



April 19-23, 2015
Wyndham Hotel
Virginia Beach, VA

55th | Annual WSC

World Service Conference 2015



LIVING OUR SPIRITUAL PRINCIPLES EXPANDING OUR VISION

Viviendo nuestros principios espirituales
Ampliando nuestra visión

Vivons nos principes spirituels
Élargissons notre vision

2015 WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE REPORT
“LIVING OUR SPIRITUAL PRINCIPLES: EXPANDING OUR VISION”
Ontario South AWSC May 29th to 31st, 2015
Debbie Pangborn Delegate ONTARIO SOUTH Panel 55

2015 Conference Theme “Living Our Spiritual Principles: Expanding our Vision”

It was an honour and a privilege to represent Ontario South at the 2015 World Service Conference.

I am filled with gratitude and appreciation to have been given the opportunity to serve our Area and Al-Anon as a whole in this role.

When I have been asked “How was the Conference?” I discovered that it was difficult to express in words. I could apply every adjective that I know. Two words have become especially descriptive for me, EXPANDING and EQUALIZING. The experience and information I received did EXPAND my vision, my spiritual connection with my Higher Power, my knowledge, my understanding, my comfort level, my character defects and my character assets. I also came to understand at a deeper spiritual level how I am no different, no less than or better than anyone else. I am an EQUAL within the Al-Anon fellowship, and at every level because “I am” and not for what “I do”. For me that is the essence of living by “Spiritual Principles”.

I felt supported, inspired and comforted by the many cards, tokens, notes and emails of encouragement. The “LOVE” I felt truly eased the times when I felt isolated and insecure. Thank you Ontario South!

I heard and learned many things, including:

- SERVICE IS GIVING TO THE FUTURE!
- I can't break Al-Anon and I can't fix it.
- You can't say you have taken all the steps and that's that!
- Bottom of the experience, is not the bottom of the value. The beginning is not the bottom.
- The job of WSO is to support us, the membership!
- The path to Group Conscience at World Service Conference is delegated authority.
- One of the Trustee's comments as her term is done “Stone in your shoe is going away”

So here we go.....

Pre Conference Activities:

Saturday

- Registration and meeting with mentor going over materials
- Canadian Delegates Dinner
- Canadian Delegates Meeting

Some Highlights:

- ❖ Newfoundland held “2014 Meet the Board Event” in July – very well attended & received. Revitalized the Area. Significant increase in WSO donations.
- ❖ Manitoba/NW Territories – Now has a new position of “Northern Coordinator”.
- ❖ Alberta- Hosting “2015 Meet the Board Event”.
- ❖ Quebec West – Has restructured from having 2 separate French & 2 English Assemblies to now having 3 Bilingual Assemblies. AWSC plans Assembly agenda.

I Volunteered to be “2016 Canadian Delegate's Newsletter” Editor

Sunday

- Orientation of New Conference Members

- Talked about principles needed; mutual trust, equality, vision, surrender, open to growth, patience with the process. Concept Two.
- Talked about the different roles of the World Service Conference members
 - Delegates-Brings the voice from the Areas
 - WSO Staff- does the daily work of the office. They know the questions that come into the office – are the ones who prepare the Summary.
 - Board of Trustees- are the legal arms, says whether or not we can do. Sets goals and looks to the future. Board is able to focus on the big picture.
 - Executive Committee members-Handle the business of the office-meets monthly to do the “business” and approve things that come for the conference. Oversees that the work gets done.

Delegates aren't able to handle everything. We all participate to work effectively. Skills are needed for leadership, requiring different skill sets.

- Task Force Assignment

Meeting Types

OUR Charge:

Develop a list of potential types of meetings that meet a variety of group needs while remaining consistent with Al-Anon legacies. Then develop a workshop to assist a group in determining the type of meeting that is acceptable to the group conscience while encouraging the use of *Groups at Work* and Conference Approved Literature by group members.

Looking for input from our Area.... What are our Ontario South's meeting types?

- Sharing Area Highlights

This time is organized and chaired by volunteer Delegates. Next year's volunteer Delegates for this portion of time suggested we may have a different format and be more interactive.

Each Area had been asked to submit a written report highlighting their Area's successes and struggles. We received these reports ahead of the Conference.

