI:

Dealing with a member (who holds elected positions) that is out of control, dominant, disrespectful, micro-managing everything and everyone; someone with no regard or respect for the feelings and/or anonymity of other members. What is the best action to take to preserve personal integrity and that of the program?

Summary

- be pro-active - state what bothers you in a meeting and what to do about it
- study the Traditions
- get all the facts
- get help - reach out - ask an AWSC member to help with Area problem members
- communicate, communicate, communicate!
- use Conflict Resolution kit

Thank you to those who shared their concerns with me

Two items were discussed - each having a one hour discussion time.

Policy Discussions and Definitions

Guidelines for our discussions:

Is it accurate?

Is it clear?

Can you live with it?

Dual Members

- Policy Committee's aim was to clarify the spiritual principles that underly Al-Anon's policy on Dual Members.

- Both AA and Al-Anon continue to employ the policy of keeping the fellowships separate.

See Guideline #3

- the term dual members has been replaced with Members of Al-Anon Family Groups Who Are also Members of Alcoholics Anonymous.

MOTION:To amend the text of the “Dual Membership in Al-Anon/Alateen and A.A.”

subsection starting on page 82 and ending on page 83 in the “Membership and Group Meetings/Conventions”

section of the “Digest of Al-Anon and Alateen Policies” section of the 2014-2017 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual.

MOTION CARRIED

Refer to attached full wording changes at the back of this document

Memorial Contributions

- this is an on-going discussion based on 2013 Memorial Donation discussions

- issue - whether or not to accept memorial contributions from family members of a deceased Al-Anon member

- clarification of the term "family" - now defined as anyone who plays a significant role in a person's life Tradition 3 indicates that an Al-Anon member is anyone who says they are

Discussion will continue

Universal Understanding of Recovery (4 member surveys have been conducted)

Background - to encourage professionals to understand that recovery from alcoholism includes the entire family not only the alcoholic. Personal recovery for the family is desirable to regain their own mental physical and spiritual health

Defintion of Family Recovery (to date)

“Family recovery is a process of healing and growth for the family members who live or have lived in a family affected by someone’s problem drinking. this process helps these individuals o make healthier life choices, and to develop relationships that are more positive and supportive.”

Discussion will continue

Presentations

Committee Reports

Thought Committee - Create Strategies on the Importance of a Home Group

Thought Committee - Technology as more Inclusive rather than Exclusive

Task Committee - Develop a Script of Workshop to Encourage Discussion about the Difference between Principles and Procedures in AI-Anon

Task Committee - Create Games Using the Information in the Service Manual

Task Committee - Compilation of Area guidelines for Trusted Servants Not Fulfilling Responsibilities

Importance of a Home Group

What Could be Done?

Members:

- share at meetings about the benefits of a sense of belonging, feeling connected, removing isolation
- member submit articles to The Forum about their Home Group
- sponsors talk about the need for a home group to new sponsees
- Groups:
 - meeting topic; The Home Group
 - include in your Beginners Meeting
 - include mention of it in your introduction
 - understanding that your home group is where you vote on matters outside of group matters

Beyond the Group Level:

- create a definition of Home Group
- district/Area presentation on Home Groups
- use the term more often in our literature

Technology For All Members

What Could Be Done?

Reach Everyone:

- encourage members to discuss ways to use smartphones to receive information
- use on-line or telephone conference calls or other technologies to help remote areas attend meetings/Assemblies (think Telehealth Canada, free conference calls using FONGO)
- webinars

Resources:

- create a technology coordinator
- create workshops to introduce members to technological problems and solutions
- create a technical section or blog on Area website to allow members to discuss technology

Principles behind Procedures

Purpose: members appreciate and understand the underlying spiritual principles of our Legacies that govern Al-Anon procedures

Refer to attachment at the back of this document

Compilation of Area Guidelines for Trusted Servants Not fulfilling Responsibilities

Processes

1) *Proactive*

- job descriptions
- resumes
- training
- service sponsors
- communication

2) *Action*

- presume goodwill
- identify non-fulfillment
- investigate complaints
- identify team; decide the approach
- avoid gossip
- offer help; hear all sides

