



April 11-15, 2016
Wyndham Virginia Beach Oceanfront
Virginia Beach, VA

56th Annual WSC

Realizing Our
Spiritual Potential

Reconociendo nuestro potencial espiritual

Reconnaître notre potentiel spirituel

World Service Conference **2016**

**2016 World Service Conference Report to:
2016 Ontario South Area World Service Committee
Debbie P. Delegate Panel 55**

Realizing Our *Spiritual* Potential

PRE CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

CANADIAN DELEGATES DINNER FOLLOWED BY CANADIAN DELEGATES MEETING

Some of the Topics that were discussed at meeting



- Guidelines for Policy Manual for members in a service role not fulfilling their responsibilities.
- How Areas list their past/current Motions.
- In lieu of providing speaker gifts making a donation to WSO.
- Areas having an Insurance policy that covers each Group.
- Areas inviting Regional Trustees to attend Assembly.

I was Editor of the 2016 Canadian Delegates Newsletter.

I volunteered and was elected to be Chairperson for the 2017 Canadian Delegates Meeting.

MONDAY- PRE CONFERENCE

2015-2016 TASK FORCES – Opportunity for established Task Forces to meet for final preparations for their presentations during Conference. My Task Force had been “Meeting Types”

2016-2017 TASK FORCES- Opportunity for newly assigned Task Force Groups to meet. My newly assigned Task Force is “Spirituality in Area Money Discussions”.

SHARING AREA HIGHLIGHTS

Opportunity pre Conference for Delegates to come together

Each Delegate presubmitted a written report of their Area Highlights –Successes & Struggles

In the past – Delegates went to the mic & shared a success/challenge for their Area.

This year there was a different format. Delegates had submitted suggested topics which were compiled and the

Delegates had the opportunity to rotate through small groups for three rounds. Some of the topics discussed during the three rounds were:

- Role as Delegate at the WSC
 - Participation in setting the agenda
 - Doing a WSC Inventory
 - What strategies are helpful in presenting a floor motion?
-
- Strategies do we use to encourage participation of inactive groups & districts in our Area
 - How do we connect and communicate with members in rural areas
 - How do get members to fill Service positions
 - How does your Area communicate with members not at AWSC?
-
- How do Delegates communicate as a Group?
 - What technology facilitates communication?
 - How does our Area encourage financial contributions?

After each small group discussion, highlights of each discussion were shared at the mic.

Monday evening Opening Dinner followed by Speaker

OPENING OF CONFERENCE

- Introduction to our new interim Executive Director Mary Gregory
- WSO is in a period of transition
- We were invited to remember to bring our best selves to the Conference and invite our Higher Power to join us.
- Review of Roles and Goals
- Review Purpose of Conference- page 139 of Service Manual
 - to take the place of polling Groups
 - Consider World Wide AI-Anon
 - Reviewed descriptive text of Concept Three
- Trust God – Trust AI-Anon – Trust each other
- Decisions we make are to focus on AI-Anon as a whole and that we can presume Good will.
- Conference is the largest Group Conscience of AI-Anon’s 25,000 Groups.
- Conference is a service body not a government.
- Torch of Leadership-presentation on how the Concepts are played out.
- Seating Motion – Who in addition to Conference members were attending?
- 92 Voting Members, 1 International Representative from Mexico.
- Throughout the week we heard a “three minute talk” from each of the Panel 54 Delegates.

Approval of the 2015 Annual Report

Included in the Annual Report are reports from: Executive Director, Board of Trustees, Executive Committee, Policy Committee, Administration, Communication Services, Fellowship Communications, Member Services – Group Services –Alateen, Membership Outreach, and AI-Anon/Alateen Internationally.