During sharing time each Delegate was then asked to come to the mic and give a verbal condensed version of their report. Here was my submission:

“Ontario South’s greatest strength is its very strong, active, willing and involved members; many of whom actively participate in Service. We have 30 Districts (all of which currently have representation) and at last count with our Group Records, we have 357 Registered Groups.

Although our Districts report an ongoing struggle with Alateen’s membership and attendance, our Area SAMs (AMIAS) continue to be committed. After an absence of a few years, our yearly Area Alateen “Unity Convention” did take place in 2014 and was very successful. It was a joint /combined effort hosted by our Alateens and a District’s Al-Anon Day.

New service term started 2015-All elected positions were filled at our 2014 Assembly and all of our Coordinators were selected and positions filled with very enthusiastic members.

We have struggled over the last term with accurate and timely information being shared between our Group Records and Website. Our Group Records Coordinator has our only Area owned lap top and printer.

With the vision of looking forward to our future, Ontario South is currently developing a “Technology Committee” to assess our needs and suggest options on how to support ongoing improvements to provide information to our membership.”

- **Opening Dinner with Speaker**

New Conference Members received a 2015 WSC Pin.



Monday – Start of the Business of Conference

1. The 2015 World Service Conference was the 55th Year of continuing the conversation
2. The World Service Conference is the largest Group Conscience of Al-Anon.
3. In preparation for the business, the Conference guidelines were reviewed. We were given background information regarding the Structure of the Conference, the membership and everyone's different roles.
4. Throughout the Conference each Panel 53 Delegate had an opportunity to give a personal sharing.

Finance Committee Presentation: AREA DREAMS



**Sometimes the inability to
achieve DREAMS
limits our ability to
DREAM bigger!**

- Using the spiritual principle of “abundance”.
- Knowing that I could have what I want without taking from someone else, what’s my #1 DREAM?
- This process continued through the week with different sessions. We were challenged to broaden our visions and look at what was really important.
- All of us can’t be dreamers, some of us have to be the planners.
- I had thought at the beginning of the process that my Dream would be that Ontario South would hold a TEAM event and there would be this amazing boost of service energy. Through the process of looking at what was really important I could see that a TEAM event might be one of the tools to fulfill the real DREAM. “

My real dream would be..... “

Auditor's Report

Year ending December 31, 2014

Full Audit Document available on Members website.

Audit completed and submitted by an independent company "Dixon Hughes Goodman"

Very detailed and comprehensive. Document reviewed for us by the Director of Business Services, WSO staff.

Highlights:

Net assets –end of year \$8,929,060 Cash – end of year \$797,351

Total operating expenses \$5,137,270

GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS

	Total Groups	Total Groups Contributing	% Groups Contributing	Average For Groups Contributing
USA/Canada Summary Total:	15,456	9,461	61.21%	\$119.01

Estimated cost of services provided by WSO: \$3,970,232.

Average cost of services provided by WSO per group: \$256.87

ONTARIO SOUTH CONTRIBUTIONS

%of Groups	C\$ Average for Groups	\$US	\$C	\$US 2014	2013
55.9%	\$131.5	\$118.35	Group 29,952 Other 6,860	26,957 6,174	25,213 3,589

2015 Budget

Proposed 2015 Budget presented and reviewed; followed with explanations.

2015 Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc.

Total estimated operating expenses \$5,117,000 (increase of \$69,432)

Total estimated revenues \$5,065,000 (increase of \$33,627)

Shows that expected expenses to be \$52,000 more than revenue for the year.

Estimated revenues from contributions \$1,700,000 (increase \$178,612)

Anticipating with the encouragement of the spiritual principle of "Abundance" and "Gratitude" contributions will increase to meet the budget. Concept One reinforces that the groups have a responsibility to support world services.

If each Group continued to do what they did last year with an additional \$25.00.