3) *Removal*

- Area officer's guidelines
- appointment of replacement
- communication with a trusted servant
- record keeping

Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual Games

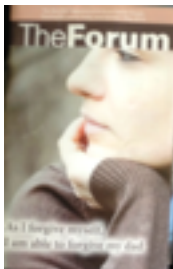
See handout

Literature

New Daily Reader



- daily readers are the most popular of all CAL.
- it takes 4-5 years to develop a new reader.
- in response to members asking for a new daily reader over a period of the last eleven years the Literature Committee put forth a motion giving conceptual approval to develop a new daily reader that will reflect the wide range of experiences of AI-Anon members.
- members will be encouraged to send in sharings that would reflect a wide range of issues; any part of your experience, strength and hope, challenges, abuse (emotional, physical, sexual), your journey to a spiritual awareness,



The Forum

- The Forum is the most effective means of communicating with members and groups. **BUT, it only reaches 23% of our members! 77% of our members miss it**
- The Forum provides
 - unique and timely information,
 - reaches more deeply into the membership,
 - a wide cross section of members who are involved in service
 - the primary pipeline that connects members in service,
 - provides current and contemporary recovery stories

However, personal subscriptions continue to decline. Since July 2010 onwards subscriptions have continues to drop by 100 each month!

Financial

Auditor's Report and Budget

Literature Sales - \$4,118,601 were up from 2012 by \$355,040

Group Contributions - \$ 1,405 814 were up \$59, 532

55% of groups from Ontario South

Average Donation - \$122.99 (per group)

Total Donations - \$ \$25,992

Other Donations - \$ 3700

Budget for 2014

Total Expenses \$5 077 000 (increase of \$165 521)

Total Revenue (estimated) \$5 050 000 (increase of \$133 186)

If every group who contributed last year increased their contributions by \$8 then the 2014 budget and budget deficit would be met.

Financial Committee Presentation

The underlying spiritual principle of financially contributing to our fellowship celebrates “what I have” as a member.

Abundance is based on gratitude.

Healthy groups - fully self supporting groups understand that supporting all of Al-Anon is part of our recovery.

How do we talk about finances in our group? our District? our Area?

What is my view on passing the basket? Do I consider that my financial contribution is my opportunity to celebrate my ability to recover by supporting my fellowship in a concrete manner?

Annual Report documents all of the business of the World Service Office for 2013 and is compiled by the Executive Director.

The Auditors Report, the Budget for 2014 and the 2013 Annual Report were accepted by 3 motions by the WSC.

If you would like a copy of any of these reports, please e-mail me at ontariosouthdelegate@hotmail.com

Alateen

Alateen Service e-Manual



For Alateen members...

- read sample shadings from **Alateen Talks**
- submit a sharing electronically
- follow link to register for Alateen chat meetings
- learn more about Alateen literature

Starting an Alateen Group...

Alateens at events...

Alateen Service “e-Manual”...

This new e-Manual provides information about all aspects of Alateen service...

- overview of Alateen service
- becoming an Alateen group sponsor
- role of Alateen group sponsors in Alateen meetings and outside of Alateen meetings (G16)
- relationships with Alateens
- Alateen public outreach
- Challenges in Alateen services
- WSO resources
- Alateen safety

Trustees

Although delegates affirm trustees through an election process, this election must be confirmed by the Board of Trustees.

Some delegates are part of the trustee selection process in the early stages of evaluating the resumes.

All Canadian Trustee position are open this year - Canada East, Canada West, Canada Central.

Presently we have no nominations in Canada Central. Canada Central includes Ontario south, Ontario North and Manitoba/Northwest Ontario.