Total number of AI-Anon & Alateen groups worldwide is 25,231 for 2015

US/PR/BDA AI-Anon 13,028

US/PR/BDA Alateen 906

Canada AI-Anon 1,233

Canada Alateen 70

International AI-Anon 9,307

International Alateen 687

Total number of electronic meetings for 2015 is 164

Includes: 114 Phone Meetings 39 On-Line Meetings 11 Skype Meetings

Annual Report will be included in 2016 Conference Summary which will be posted on WSO members’ website.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

- **2015 Auditor’s Report** - full report available on WSO members’ website
- Ensures financial affairs are in order
- General decline in revenue over the last five years.
- Expenses have been fairly consistent
- There was an overall loss in 2015

- **2016 Financial Committee Report**

- What is a budget? A budget is a numerical expression of an organizations dreams that serves as a guide or measurement of acceptable financial performance. A plan to guide us and give us a measure of how we are doing through the year.
- Concept 11 speaks about the risk of a temporary deficit – looking for ways to decrease the deficit like suspension of sending complimentary copy of *the Forum* to Groups.
- 2015 Budget agreed to a projected \$52,000.00 deficit, the actual was \$361,024.00
- Many suggestions to help close the deficit. Major revenues are donations and literature sales.
- Goal is to be successful. We need to discuss our finances.

Deficit budget- a situation where expenses are projected to exceed revenues. A planned deficit is the spending of accumulated reserves for the benefit of the organization and its members. A surplus one year can be used for the good of the organization in subsequent years.

Income: Literature sales decreased by 11.56%
 Contributions showed an increase of 8.4%
 Forum subscriptions showed decrease of 4.7%

Expenses:
 Operating Expenses increased 1.34%

Reserve Fund:
 Total \$4,892,994 at December 31st, 2015
 4% of the average balance of the Reserve Fund over the prior 36 months could be transferred to the General Fund if needed.

- **2016 Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc. 2016 Budget**

Details available WSO members' website

	2016	2015 Actual
Total Expenses	5,057,000	5,115,291
Estimated Revenue		
Literature Sales less cost of printing	2,600,000	2,822,801
Contributions	1,800,000	1,649,337
Forum Subscriptions	250,000	230,714
Investment Income/Transfer from Reserve Fund	223,000	51,415
Total Estimated Revenue	4,873,000	4,754,267
Net increase (decrease)	(184,000)	(361,024)

Breakout sessions were conducted to help the WSC members understand the many Financial Resources available to help with "how to share" the information within our Areas. If you want more information please ask me.

- **2015 World Service Office Contributions**

	Total Groups	Total Groups Contributing	% of Groups Contributing	Average For Groups Contributing
USA/Canada Summary	15,237	9,409	61.75%	\$119.52
Estimated cost of services provided		\$4,085,335		
Average cost of services per group		\$268.12		

- **Contributions to World Service Office from Ontario South in 2015**

Area		% of Groups	Average for Groups			2015		2014
			C\$	\$US		C\$	US\$	
Ontario S	86ONS	57.2%	144.39	129.95	Group	32,407	29,166	26,957
					Other*	2,642	2,378	6,174

*other contributions include individuals and contributions from AISs, LDCs, and area meetings.

Some Suggestions to help increase contributions:

We have so many members, groups and districts that are able to each help in a small way with potentially huge results.

Literature sales:

What if only 1 member at half the meetings bought a hardcover book this year who weren't intending on buying a book and 'paid it forward' – gave it away to a newcomer, Al-Anon friend or library? We could increase literature sales by \$90,000. What if three people in each meeting bought a book? What if every member bought an 'extra' book this year?

Appeal to members:

What if each member placed \$15 in the appeal envelope this year? I can't even begin to tell you what opportunities that would present! Are you able to make that kind of contribution? Is it possible that other members, with encouragement and an understanding of the purpose would be able to do the same? What if many members could contribute even more?

Individual members:

What if every member clicked on the 'Contribute Now' button and made a contribution? What if some gave \$1, some gave \$5, some gave \$15 and some were able to give even more? The possibilities are almost incredible. \$200,000? (that might be only \$1-\$2 per member) \$1,000,000? (that might be \$5-\$10 per member) \$3,000,000? (that might represent \$15-\$20 per member) Think of the possibilities!



Groups:

What if even 25% of the groups gave an extra \$20 this year? We would realize \$76,000. What if they were able to give more? What if all groups were able to give a little more this year than last?

