



Delegate's Report

AWSC 2026

Jason W., Ontario South Delegate

Good morning! My name is Jason and my current service role is getting to be your Delegate.

My home group is Delta Saturday Night in Hamilton. We meet Saturday evenings at 8 p.m.

Last month I got to represent Ontario South at the World Service Conference. It's been a busy few weeks trying to cram five very full days into an hour and a half, but I'll do my best.

I will take questions at the end, so if one pops into your head during my report, please write it down and we'll do a Q-and-A at the end so that we all understand the information to take it back to our Districts.



The World Service Conference met at the Newport News Marriott at City Center, about an hour and a half away from the World Service Office. This was also the site of the 75th anniversary gala, celebrating 75 years of Al-Anon. That was held on the Saturday after the World Service Conference closed. Next year's World Service Conference will also be at this hotel.

World Service Conference

- 91 members
- About two-thirds are delegates
- Also includes Board of Trustees, select WSO staff and volunteers



There were 91 voting members at this year's World Service Conference. Most members of the World Service Conference are delegates from Canada, the U.S. (which includes Puerto Rico) and Bermuda. The rest of the World Service Conference is made up of select staff members and volunteers – which include Trustees. There are some vacancies on the Board of Trustees, so that total number of members would be higher if those positions were filled.



The World Service Conference is Al-Anon's largest group conscience.

It is made up of members from Canada, the U-S and Bermuda but leads Al-Anon around the world.

This is a photo of the podium but there are also two microphones on the floor.

Members going to the microphone at the World Service Conference works very much like coming to the mic here. Members get 2 minutes at the microphone and once the bell rings, that's it. We're asked to not repeat things others have already said. I make notes of what I'd like to share before I go up to the mic. Sometimes so many people want to come to the mic, the line is cut off because of time constraints.

I have lots of photos to share with you – many of them containing people – because every year at the beginning of the week, the World Service Conference takes a group conscience about whether we're okay with taking photos to share with our Areas. Each year I've been Delegate, the Conference voted yes and that's why I can share these photos with you.

My report will be posted on the Ontario South website after this weekend, but all of the photos with people will be removed.

World Service Conference



- ▶ Conference has assigned seating
- ▶ Mentors sit next to mentees

(read slide)

All first-year delegates get paired with a mentor. A Conference mentor is another delegate who's in their second or third year.

This is the view of my seat at Conference. You may notice the bottle standing to the right of my laptop.

A few weeks before Conference, one of the Canadian delegates said "wouldn't it be great if we brought HP Sauce with us to Conference?"

Get it – HP, HP Sauce?

I was the only one who remembered but it was a great conversation starter with my fellow World Service Conference members.



Close to the hotel where Conference was held is a cute little coffee shop. It's called Cure, which I thought was very appropriate.

The day before Conference, before the Canadian Delegates' meeting, I got a coffee and a treat and began writing postcards to send back home. I sent one to each District to thank members for sending me on this adventure in service. Did you all get them?



Opening Dinner

The opening dinner includes a speaker; this year's speaker was Sarah Smith, the director of programs.

Before that, new delegates get "pinned" by their mentor. Each new delegate receives a brass pin with their Panel number, and it's affixed by their mentor.

I got to pin my mentee: Ron is a first-year delegate from Wyoming.

Financial report

- Auditors issued a "clean" opinion
- Audit conducted January 12-16, 2026
- Brown Edwards LLP - audit firm

We received the 2025 audit report.

An audit is basically a Step 10 for the World Service Office's finances.

It's an examination of financial reports by someone independent from the organization – the WSO used a professional audit firm named Brown Edwards LLP. Auditors ask formal questions of Staff and Audit Committee members as well as review accounting and financial records.

For example: they check stubs, invoices, timecards, receipts, and bank accounts.

The auditors obtain written confirmation of accounts by banks and they test the organization's internal controls.

The auditors issued what's known as a "clean" opinion. That means everyone at the WSO did their jobs correctly with regards to the finances.

Financial report

- ▶ 2025 projected deficit:
170,000 USD
- ▶ 2025 actual surplus:
132,011 USD
- ▶ Consistent giving is the key

In the 2025 financial report, we learned that our World Service Office ended 2025 in a strong financial position

What was projected to be a 170-thousand-dollar deficit ended with a surplus of 132-thousand dollars.

Those are very large amounts of money for you and I, individually.

But our World Service Office has a total budget of 6.6-million dollars.

So the surplus is about two per cent of the total year's budget.

The message Delegates have been asked by World Service Office staff to share is that consistent giving throughout the year is key to helping pay the recurring expenses like salaries, utilities and other expenses.

Financial report

- ▶ 2026 cost per group of services: 357.97 USD
- ▶ If every group that contributed in 2025 gave that amount, 85 per cent of the budget would be met.

Looking forward to this year's budget, the total costs divided by the number of groups is 357-dollars and 97-cents U-S.

About 62 per cent of all groups in the World Service Conference structure contributed to our World Service Office in 2025.

If all of those groups gave that per-group amount in 2026, 85 per cent of the budget would be met.