Trustee Affirmations

Regional Trustees

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| US Southwest | Joyce Bush |
| US Northwest | Donna Eubank |
| US Northeast | Joan Howard |
| US South Central | Annette Thuresson |

Trustee at Large

Terry Follett

Trustee Positions

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Chair of the Board | Paula Burleson |
| Chair of the Exec Committee | Karen Rimmell |

Other Topics... in Addition

Results of Step 12 Survey (May 13 - July 21, 2013)

**1 817 members responded to on-line survey - 86% from US
14% from Canada**

53% were involved with service spending on average 3.6 hours per month

most were involved at the group level and the fewest participated in public outreach

82% of members surveyed believe that Twelve Step work to be a very important part of their recovery

Survey indicated that the results ore representative of The Forum readers, who are relatively highly involved in service for Al-Anon.

80% - 90% of the fellowship does not hear our messages

Next Steps:

- introduce newcomers to the service message early on - What can they do?**
- increase public outreach activities**
- increase individual sharing**
- encourage service beyond the group level**
- provide clarity of the spiritual principles of Traditions Eleven and Twelve**
- increase members' involvement with WSO social media Web site**

Meet the Board Event- Newfoundland Labrador this July

Board will hold a second event July 2015.

Area is chosen by pulling one from a hat.

Do we want to make a bid again????

Trips by Trustees and WSO staff

Executive Director visited Australia, New Zealand and Finland

Two of the Associate Directors and two trustees visited Honduras and Germany

Reason for Trips - share information

- act as a resource

Feedback:

Came away from the trips feeling that we are more alike than different.

Alcoholism affects all of us at that root feeling the same way world-wide.

Awareness that we are blessed with the vast library of CAL. Members really cared for what literature they do have. Some groups only have "Groups at Work" and one daily reader.

Open Board Meeting

Main topic - International Conventions

Information shared and discussed:

- purpose of International Conventions is marketed as an International Family Reunion**
- International Conventions require huge amounts of time by the WSO staff and often other projects are put on hold during the year of the convention**
- perhaps consider an International every 10 years**
- consider outsourcing the planning**

Discussion will continue

Open Policy Meeting

discussion surrounding the free internet services, like Yahoo. Would using them be supported by our Legacies?

Discussion will continue

e-News



How well is this being used in Ontario South? Benefits? Concerns?

New from WSO in 2014

Treatment Facilities Outreach Project

- a 5 stage planning process
- 4 Power Point modules are available
- 2 Guides
- refer to WSO website - members - service structure - district resources

Using Al-Anon Principles to Resolve Conflict Kit

- new this year is the booklet **Talk to Each Other** S73.
- kit contains Loving Interchange to Resolve Conflict, S71; Conflict Resolution Using our Twelve Traditions, S72; Talk to Each Other, Resolving Conflicts within Al-Anon, S73
- Kit - S70 - \$12.20 Canadian funds

Positive Steps

Motion permitting the use
passed.



of electronic devices was

Delegate initiated motion to amend the Conference Procedure Booklet, p 9,
Presentation of Floor Motions.

Motion: TO PROVIDE DELEGATE-INITIATED MOTION SPONSORSHIP

Presently it is a very complicated and time consuming procedure. Most delegates do not have the experience of providing the WSC with all the specific criteria that is necessary. In addition, the motion is entertained only at the discretion of the Chair of Conference.

This motion will provide a process by which a delegate may submit a motion and have it become a part of the WSC agenda.

The motion was read at the conference but due to time and a procedural decision the motion was not discussed in any detail.

The motion is included as part of the addendum.

Stay tuned!

Breakout Sessions

Finance - Group Budgets

- very productive and helpful session
- see addendum for support document
- WSO Guideline G41 Reserve Fund Guideline

What will AI-Anon be like in 2051, our 100th Anniversary?

The Big Question?

How can we as service leaders anticipate the future and AI-Anon's place in it, ensuring that the necessary resources are available, with our spiritual principles as our guide?

Four aspects were examined:

- spiritual principles/core values
- what actions can we take today to ensure AI-anon's place in the future?
- how do we ensure that the necessary resources are available?
- what practices/procedures within AI-Anon may be limiting forward moving?
What changes need to take place?

A very detailed synopsis of all sessions will be available on our Area website.