Districts:

What if even half our districts contribute to WSO? Any amount would be an expression of gratitude, abundance and responsibility.

We are blessed with so many grateful members. That is our abundance. If each of us does a little, we can accomplish a lot. While it is wonderful to receive contributions of many thousands of dollars from districts, Areas and members, we cannot depend on those generous service arms and individuals alone. We each have multiple opportunities to express our gratitude for what Al-Anon has given us.

Please don't be discouraged. If we relay the message that we each can and do make a difference, we can not only close the deficit but fund the Reserve as well as some exciting new initiatives at the World Service Office to further support our members and ensure Al-Anon's presence far into the future.

ALATEEN WORK GROUP



Alateen Survey Reportback

-After Last year's discussions surrounding Alateen it was decided the Conference wanted the Alateen conversation to continue.

1-Ask the teens – Develop a Survey 2-Conduct a survey and report results to 2016 WSC 3-Continue the discussion.

Areas submitted questions – Work Group crafted survey to get a response you could understand

Survey took place March 1st to March 20th, 2016

-170 Alateens under the age of 21 responded (Target had been 150) 292 responses in total however some were not Alateens and were over the age of 21.

Survey will be talked about in June eNews, *the Forum* and Alateen Talk

Some highlights:

In rating the importance of 14 topics listed, over 50% considered sponsors, the steps and format high.

Of the 14 Choices –Technology was considered the least important

When asked what is your favourite thing about Alateen “people” was rated the highest, followed by things like talking, I am not alone, you can share, you won't be judged, support & friendship

61% when asked what was important to the success of Alateen said “Literature”

Survey questions will be posted on members' website

Minimal Safety Guidelines have been made legal by the Trustees so it is not open for Discussion.

“We are not doing everything wrong but neither are we doing everything right”

A comment that was made during the discussion “Should I make my kid go to Alateen?”

“Do you make them go to the dentist/doctor?” Try six meetings and then get off their back.

TASK FORCE PRESENTATIONS

Task Force - Technology & Anonymity

Framing: As new ways of communicating have developed through advances in technology AI-Anon members have embraced these changes, using them as a tool for their personal recovery and their AI-Anon service life. However, some AI-Anon members are uncertain with respect to our principle of anonymity and how to apply it to these technologies. This presentation has been created to help members understand the facts and dispel some of the myths of anonymity when using social media, e-mail, and other on-line technologies. It contains useful guidelines to help AI-Anon members understand how they can maintain their personal anonymity while participating in these newer technologies.

-having position specific/Group email address --using BCC when sending mass emails.

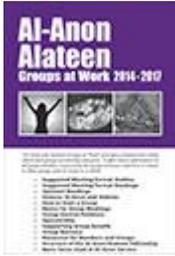
-not using full name in email address/uncommon first name use pseudonym

-difference between privacy and anonymity - Invite Professionals to visit Face Book



Handout & Power Point will be posted on Ontario South Website

Task Force - Meeting Types



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.

Handout Workshop & Skit will be posted to Ontario South Website.

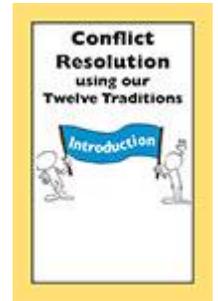
Task Force - Communication & Strengthening the links of service



Purpose:

An exercise to encourage trusted servant to use spiritual principles as guideposts in communication, while empowering the membership to use the links of service to make their needs known.

-Incorporate the Conflict Resolution Toolkit into Group and District meetings BEFORE conflict arises.



Handout Workshop & Skit will be posted on Ontario South Website

Task Force - Acceptance of Communities and Cultures and Beliefs

Charge:

Develop a workshop for a(n) district/Area that includes ways and ideas for group members in welcoming and giving comfort to newcomers from all communities, cultures, and beliefs while keeping the focus on Al-Anon's primary purpose of helping friends and families of alcoholics.