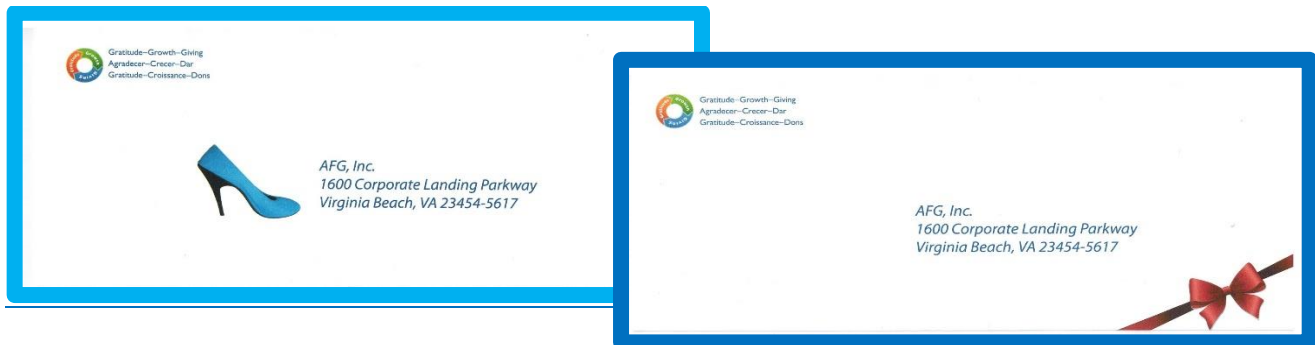
Canadian members can make contributions to W.S.O and receive a tax receipt.

Make your **personal cheque** payable to “AFG Canada Inc.”

and mail directly to WSO:

“AFG, Inc. 1600 Corporate Landing Parkway, Virginia Beach, VA, 23454-5617”

or through donation envelopes or place a personal cheque with your Groups ‘quarterly appeal envelope.



Approval of the 2014 Annual Report

Complete report available on members’ site. Report includes; Executive Directors Report, Report from Board of Trustees, Executive Committee, Policy Committee, Administration, Communications Services Public Outreach Committee, Forum Editorial Advisory Committee, Literature Committee, Member Services, Membership Outreach Al-Anon/Alateen International, International Coordination Committee, Conference Leadership Team, Business Services; and Finance Committee.

Some Highlights are:

- “Al-Anon family Group Headquarters (Canada) Inc. was incorporated in February 1999 under the *Canadian Corporations Act* and has since continued under the *Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act*. It is a registered charity under paragraph 149 (1) of the Income Tax Act of Canada.
- The Board serves as guardians of our Twelve Traditions, our Twelve Concepts of Service, and the Conference Charter.
- The 2015 World Service Conference equalized expense for 2015 was approved at \$1,493.00 US. The full cost of a Delegate to attend 2015 World Service Conference is \$2,447.00 US.
- The Board asked the Communication Services Section to continue developing plans to address the fear of compromising anonymity in public outreach work.
- It is important for the WSO to have a presence in the Canadian professional communities and to be more consistent in our Canadian Outreach.
- The Finance Committee approved a Delegate’s request to create an e-Community for Area Treasurers, and the e-Community was set up before the 2014 Conference.
- Canada By-laws- The revised Canadian By-Laws were reviews by the Canadian Board of Trustees during a special meeting in Newfoundland. One of the new requirements of the Canadian By-Laws will be for the Board to hold a membership meeting, which will include the Trustees as the sole members. The membership meeting will have to take place after Board meetings to approve any actions approved by the Trustees.
- **Meditating During Meetings: Group Services provided a revised document: The revised document, “Is it within the Traditions for a group to set a specific period of time for meditating during meeting’s?, clarified that designating a period of time for the purpose of group meditation is not appropriate at an Al-Anon meeting, and that spending time during the meeting to meditate is not within the Traditions, as doing so could be interpreted as a religious activity, affiliation with an outside entity, or an endorsement of a particular practice or style of meditation.**
- Total number of Al-Anon & Alateen groups worldwide for 2014 is 25,457.
Canada Al-Anon 1,303 (Ontario South)
Canada Alateen 84 (Ontario South)

Chosen Agenda Items (DISCUSSIONS)

Chosen Agenda Item #5

Is the current model of Alateen the best model for the future of both AI-Anon and Alateen?

Explain the importance of this CAI and how it could shape AI-Anon as a whole:

In Bill's "Essay on Leadership," he speaks of revisiting past decisions to see how they're working out. Much has changed in Society since the advent of Alateen safety and behavioral Requirements. Cellphones and texting are now the norm for teen communication, background checks (and the administrative costs associated with them) are common and schools, once welcoming, are now reluctant to deal with us for fear of litigation over the inclusion of the three legacies. In short, is AI-Anon wasting resources maintaining the current model of Alateen? If so what changes should be made?