Addendum

- 1. Principles/Procedures**
- 2. Finance - Group Budgets**
- 3. WSC motions**
- 4. Motion: To provide delegate-initiated motion sponsorship**
- 5. Delegate 3 minute talk**

Workshop on the Difference between Principles and Procedures

Supplies needed: Chart pads/markers

INTRODUCTION

Al-Anon has many procedures that are followed from the group level all the way through the WSC. Many of these procedures help to keep Al-Anon strong and growing.

Most of our members follow these procedures and understand why we need to follow them, but what Al-Anon principles govern these procedures? The Al-Anon principles are contained in: The Twelve Steps, The Twelve Traditions, and The Twelve Concepts of Service.

ACTIVITY:

1. Have participants break into four or five groups (depending on number of participants).
2. Provide each group with chart paper and markers.
3. Give each group a “procedure” from the *Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual* or Guidelines, or a procedure that is followed at the group, district, or Area level.
4. Set a time limit for each group to come up with the “principles” (Step, Tradition, Concept) that was taken into consideration when the procedure was formed.
5. Bring groups back together to discuss their findings.

Some Procedures that could be discussed:

Membership eligibility

Who can start a group?

Multiple group membership and office-holding Recording/Filming

Alateen personal Sponsor should not be an Al-Anon member Naming a group

Contributions

- By individuals
- By groups
- Al-Anon/Alateen Conventions

This workshop could also be done with procedures followed in a group, district, or Area.

EXAMPLES:

PROCEDURES PRINCIPLES

List a few procedures to give the participants an idea of what we are looking for such as:

Ask: What principles were considered when writing these procedures? Write as many tradition/concepts as may apply along with the underlying spiritual principle.

Election of Area Delegate

Agenda for a business meeting

Quarterly Appeal Letter

From *Members Interested in Speaking (G-1)* – Plan What to Say

guard with special care the anonymity of all AA members.

RESOURCES: *2014-2017 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual (P-24/27); Members Interested in Speaking (G-1); District Meetings (G-15)*

Information about Al-Anapolis AFG

Group Name: Al-Anapolis AFG
Al-Anonia

Group location: Al-Anapolis,

Average group attendance: 10 members

Number of Assemblies per year in Al-Anonia Area: 2

Rent for meeting location: \$30/month

Refreshments at meeting: \$50/year

Local AIS/LDC asks each group to support it by contributing \$25 each year

Number of groups in the District: 10

District budget per year: \$250

Number of groups in Al-Anonia Area: 100

Al-Anonia Area budget per year: \$10,000

Cost for WSO to service a group for 1 year: \$260

Estimated cost of sending your GR to the Spring Assembly (one day) - share a ride with others:

- Travel \$10
- Meals \$30
- Registration \$10
- Total \$50

Estimated cost of sending your GR to the Fall Assembly (Friday night, Saturday, Sunday morning) - share a ride and room with others. This Fall Assembly location is farther away than the Spring Assembly:

- Travel \$ 20
- Meals \$ 80
- Lodging \$100
- Registration \$ 20

- Total \$220

Literature purchases every 3 months \$200

Literature sales each month \$60

The group provides babysitting and does not charge the parents for this service. The babysitter costs \$10 per meeting.

| | \$ AMOUNT | X PER YEAR | TOTAL ANNUAL \$ |
|----------------------------------|-----------|------------|-----------------|
| Rent | | | |
| Refreshments | | | |
| DISTRICT | | | |
| AREA | | | |
| AIS/LDC WSO | | | |
| Group Representative Expenses | | | |
| Literature purchases | | | |
| Literature Sales (subtract) | | | |
| Babysitter | | | |
| Other | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| Total | | | |
| | | | |
| Weekly cost for the group | | | |
| Contribution per member | | | |
| | | | |

2014 WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE (WSC) MOTIONS

MOTION #1 – (BY CONSENSUS) – CARRIED

That the following persons be seated at the 2014 World Service Conference:

With voice, but no vote:

| | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| David Zach | Director of Business Services | Non-Al-Anon Member |
| Catalina Calderón | International Representative—Mexico | Al-Anon Member |