Diversity-

What is bias? And what does it have to do with welcoming various communities, cultures, and beliefs in Al-Anon?

Bias is: Partiality - Prejudice - Unfair preference for or dislike of something

I see myself as welcoming and open-minded, but.....

Everyone is welcome, but.....

Handout will be posted on Ontario South Website.



Task Force – TEAM Event

TEAM EVENT Together Empowering Al-Anon Members

Is a partnership between an Area(s) and the World Service Office (WSO) with the aim of providing an opportunity for Al-Anon and Alateen members to learn more about service and the Al-Anon program.

May not be available during 2018 due to International Convention will be addressed at July BOT meeting

CONCEPT ELEVEN – Descriptive text discussion

- July 2012 began the conversation.
- 2015 WSC started working on the changes and ran out of time so was continued to 2016 WSC.
- Deleted contents are maintained in our Service Manual as amendments.
- We were asked “Is it accurate?” “Does it provide Clarity?” “Can I live with it”
- These changes will be made to our Service Manual and will be available for down load and print out for our own Manuals.

POLICY DISCUSSIONS:

- **CONVENTIONS AND OTHER EVENTS**

Text changes (pages 85 & 86) were discussed and the 2016 Conference asked that its suggestions be taken back to the Policy Committee to address and bring it back for further discussions at the 2017 Conference.

- **MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS**

The Policy Committee presented to the 2016 World Service Conference (WSC) proposed language regarding a limited, one-time memorial contribution in memory of deceased Al-Anon members, by family members who are not Al-Anon members. This language was requested by the 2015 WSC. The Conference discussed the language as proposed and then passed the motion (84 Yes, 5 No, 1 Abstention, and 1 Void) to amend the text on page 95 of the “Financial Matters” section, “Memorial Contributions,” in the “Digest of Al-Anon and Alateen Policies” section of the *2014 – 2017 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual* (P-24/P27) as follows:

Memorial Contributions. Any Al-Anon or Alateen member may make contributions to the WSO in memory of anyone who is deceased. (Contact the WSO for details).

The World Service Office accepts contributions in memory of deceased Al-Anon members from “family” who are not Al-Anon members. The fellowship recognizes that accepting such contributions can give comfort to families of alcoholics as described in Tradition Five.

The World Service Conference defines family as anyone who has a close relationship of loving care and concern for another. The individual donor defines his or her relationship to the deceased Al-Anon member.

This one-time gift of gratitude is limited to an amount no greater than \$500. Memorial contributions by non-members are not solicited.

This motion reflects the spiritual principles of Tradition Five and reinstates a similar policy that had been in place from Al-Anon’s early days until 1986. The amended text will be updated in the electronic version of the *Service Manual* located on the Members’ Web site. Members can download that text and insert it into their current *Service Manual*.

WSC AGENDA ITEMS FOR BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Topics

- ❖ Alateen-What is the key to unlocking the success with Alateen through all the Areas?
- ❖ Balance between dominance and trusted servants not fulfilling their jobs.
- ❖ Groups that are not following the Traditions (delisting, do not refer, relisting).

Chosen Agenda Item #5

CAI:

How do we adapt and evolve to attract and retain younger members (under 40) while staying true to our purpose, traditions and concepts?

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

The importance of attracting and retaining the younger members is we are an aging group, and we need the younger focus. It is also very important to stay true to our traditions and concepts as they have worked for 65 years.

CAI:

We need to save the big roof that covers our house, emotional, mental and spiritual. We have to unify the name of Al-Anon Family Groups for good.

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

We all come to the program confused and mentally disperse and need to focus and be unify because we have all kinds of relationships with the alcoholics in our lives but it doesn't matters at all we all are Al-Anon's members.(teenagers, adult childs, wives, sisters, brothers, mothers, fathers, grandsons, granddaughters, etc.)

CAI:

Are we as inclusive as we could be whether potential newcomer or member has religious belief or not (the agnostic)?

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

We have specific literature for several diverse groups within our fellowship. Does our literature stress the difference between spiritual ideas and religious beliefs for the newcomer? Should we have literature about how the agnostic works a spiritual program?