CAI: The importance of Alateen to our AI-Anon programs.

Explain the importance of this CAI and how it could shape AI-Anon as a whole:

I would like to see work done for Alateen to:

- 1) Get AI-Anon members interested in being Sponsors, Coordinators, and AAPP.
- 2) Get teens interested in Alateen and Service they can do.

CAI: In some Areas, what is stopping our kids from coming to Alateen?

Explain the importance of this CAI and how it could shape AI-Anon as a whole:

The Alateen Groups are up and running and we are not getting the teens to some of the groups. What could be stopping the kids from coming to Alateen?

Highlights of the Discussion:

Are we using resources to protect our Teens or our SAMs?

Safety requirements are to protect the teens, have Areas evolved to focusing on protecting adults?

Teens are definitely changing the way we communicate

Alateen is a learning experience for our AI-Anon adults.

Why do we want to deprive our teens of Recovery?

Technology is definitely changing how the world relates.

Some members do report schools are asking for meetings.

Reports of a fairly consistent challenge of getting Teens to attend.

Chosen Agenda Item #3

CAI:

How can we clarify our primary purpose while welcoming members who need our program who may have a drug addicted friend or family member?

Explain the importance of this CAI and how it could shape AI-Anon as a whole:

Many people are coming into AI-Anon affected by others having problems with both alcohol and other substances, or sometimes only other substances. Our primary purpose is to help families of alcoholics and our only requirement for membership is a problem with alcoholism in a relative or friend.

Some groups respond by stating AI-Anon is for families of alcoholics and addicts, although that is inconsistent with Tradition Five. If groups do not have strategies to welcome newcomers in a manner that protects AI-Anon's focus while encouraging them to determine for themselves if they belong, we risk AI-Anon's ability to offer recovery.

CAI:

Is AI-Anon becoming friends and families of addicts? Is the focus more on addiction than alcoholism? Are we diverted from Tradition Three and Tradition Five? How can we support groups and maintain AI-Anon's primary aim? Is the AI-Anon program being diluted?

Explain the importance of this CAI and how it could shape AI-Anon as a whole:

I continue to hear more talk of addiction instead of alcoholism at all service levels and within the groups that I attend. Our responsibility is to ensure AI-Anon's survival as a resource for families and friends of alcoholics. How do we ensure AI-Anon's survival as a fellowship for families and friends of alcoholics? There are many different types of addiction and we risk our program being diluted more and more as different types of addiction are entering our meetings.

Highlights of Discussion:

Many comments regarding the spiritual principles of our Traditions.

It is within individual autonomy to declare qualification, it may take a member some time to figure out how they qualify.

Unity is maintained when the AI-Anon program is not diluted. There are other 12 step programs for other issues.

Task Force Presentations



TEAM (Together Empowering Al-Anon Members) events

- Was created to vitalize, creating an opportunity for Al-Anon and Alateen members to learn about service and the Al-Anon program.
- 2013 no team events were held due to International Convention. 2015- Four team events are already scheduled. Location and length needs to be set. Topics are selected by Area & WSO. WSO expenses for their attendance.
- Area needs to send request at least six months before planned time (can be combined with another event i.e. Assembly etc.)
- Areas have noted after a TEAM event more members are interested in Service.
- An Area can gather additional information and the needed forms on Members Web site.

“Area Highlights Newsletter”

- September 1965- first introduced
- 1976- Way to communicate to Delegates
- 1977-sent free to all groups- reconsidered due to cost
- 2001-Newsletter posted with 2,710 copies mailed
- 2011-Went completely electronic with encouragement for membership to copy & share
- 2014-2015- 159 members visit

Where do we go from here?

1. HOW INTERESTED IS MY AREA IN USING AREA HIGHLIGHTS NEWSLETTER FOR SHARING ESH WITH OTHER AREA?
2. WHAT WOULD MAKE THE AREA HIGHLIGHTS NEWSLETTER MORE USEFUL TO THE MEMBERS OF MY AREA?
3. WHAT CHANGES CAN MY AREA MAKE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE AREA HIGHLIGHTS NEWSLETTER MORE CONSISTENTLY?

There was a lot of very positive discussion regarding the Newsletter.