With voice limited to Executive Committee for Real Property Management (ECRPM) business, but no vote:

| | | |
|------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Carrie Kitterman | Chairman, ECRPM | Al-Anon Member |
|------------------|-----------------|----------------|

With voice limited to the Universal Understanding of Recovery discussion and the presentation of the results of the “Readiness for Step Twelve” survey, but no vote:

| | | |
|----------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| Pamela Walters | Marketing Information Analyst | Non-Al-Anon Member |
|----------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|

That the following WSO staff member be seated as part of her ongoing training at the 2014 World Service Conference on Saturday, April 26, 2014, and Monday, April 28, 2014, **with no voice and no vote:**

| | | |
|--------------|------------------------|----------------|
| Julie Miller | Communications Manager | Al-Anon Member |
|--------------|------------------------|----------------|

MOTION #2 – (71 YES, 22 no, 3 abstentions, 0 void) – CARRIED

That the 2014 WSC give conceptual approval to develop a new daily reader that reflects the diversity of the Al-Anon fellowship.

MOTION #3 – (96 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions, 0 void) - CARRIED

To approve the 2013 Audited Financial Report.

MOTION #4 – (96 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions, 0 void) - CARRIED

To approve the 2014 Finance Committee Report.

MOTION #5 – (95 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions, 1 void) - CARRIED

To approve the 2013 Annual Report.

MOTION #6 – (88 yes, 8 no, 1 abstentions, 0 void) - CARRIED

To amend the text of the “Dual Membership in Al-Anon/Alateen and A.A.” subsection starting on page 82 and ending on page 83 in the “Membership and Group Meetings/Conventions” section of the “Digest of Al-Anon and Alateen Policies” section of the *2014-2017 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual* as follows:

(New text is underlined and bold; moved text is underlined. Strikethrough indicates deletion.)

Dual Membership in Al-Anon/Alateen and A.A.

Service Participation by Members of Al-Anon Family Groups Who Are also Members of Alcoholics Anonymous

~~Al-Anon/Alateen members who are also members of A.A. are eligible to hold office within their Al-Anon or Alateen groups. Active members of Al-Anon who are also A.A.s may serve as the Sponsor of Alateen groups by virtue of~~

their Al-Anon membership. These are vital group services, and at all times emphasis should be placed on the Al-Anon interpretation of the program.

Al-Anon Family Groups and Alcoholics Anonymous (A.A.) share a common spiritual legacy in A.A.'s Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions. Before Al-Anon was founded, family groups met with and beside A.A. groups. In 1951 various family groups banded together and agreed to organize Al-Anon Family Groups, a program dedicated to helping the friends and families of alcoholics. Over the years, Al-Anon developed its own service structure, based on the model provided by A.A.'s experience and guided by the Twelve Traditions.

Because of the unique nature of both programs, Al-Anon/Alateen members who are also A.A. members do not hold office beyond the group level, as these positions could lead to membership in the World Service Conference (WSC). The need to focus on the Al-Anon program and the possibility of

Tradition Five defines Al-Anon's single purpose. Tradition Six encourages cooperation with Alcoholics Anonymous, maintaining that Al-Anon is a separate entity that ought never affiliate or create the appearance of affiliation with any outside enterprise. Putting these principles into practice maintains a separation between the service structures of Al-Anon and A.A. This separation helps avoid the appearance of a conflict of interest at Assembly and world service levels led the WSC to its decision not to seat and safeguards Al-Anon's singleness of purpose. Accordingly, Al-Anon's policy is that members who are also members of A.A. For these reasons A.A. members do not serve as Group Representatives (GRs), District Representatives (DRs), Area Delegate, World Service Conference member, alternate to any of these service positions, or on any committee of the World Service Office. Area Coordinators, Newsletter Editors, Delegates and/or any of their alternates, nor do they sit on the WSO selected committees, whose Chairpersons can be Conference members.