CAI:

Are the number of Al-Anon groups worldwide growing or shrinking? And once we determine the answer, how can we best respond to address the trend?

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

The data available on numbers of AFG meetings around the world has not been collected and analyzed to provide insight into trends – to answer questions such as, are AFG and Alateen meeting numbers growing or shrinking, or what are the trends in particular regions, states, provinces, countries, etc. In Massachusetts, our meeting numbers are half of what they were in the 1990s. What are other Area experiences? If we had this data, how could it help us make better decisions about public outreach, communication with the membership, financial support, etc.?

CAI:

How can we attract and retain more members under the age of 50?

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

According to the latest Al-Anon Annual Survey results, 80% of our membership is over the age of 50. The percentage of Al-Anon members rapidly declines according to their age group to less than 1% as it gets closer to the age of 24 or younger. The average age of our Al-Anon members has risen from 56 in 2009 to 60 in 2015. As the average age continues to increase, we may jeopardize our long term sustainability or solidify a perception as a fellowship for older individuals.

CAI:

How can Al-Anon attract younger, more diverse members beyond the current Al-Anon member being a 62-year-old heterosexual white woman; to maintain and increase Al-Anon's current membership?

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

Al-Anon/Alateen may be growing internationally but here in the U.S. our membership is diminishing. Without 20 to 40-year-old diverse membership will Al-Anon/Alateen still be here for the next 65 years?

We need to be aggressively visible in the youthful eye - college campuses, young adult associations, YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, Cable/internet TV, Theaters, Subscription Radio, Arena venues, electronic billboards, App adds, etc.

We need to assist these Medias, that they may recoup their revenues by helping Al-Anon; without breaking Our Traditions. Literature focused on younger more diverse groups - (electronic and audio that can be used as intended – 366 chapters)

LITERATURE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION



KBDM—Should the WSC give conceptual approval to remove the “Prayer for Today” from Conference Approved Literature?

Framing/Background:

During its June 2015 meeting, the Literature Committee began discussing requests from two different members in different Areas for changes to the “Prayer for Today.” This prayer is included in the *Just for Today* Wallet Card (M-10) and Bookmark (M-12), as well as on page 101 of *How Al-Anon Works for Families & Friends of Alcoholics* (B-22, B-32). (It is on page 103 in editions printed prior to 2008.) The first member felt that although it is beautiful, it is clearly a religious prayer, and should be revised or discontinued. The second member requested that the words “O, Divine Master” in the second paragraph of the prayer be changed to “God.” Because the prayer is included in the Newcomer Packet (K-10), she felt it could give many newcomers the idea that Al-Anon is a religious program.

Using the Knowledge-Based Decision-Making Process for an Informed Group Conscience (KBDM), discussion on this topic continued in October 2015. Prior to this meeting, Committee members answered the five KBDM questions via the discussion board on e-Communities. At the meeting, the Committee had a thorough discussion of all aspects of the information from the KBDM document. It reached a unanimous consensus to recommend removal of the “Prayer for Today” from the *Just for Today* Bookmark and Wallet Card, as well as from *How Al-Anon Works*. The Committee also decided to have a discussion thread in its Community on AFG Connects to brainstorm ideas on what, if anything, it would recommend to replace the prayer where it is featured.

At the Literature Committee’s December meeting, it recommended that, if the Conference agreed to remove the “Prayer for Today,” the text on the Bookmark and Wallet Card could be enlarged without adding any other material, and that page 101 in *How Al-Anon Works* could end with a quotation from the last paragraph in *When I Got Busy I Got Better* (P-78), so that it would read as follows: “*When I Got Busy, I Got Better* offers invaluable information about this crucial area of recovery. Perhaps nowhere is the spirit of Al-Anon service more clearly articulated than in the last paragraph of this booklet:

“We have the opportunity to contribute not only what we can *do* but, more important, who we can *be*. By sharing our recovery, we strengthen its workings in our own lives. By seeking to allow a Higher Power to work in and through us, we come to feel, more fully, the presence of that Power. “In giving, we receive.”