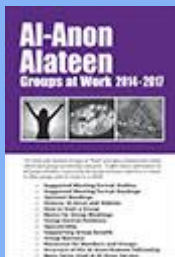


Task Force Presentations

Create Ways to Raise Awareness of the Tools Available for Alateen

- Several new tools were presented “Al-Anon Tool Time” skit
- What tools are you using in your Area?
- Several presentation tools presented.
- Based on these tools what tools aren’t you using?
- Training modules are available.

Identify, Gather and Present Practices that Demonstrate a Healthy, Thriving Group



Comprehensive Handout available – see attachment page #22

“Actually using *Groups at Work* at meetings – It does have suggested Al-Anon meeting format, could highlight what parts your Group uses” Provides Consistency and Unity!!!!!!

Group Inventory.

New Groups use to receive a binder when first registered.

They now receive 3 packets – 1) How to use information & copy of *Groups at Work*
2)Six months later –Information to help Group Grow
3)One year – Service Manual

Without long timers we have no history.

Without midtimers we have no stability.

Without newcomers we have no future.

Where do we want to go from here?

A Task Force has been initiated on “Meeting Type’s”
and how they follow the spiritual principles of all our legacies.

BOARD TASK FORCE: Concepts Eight & Eleven- descriptive text changes

In looking at these changes we were asked three questions:

Is it accurate?

Does it provide clarity?

Can you live with it?

Concept Eight – See the changes made to the descriptive text within the Motions.

See Motion # 7

Concept Eleven – Considerable time was spent at the Conference in review and agreement of a number of suggested changes. Remainder of changes sent back for further review and to look at the wording; to be presented again at 2016 World Service Conference.

Work Group Presentations

Universal Understanding of Recovery

Does the fellowship, as expressed through the voice of the World Service Conference need or want a definition of family recovery?

There has been a long process of this discussion and asking the fellowship what a definition of family recovery is.

Conference Summary will show the floor discussion from the World Service Conference on this topic. Motion made and carried and our definition is:

Family recovery is a process of healing and growth for family members affected by someone's drinking. This process helps these individuals make healthier life choices and develop relationships that are more positive and supportive

This description of family recovery will be used in outreach to professionals.

(See Motion # 9)

Thought Force Presentations

Create Strategies to Show the Importance of Abundance and Spirituality in Money Discussions

Spiritually based. What might those principles be?
Finding ways to raise more money is not what this is about.
Using the steps to identify
Using the Traditions i.e. Tradition 7 – PRIDE of ownership

Making sure there is a balance between generosity and prudence in the question.
At the Group level, suggestion “add the spiritual principle of gratitude when passing the basket”
Looking at the full text of the 7th Tradition on page 21 of the WSO Service Manual
What strategies & barriers might there be?

LOOKING AT THE SPIRITUALITY OF GENEROSITY, PRUDENCE, ABUNDANCE & GRATITUDE

And then asking yourself; Do I feel a part of?

Create Strategies to Show Spiritual Connection of Being a Registered Group

Spiritual principles/core values of being a registered Group

- Unity
- Participation
- Accountability
- Responsibility

Strategies:

1. Create a group outreach tool
2. Develop a presentation to share with non-registered groups
3. Offer a workshop or presentation on Unity
4. Propose ways for groups to support one another
5. Modify the *Starting an Al-Anon Group Guideline (G-12)*
6. Introduce spiritual concepts wherever possible in the instructions for completing the GR-1 form
7. Create a skit

Which of these strategies would help your Area’s members convey the spiritual connection of being a registered group?

Thought Force Presentations

Create Strategies to Help the Membership Welcome New Practices into the Fellowship

Write down a new practice in Al-Anon that you initially resisted?

New practices that might still be challenging us?

- The Al-Anon Declaration
- Social media – Facebook & Twitter
- Telephone meetings.

Strategies

1. Create communications/workshops
2. Encourage discussions about change
3. Explore technology as a means of encouraging change
4. Encourage innovative thinking

- Which of these strategies do you think would help Al-Anon members overcome fear of change and embrace new practices?
- Can you apply one or more of these strategies to a current difficulty in your group, district, or Area?

Members Services Presentation

WELCOMING AND RETAINING NEW MEMBERS

Information from BLOG at 2013 International convention and follow-up survey with District Representatives.

How do we get members to “Keep Coming Back?”

Offer Newcomers Packages with meeting lists or other CAL.

Spend time during the meeting acknowledging and welcoming the new member.