Filling service positions is a matter of district and Area autonomy, within this policy and the spiritual principles that form its basis. Tradition Four grants autonomy to local service arms, except in matters affecting Al-Anon or A.A. as a whole. Al-Anon members who are also members of A.A. participate fully in all group activities, including group conscience decisions. However, they do not hold Al-Anon service positions that vote in matters affecting another group or Al-Anon or A.A. as a whole.

Participating in Al-Anon service is integral to recovery for every member. Step Twelve, carrying our message to others, is a very important part of Al-Anon service. Members of Al-Anon who are also members of A.A. are often in a position to carry our message to those who are not aware of the benefits of attending Al-Anon Family Groups. Members of Al-Anon who are also members of A.A. may serve Al-Anon in ways that include being an Alateen Group Sponsor (see "Alateen Policy") or they may be invited by local/Area service arms, the Board of Trustees, or the World Service Office to participate in projects, in keeping with the spirit of this policy.

This policy on service participation by members of Al-Anon who are also A.A. members protects Al-Anon's viability as a program dedicated to helping the families and friends of alcoholics. It ensures that Al-Anon's service structure represents the unique perspective of families and friends of alcoholics, recognizing that the alcoholic's perspective is represented in A.A.'s service structure. Members honor this policy out of respect for Al-Anon unity and the group conscience process, in accordance with Tradition One and Tradition Two.

MOTION #7 – (91 yes, 6 no, 0 abstentions, 0 void) - CARRIED

To authorize the use of electronic devices for note taking starting at the 2015 World Service Conference on a three-year trial basis.

MOTION

To amend the Conference Procedure Booklet to create Delegate Initiated Motion Sponsorship for World Service Conference Delegates that will enable, support and encourage the development of motions that represent personal and Area concerns based on Delegates' experience, strength and hope.

FRAMING OF MOTION

As Area Delegates we come to the World Service Conference with our collective and varied experience, strength and hope. Participation and open communication are essential elements for practicing our Legacies in the largest group conscience of Al-Anon Family Groups. To facilitate these elements, the ability for Delegates to bring topics to the floor is essential. However, many, if not most conference members do not have the experience, confidence, resources, time or support necessary to develop a motion that entails complicated requirements before it will be accepted for WSC consideration. In addition, individual members often talk privately to others, but their insight is never known to the WSC as a whole. Delegate initiated Motion Sponsorship may encourage members to put forth their ideas and concerns publicly, making transparency and equality a more realized reality of conference.

Our Concepts encourage us to discuss and share our ideas and concerns. Having a clearly defined procedure provides Delegates with the framework and resources necessary to function equally and responsibly in the WSC decision making processes. Participation also responds to our spiritual needs.

“All of us deeply desire to belong. The Al-Anon ideal of a working partnership could never regard any member as second class. This is perhaps the main reason we have struggled to achieve participation at every level. The Right of Participation encourages us who serve Al-Anon to accept the necessary disciplines that our various tasks require. It assures us that we are truly the ‘trusted servants’ described in Al-Anon’s Tradition Two.” (Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual 2014 – 2017, p. 190, Concept Four)

This Delegate Initiated Motion Sponsorship procedure would ensure that the voices and concerns of the Delegates can be communicated equally and sufficiently to the entire WSC.

KBDM QUESTION RESPONSES

Question 1: What do we know about our members' or prospective members' wants, needs, or preferences that are relevant to this discussion?

- Members want to express the concerns of their Area.
- Members want to express their concerns as trusted servants based on the right of decision pursuant to any and all information garnered from their experiences in service.
- Members are worthy of equal opportunity and support to be able to put forth the ideas and concerns of their Areas
- Members and prospective members want to belong, to be recognized, to be loved unconditionally, to be respected and to be appreciated.

Question 2: What do we know about the capacity and strategic position of the organization relative to this issue? (“organization” shall be considered to be the WSC.)

- The WSC has the ability to make additions, deletions or changes to any conference procedures. –
- No one segment of the WSC has the authority over the Conference to change conference procedures.
- As trusted servants, conference members have the ability and are in a position to consider, without prejudice, all proposals that may make the conference more reflective of our Legacies.