Questions for “Prayer for Today” Discussion

Question 1:

What do we know about our fellowship’s needs, wants, and preferences that are relevant to this discussion/decision?

Question 2:

What do we know about the “capacity” (resources) and “strategic position” of our fellowship that is relevant to this discussion/decision?

Question 3:

What do we know about the current realities and evolving dynamics of our fellowship’s environment that is relevant to this discussion/decision?

Question 4:

What are the ethical implications of our choices? (Pros/cons)

Question 5:

What do we wish we knew, but don’t?

How do we apply our Spiritual Principles found in our Legacies to this discussion?

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT (PSA)

Two Public Service Announcements were previewed with the target audience of

- Parents of Young Problem Drinkers
- Children who have been affected

-objective was to create an emotional response with a clear message and minimal distractions

-Will include closed captioning and in three languages: English, French, and Spanish



MEET THE BOARD EVENT



- July 2015- Alberta- positive feedback
- Next one Saturday October 22, 2016 Fayetteville, Arkansas
- Three year trial over in 2016. Has been extended for another 3 years.
- Opportunity to interact face to face with Board of Trustees.
- To help understand the work of WSO
- Learn about the role of Trustees.
- Goal to personalize the WSO

The Forum - Subscriptions have actually increased by 45% since suspension of sending complimentary copy to Groups.

AFA Magazine

Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism

- Goes to press 2X per year. 370,000 printed in 2016. 356,000 printed 2015.
- When leaving magazine also leave local contact information for Al-Anon.
- 2017 front cover – effort to attract minorities – Hope Understanding Compassion
- Thank you to everyone for putting the 12th Step into action
- AFA audience: the reader who knows nothing about our program
- AFA is a revenue neutral project

ZONAL MEETING REPORTS

European Zonal Meeting Report- August 21-23, 2015 Theme: “Participation is the key to Harmony”

Central American Zonal Meeting Report – November 13-15, 2015 Theme: “UN sol Pais” “One single Country”

UPDATES

- Conference gave traditional approval for new Trustees, Board & Executive positions which were then elected by the Annual Meeting of the Board of Trustees following the Conference
- Regional Trustee Affirmation Process, Trustee at Large Affirmation Process, Board Officers/ECRPM Affirmations
- Regional Trustee Resumes for Canada Central are due to World Service Office by August 2017 for the Term starting in 2018. Any Ontario South members resume for Reginal Trustee for Canada Central needs to be submitted to our Area Chairperson by **August 1st this year** to be presented at our 2016 Assembly.



2018 Al-Anon International Convention – July 5th to 8th, 2018

Baltimore, Maryland

2 years 1 month 11 days

Save the date!

Registration etc. will open September 2017



shutterstock · 121944955

- Public Outreach Website now lists meetings
- Group Records has received increase in complaints from members who were added as phone call contact without their consent, remind Groups to get consent.

- Communications to Professionals – September is “Recovery DAY” in Canada
- Literature Committee Updates-
 - Trial for Calendar Quotes has ended. Will now be ongoing, there will be pre-approved quotes that can be used for Calendars
 - New Daily Reader-WSO had wanted to be ready for Al-Anon/Alateen 2018 International Convention Currently have 680 sharings submitted but need more for diversity
 - “Intimacy in Alcoholic Relationships currently have 1,179 sharings
 - “Parents & Grandparent of Young Problem Drinkers” 190 sharings.
- Newly revised Literature S-28 Links of Service S-57 Joy of Service Available electronically and for free download or purchase. Will also be available in French & Spanish
- Director of Business Services David Zach, has submitted letter of retirement. Will stay on until completion of 2016 Audit.
- Any position vacancies will be posted on members site – Currently two positions posted: “Associate Director of Members Services – Groups” & “Director of Programs”
- 2023 International Convention Bid Process.
- 2016 Conference Task Force Work Shops and skits will be available on Ontario South Website.
- 2017 World Service Conference April 24th to April 28th 2017, Wyndham Virginia Beach