Initiate one on one contact before or after the meeting

How do thriving groups in their district welcome new members?

In my District all Groups follow the same procedure for newcomer meetings.

Our District has two meetings specifically for newcomers.

World Service Conference –FLOOR MOTION

NAME OF ORIGINATOR: Delegate, Panel 54, New Mexico/El Paso

MATTER UNDER CONSIDERATION: VHS Format Copy Protected Conversion of Lois’s Story (AV-1) and Lois & the Pioneers (AV-24) to DVD Copy Protected

WORDING OF SPECIFIC MOTION TO BE MADE: Request the Conference to give permission for the conversion.

After a lengthy discussion the Conference was presented with the question? What would we like to do?

- 1) Proceed with a motion. 2) Continue discussion at a later date. 3) Discontinue

The conference eventually proceeded and motion was presented and carried. (Motion #5, page 21)

Lois' Story (AV-1)	Lois W. and The Pioneers (AV-24)
<p>A truly beautiful and moving video that every Al-Anon member should see. Produced in 1972, Lois W. tells about the early days of AA and Al-Anon, how she and Bill, against tremendous odds, built the two fellowships which now encircle the world.</p> <p>An exciting story, full of dramatic incidents, the frustrations and triumphs of two people who made a better life for millions.</p> <p>The original film was produced at the recommendation of the 1971 Al-Anon World Service Conference Delegates. The generous contributions of many groups helped in this costly project covering about half the total production expense.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">• The videocassette runs 33 minutes •</p>	<p>Al-Anon's cofounder, Lois W., met with Henrietta S., first General Secretary of the Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters and Margaret D., first Editor of <i>The FORUM</i> in June 1982. Their recollections rekindle the spirit of commitment of our pioneer members in Al-Anon's formative days.</p> <p>Lois, Henrietta and Margaret share on a variety of subjects: Bill W.'s support and encouragement; how Al-Anon got its name; humorous anecdotes about the working conditions at Al-Anon's early offices; helping a newcomer find a meeting; <i>The FORUM</i>; the formation of Alateen; the growth of Al-Anon internationally, and the establishment of the World Service Conference. There is a timeless message for newcomers and longtimers alike about love and service.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">• The videocassette runs 22 minutes •</p>

2016 Meet the Board Event

Started as a 3 year trial. It evolved from a cost saving measure for the Boards meeting in July into an opportunity to personalize the WSO.

Having the opportunity for members to “meet the board”

2016 Will be held in conjunction with **October** Board Week-change from past two years. 3rd week of October 29th? 2016

Invitation for Areas to submit a bid. Deadline for application

September 14th, 2015. Of the received submissions who meet

requirements one will be pulled out of a hat.

Area Responsibilities – Provide Host Committee Contact

Select venue which is: Able to accommodate 14 approximately. 22

board members for the week and their Board meetings.

Room to accommodate the actual event. Wi-Fi available.

Provide transportation for board members to and from hotel from

Airport if hotel does not have complimentary shuttle.

Publicize – WSO will provide flyer. Give estimate to WSO of potential number of attendees.

Collect registration fee: 1st event \$5.00 2nd event \$10

WSO Responsibilities-Sets agenda. Sets Registration. Pays the bills.

2015 “Meet the Board” July 25th, 2015
Nisku Conference Centre, Edmonton, Alberta

You are cordially invited to a

“Meet The Board” Event

When: A Saturday in October 2016*

Where: Your Area

Who: Al-Anon Members, Trustees & Executive Committee Members

What: WSO Program

Why: This is an opportunity for Trustees and the Executive Committee to interact with members, as well as for members to interact with Trustees and the Executive Committee.

Cost: Registration Fee
Meals

How: Areas apply to the World Service Office using the Request Form.

Area Participation: Publicize the event.
Provide an Area contact person.
Provide transportation between the hotel and airport if there is no free shuttle.

*Exact date, program, and times to be confirmed at a later date.

2015 Membership Survey Results

11th triennial Survey – January 9th, 2015 to February 22nd, 2015. First one 1984

Complete results will be on our WSO Members site: al.anon.org – For professional –Survey

This survey in particular was focused on gathering statistical information to share with the professional community and or the media to show the value of Al-Anon attendance on people's lives. The professional community is much more focused on evidence based data and can often see greater value in actual stats more than anecdotal stories. This information can give Al-Anon a greater credibility to encourage professional referrals.