Question 3: What do we know about the current realities and evolving dynamics that are relevant to this discussion?

- It is difficult to bring issues to the floor of the conference as the need may arise without going through the KBDM process, thereby minimizing the flow of open interchange among Delegates.
- Thought and task forces present “complete packages” to the WSC, giving the sense that any further discussion may be redundant or out-of-line.
- Thought and task forces have become the accepted avenue for channeling unexpected, spontaneous and spiritually inspired motions which allows them to languish for an unspecified period of time without benefit of the motion initiator’s input.
- Thought and task forces often present “packages” that seem to project corporate control rather than reflect the full Conference and fellowship considered requests.
- There is significant talk about how “scripted” the Conference is and that leaves no room for honest interaction between the Delegates and the WSO. The Delegates are led to agree with the thoughts coming from the WSO.

Question 4: What are the ethical implications of our choices (pros and cons)? This includes consideration of how the Legacies apply.

- Pros:
 - o All elected Conference members will be afforded a fairer and more equitable opportunity to be heard.
 - o A clear voicing procedure will allow for members to respond to their “HP Moments” at Conference by sharing with all WSC members.
 - o The motion initiator will benefit from the lessons learned on framing and developing a motion that provide them with the experience and expertise to pass on to others within their Area.
 - o The ability to enable an informed group conscience involves the respectful use of knowledge, skills, experience and insights as they are expressed in the safety of the Conference. The WSC, through the Delegate Initiated Motion Sponsorship Procedure, will have a forum that demonstrates that the voice of a Delegate is respected and supported. This is a reflection of the belief that a Delegate’s thoughts have value, and that belief is an important and personal demonstration of recovery.
- Cons:
 - o Delegate Initiated Motions may create an agenda time challenge for the Conference Leadership Team.
 - o The selected Trustee and WSO staff person will have additional responsibilities in conjunction with their already assigned WSC tasks.

Question 5: What do we wish we knew, but don’t?

- Will Delegates use this procedure?
- Will the complete framing of this motion be made available to all Conference members?

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- Often members are qualified to make a motion but they do not have the confidence to bring it or put it on the Conference floor.
- Most members are not experienced in making a KBDM-formatted motion and are unfamiliar with a process for presenting a motion that is not a part of the Conference Leadership Team’s agenda
- Individual concerns may be expressed by members to the WSO staff or volunteers, but this first-hand information is not known to all of the WSC members.
- Since there is a continuous rotation of Delegates, a reporting back to the conference will allow for open communication of all proposed motions – including Delegate Initiated Motions. This will ensure that thoughts and concerns are not lost or overlooked.

DELEGATE INITIATED MOTION SPONSORSHIP PROCEDURE

Motion Sponsors will be available to any member requesting a motion to be placed on the World Service Conference Agenda prior to or during the Conference proceedings. When a motion receives Motion Sponsorship it may not be referred to a committee. It will be presented to the WSC for consideration by questions and discussion; and for the motion to pass, it will need a substantial majority vote by ballot.

Who are the members of the motion sponsorship group?

- For each motion, two volunteers (members of the Board and/or Executive Committee, excluding the Executive Director,) and one WSO Associate Director appointed by the Chair of the Conference Leadership Team.
- The Chair may reassess the selection if it becomes evident that special needs arise.

Motion Sponsors' Duties

- Provide support and comfort to the motion provider.
- Assist in the development of the motion's language.
- Supply and access information resources that will support the motion.
- Assist in the development of the five questions required to be answered for motion presentation.
- Acquire video and audio equipment for the motion's presentation.
- Rehearse the motion provider to insure he/she is prepared for the presentation.
- Negotiate with the Chairman or leader for the time required to present, discuss and vote on the motion.
- Introduce the motion's author and provide a one-minute expression of support.

Place and Time of Motion Sponsor Selection

Based on the Delegate Initiated Motion Sponsor selection criteria listed below:

- When a Delegate requests Motion Sponsorship, the Conference Leadership Team will determine the two most qualified Trustees and WSO Associate Director to become the Motion Sponsors.