Financial report

- ▶ Cost per group of services: 357.97 USD

495.05 CAD

(as of May 23, 2026)

But what's that in Canadian?

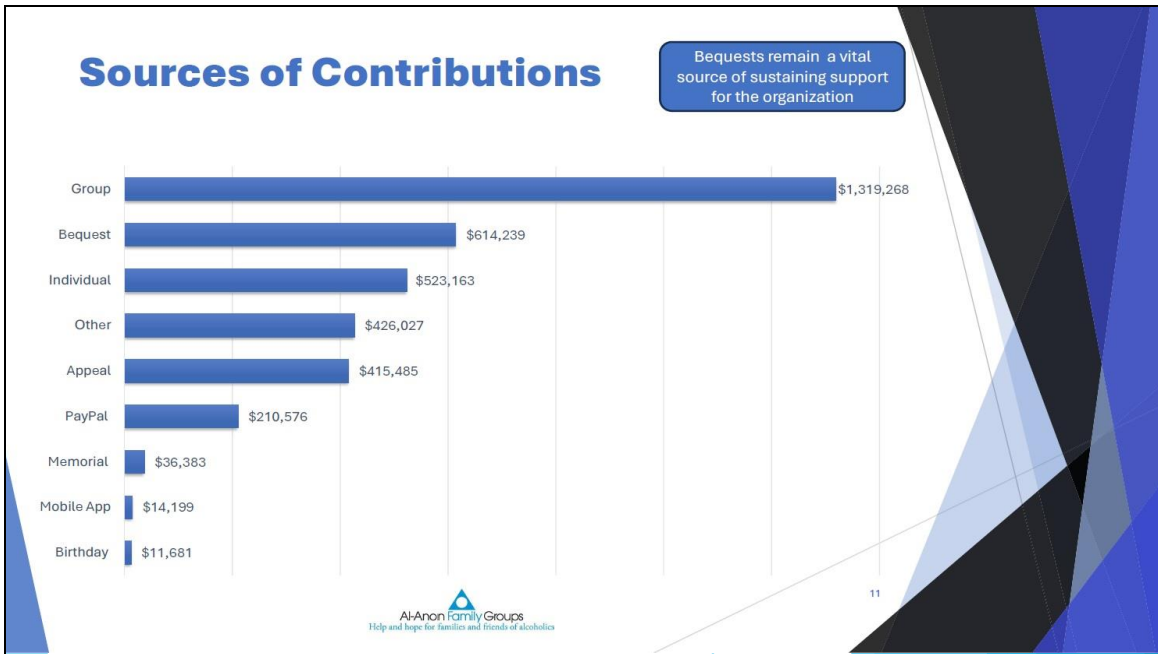
As of last Saturday, the U-S amount works out to just over 495 dollars Canadian. Please do not describe this as a "due" or "fee" or a "charge" or some sort of wording that implies groups are obligated to give this amount.

Groups do not owe this amount. It's just math and I only provide it because groups ask for it.

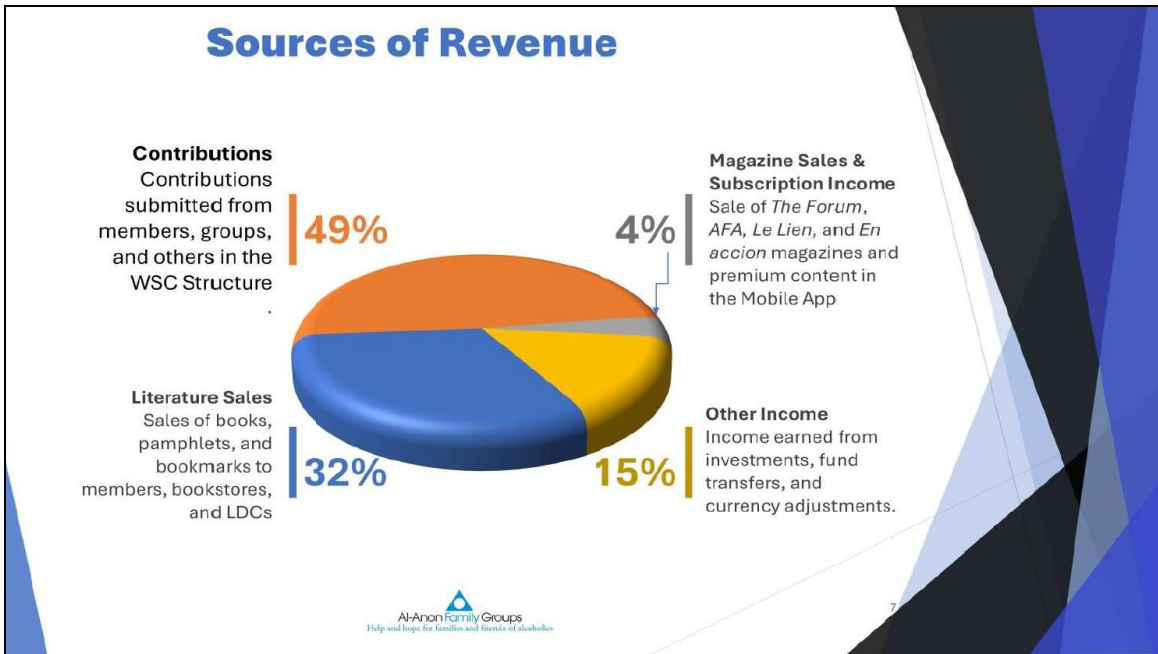
As we say in our meeting format: "we have no dues or fees."