8,517 completed the 2015 survey. 13% of respondents identified as being from Canada.

Some of the highlights the respondents reported:

- Average # of years in Al-Anon 13.
- 54% were involved in Service
- After attending Al-Anon saw improvement in overall wellbeing.
- 46% of them were referred to Al-Anon by a professional
- The professional referral had a significant influence on their willing to try Al-Anon

Forum Editorial Advisory Committee Recommendation

Framing for Conference proposal to develop a piece of CAL based on member sharings previously published in past issues of *The Forum*.

After much discussion and careful consideration of the pros and cons, FEAC agreed to bring this proposal forward for Conference approval for two reasons:

FEAC believes that *The Forum* regularly publishes important and thoughtful sharings that represent the diversity of the fellowship today. These sharings deserve to be read for years to come, but they are likely to be lost and forgotten in the continuous flow of new Forum stories published every month, unless they become Conference Approved Literature (CAL).

FEAC also believes that this book may help a wider cross-section of the fellowship to become aware of the value of the magazine. The Forum plays a vital role in communication the benefits of participating in Al-Anon service and promoting Al-Anon unity, but is read by only a relatively small portion of the fellowship.

- The Conference was also provided with further background information
- There was open discussion, with opportunity for questions and further clarification.
- Result was a motion to proceed with a new piece of Literature. (See motion # 6)

Policy Discussion

Memorial Contributions

- In general policy statements are interpretations of our Traditions.
- This discussion on memorial contributions began at the 2014 WSC.
- Information from a previous thought force;
- Monies would be sent to general funds, with no earmarking.
- No solicitation. We self-define ourselves as members. Would be only a one time contribution.
- Are these safeguards adequate? What other safeguards should we consider?
- Tradition Five –“provide comfort to families of Alcoholics”
- It’s not about the money!
- Limitations – do we want to set limit to contributions either by \$ amount of % of budget?
- Continue to discuss until you are willing to do different.
- Did we miss something?
- No Decision Made: As of today WE DO NOT ACCEPT OUTSIDE DONATIONS.
- The Conference asked for the conversation to continue.

Board of Trustees Big Question

Big Question: How do we envision responsible service leadership in Al-Anon, a vision that inspires today’s members to be tomorrow’s leaders who are motivated by spiritual principles?

There were several break out groups who were each asked to look at a different sub question related to the big question.

My group’s question was:

“How can service leaders use technology to link members together at all levels of service, strengthening communication and inspiring connections with the service structure?”

Executive Committee for Real Property Management

- Seventh Triennial Report on Real Property Ownership.
- The following three questions were addressed and answered.
 - Has ownership of property been financially feasible?
 - Are we complying with the spirit and letter of the resolution?
 - Has there been any negative impact on the fellowship as a whole?



2015 A.A. International Convention with Al-Anon Participation

Atlanta, Georgia July 2nd to 5th, 2015
Al-Anon meetings/workshops Friday & Saturday
Expecting 4,000 Al-Anon members, 2,300 already registered.



2018 Al-Anon International Convention Update

Baltimore, Maryland

(The Fun City! What happens in Baltimore stays in Baltimore)

July 5th to 8th, 2018

Never too early to Plan

167 weeks away – Create your own budget

Estimate how much for: *Travel Expenses

***Registration**

***Accommodations**

(How many Al-Anon's can fit in one room?)

***Additional Expenses**

Create your budget,

And divide by how many weeks left,

And start saving!

SEE YOU THERE!



Public Service Announcements Presentations

- In 2014 Al-Anon PSAs were seen by Seven Hundred Million Viewers!
- Broadcast quality DVDs will be distributed next fall.
- One available now that can be shared within the fellowship
- They address two major obstacles that may affect potential members attending meetings.
1) MONEY 2) RELIGION
- The focus of the PSAs are toward PARENTS and YOUNG PEOPLE.
- All persons shown on the video are actors and not Al-Anon members.
- How many plays a PSA gets is often related to how appreciated a station feels.
When you see a PSA played call the station and say Thank You.
- When dropping off do a personal visit and also give a copy of Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism.
- I did ask the question “Why not a PSA directed to potential Alateens?”
Response was it is continually being looked at, and how best to balance resources.