OR

- Sponsors may be appointed by the Conference Leadership Team prior to the WSC, subject to alteration if the Conference Leadership Team decides at the Conference that the appointees are not qualified on the subject matter, ie., technology issues, building repairs or real estate issues and a better qualified Motion Sponsor should be acquired.

Criteria for Motion Sponsor Selection

- Will agree to support an idea in the affirmative that they might not personally share.
- Will articulate in public a favorable argument supporting the motion.

Motion Eligibility

- Only one motion can be sponsored per Delegate per Conference.
- The maximum Delegate Initiated Sponsored motions that will be addressed at the WSC shall be two.
- When a Delegate Initiated Motion reflects a submitted Conference Agenda Item and Motion Sponsorship is requested of the Conference Leadership Team, the motion and request for sponsorship must be submitted by the first day of the WSC.
- A Delegate Initiated Motion that has not been submitted as a CAI must request Motion Sponsorship no later than midnight of the third day of the WSC.
- Should there be more than two Motion Sponsorship requests by the third day of the Conference, CAI submitted items will take precedence and all other requests will be considered by the earliest date and time of submission during the first three days of the convening Conference.

Delegate Initiated Motion Presentation and Subsequent Action

- Delegate Initiated Motion presentation made to WSC.
- Discussions ensue.
- Amendments made and dealt with if appropriate.
- WSC agrees that information provided is satisfactory for a vote to be taken.
- Vote is taken.
- Passage by substantial majority (two-thirds vote).

OR

- Delegate Initiated Motion presentation made to WSC.
- Discussions ensue.
- Amendments made and dealt with if appropriate.
- WSC agrees that information presented is insufficient for a vote to be taken.
- **If the motion is referred to a committee for further work, the originator of the motion may choose to be a member of that committee.**

Report Back

- The Conference Leadership Team shall report back to the WSC all proposed Delegate Initiated Motions that they received which did not meet the aforementioned Motion Eligibility requirements.
- The Conference Leadership Team may create a committee to further consider any Delegate Initiated Motions mentioned in the report back. The author of an ineligible motion shall be a member of that committee if he/she chooses.

WSC - Our Spiritual Principles in Action - Delegate's 3 minute talk

“You need to say your truth” My service sponsor said these words to me just after I was elected the Ontario South Delegate for Panel 52. At that time I had no idea of how important they would become.

Some of the spiritual principles that guide me in my recovery and my service are openness, courage, honesty, patience, acceptance, respect, trust and willingness. Our Traditions and our Concepts ground me in my thoughts, words and sharings.

At my first WSC, I felt overwhelmed by the arrogance, control, dominance and secrecy that greeted me when I expressed my thoughts. I found myself in the position of expressing a minority opinion. Participation may be the key to harmony but it seemed to me to apply only when an opinion was in agreement with the majority.

My e-mails that I have sent to my fellow delegates was my way of encouraging a conversation among us to take a closer look at the way in which the actions and words we express at the WSC and WSO are affecting the members of our programme - how do we truly reflect Concept 1? How can the current roadblocks be replaced so that the voice of any delegate be heard?

Saying my truth, is often a frightening experience and I found that this is the case for me in my journey as delegate. It might be easier, less risky to fit in. As always, with my Higher Power, strong sponsorship, support of Al-Anon friends, study and discussion of the Traditions and Concepts I am able to move through the fear of being different. By ensuring that my concerns are framed in the light of our Traditions and Concepts I am able to participate.

I have been given the great gift of growth over the last three years. My experiences have allowed me to become more mindful, thoughtful and discerning. I believe that my responsibilities require me to listen with an open mind, to examine, to evaluate, to study the information that I receive, to do my own investigation when required and to evaluate.

As I continue to ask my Higher Power to guide my thoughts, I trust that what comes forth will be spiritually principled expressions of what I have found in our fellowship. For that I am responsible and let it begin with me.

It is my prayer that the amazing legacy of our spiritual principles will continue to be practiced by all those who will come to have the privilege of guiding our fellowship.

Jane H.
Ontario South Delegate
Panel 52