International Representatives

With motion able to attend with voice but no vote. Each international member had an opportunity to share their personal message.

Cost of their attendance was covered by their own Service Structure

Mexico –Lourdes Maria Coelloe

UK & Eire – Nualu Carrol

Germany – Silkw Sintram

International Al-Anon General Services Meeting

Biannual meetings which are held by other General Service Structures with participation of the WSO.

Full report was given of the last meeting which was held in Virginia Beach in 2014.

Meeting location usually alternates being hosted by another Service Structure and the WSO.



Next meeting scheduled for 2016 in Rome, Italy

WSO Service Updates

❖ ***Courage to Change*** (soft covered Spanish Edition):

Will be doing a limited printing of 100 copies, we will receive notice when available.

❖ **Spanish and French websites** almost completed.

❖ **Conflict resolution Kit** – now available fully in Spanish & French

❖ **Meeting information** will soon be available on WSO site.

“Find an Al-Anon Meeting Near You”

- Will be LIVE and in real time.
- All Registered Groups and All Areas will be listed.
- Updated concurrently with WSO Group Records data base.
(Any groups that have been delisted by their Area, currently will still be listed)
- When you do a search it will start with the current day.
- Websites? May have links for Area Websites?

❖ **e-Communities is being replaced!**

You were heard LOUD & CLEAR

New Community will be: AFG CONNECTS:



Currently District Representative eCommunity is the community that everyone has access to because it is where things are posted for everyone’s information.

In new system there will be an ANNOUNCEMENT COMMUNITY that will have the information that everyone needs access to.

Announcements will have document attached, you won’t have to look for it.

Announcements will be placed in a folder for easier access i.e. Resource library

It will have a search feature. Will be able to create own log in and password

There will be a video available to help and WSO staff will as well as members.

Bulletin board posts will go directly into community

This will all take time. PLAN is for it to be operational in October.

- ❖ Meanwhile if you are struggling with e-Communities make a phone call to WSO with your computer in front of you and they will walk you through it. WSO is hearing the Conversation that the membership is not receiving information.

During the Conference there was an additional question presented. Would the WSC allow WSO to let the general membership have access to the announcement folder? Similar to the eNews e letter

Within the links of service could we expand the links of communication if individual members wanted to have access to announcement folders?

Discussion occurred and motion presented. (See Motion #8)

- ❖ Alateens will soon be able to access Alateen Chat meetings on their phones. The program that will make this available has been purchased.

OTHER INFORMATION OF NOTE:

- ❖ We have a new Regional Trustee for Canada Central. Congratulations LEONA WILLIAMS!
- ❖ Canadian By-Laws revision. Only change is changing the name “Board of Trustees” to Board of Directors” to comply with Canadian Laws.

❖ JOB OPENINGS AT WSO

- Events & Project Manager – being an Al-Anon member is preferred
- Employee Relations Manager & Organizational Development Manager
- Associate Director of Member Services-Groups
- App Developer and Graphic Illustrator

Open Board Meetings

OPEN BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

❖ Topic: -Alateen

- The current model of Alateen and whether this is the best model for the future both of Al-Anon and Alateen.
- Finding more ways to encourage more attendance and participation.

OPEN POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

❖ Topic – Collaboration with Researchers

- Should the WSO continue to cooperate with researchers, considering the costs and possible benefits?
- If so, should the WSO cooperate with any research projects that could increase the body of scientific knowledge about the effects of alcoholism on the family?
- Or should the extent of Al-Anon’s cooperation be limited to only those projects that could validate the effectiveness of the Al-Anon program in helping friends and families of alcoholics?

Goal: To determine whether or not the WSO should continue to cooperate with outside researcher; and if so, to what extent? Staff will revised the evaluation procedures on the basis of this direction from the Policy Committee.

ANNUAL OPEN BOARD OF TRUSTEE MEETINGS

- ❖ This meeting is where the Board is the legal decision makers by legal vote on any of the traditional affirmations made by the Conference.
- ❖ Trustees picked names for their quarterly Delegate call regarding COB letter.
- ❖ Question for Delegate call will be “What one topic or idea would you like the Conference Leadership Team to consider for the 2016 WSC agenda?”
- ❖ Announced @ 2015 WSC \$8,700 was raised by “passing the basket”. An additional \$800 was contributed by Areas.

Never be afraid to start the conversation!