Please do share in your Districts and with our members that if larger groups can contribute more, that's wonderful! Those who can, do, and that helps the smaller groups that cannot.

For groups that are finding it challenging to have money left after taking care of the group's needs: something is better than nothing and we give what we can, when we can.



This is a graph that was provided to delegates at the World Service Conference. It's a look at where contributions for our World Service Office come from. Groups are the largest source of contributions, at 1.3-million dollars U-S in 2025. Bequests were the second-largest. Money left to Al-Anon's World Service Office by members in their wills totalled more than 600-thousand dollars in 2025. About half-a-million dollars was contributed to the World Service Office from individual members. The quarterly appeal brought in about 400-thousand dollars. Below that are contributions received through PayPal, memorial donations, and the Al-Anon mobile app.



So that was just looking at contributions. This graph shows all sources of revenue and their percentages.

Contributions is the largest share – this is money from members, groups and others in the World Service Conference Structure.

Literature is the second-largest source of revenue, on the bottom-left. This is money from the sales of literature to members, bookstores and Literature Distribution Centres.

On the bottom-right, Other Income includes investment income, as well as fund transfers and currency adjustments.

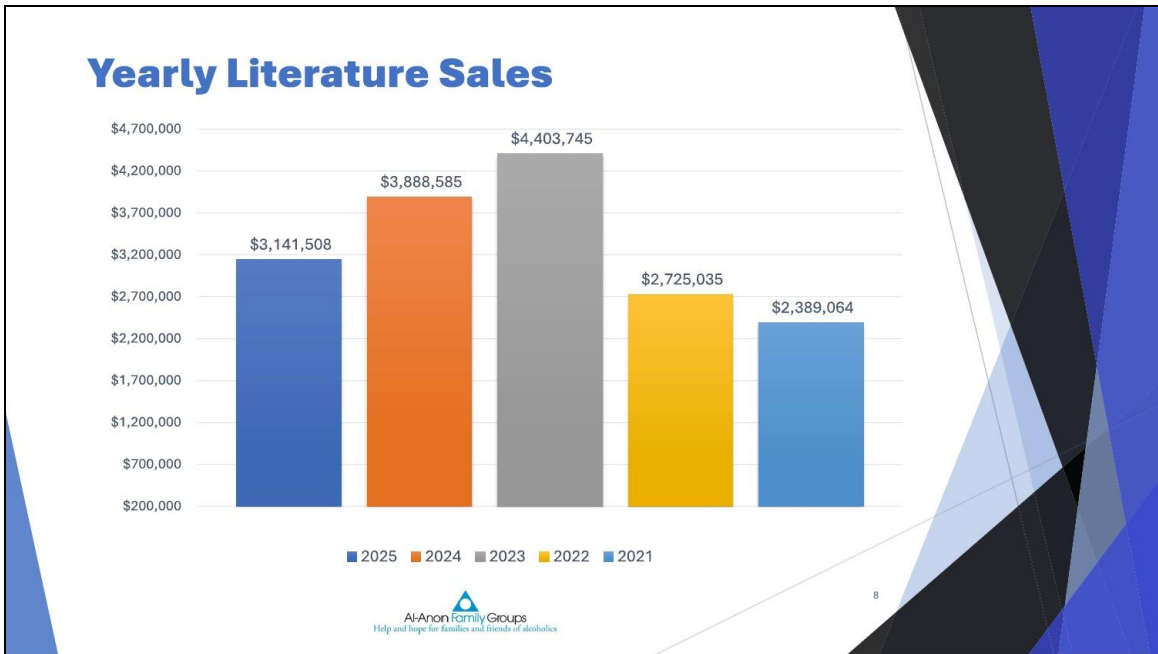
The smallest piece of the pie, at four per cent, is magazines. This is money from subscriptions to *The Forum*, as well as the French- and Spanish-language equivalents, *Le Lien* (luh lee-EHN') and *En Accion* (in ack-see-OWN').

Financial report

- ▶ Literature sales have been affected since the pandemic.
- ▶ The 2026 budget includes a 6% increase in literature sales.

Literature sales have been growing but more slowly than expected since the pandemic.

The Treasurer and Director of Finance estimate that 2026 literature sales income will be six per cent higher than 2025 actuals.



I think this is helpful at illustrating annual literature sales and the differences by year. 2021 is the bar on the very right. 2025 is on the left. Does anyone remember what happened in 2023 to cause that big spike? That was the year we published our newest daily reader, "A Little Time For Myself – A Collection of Al-Anon Personal Experiences."

Literature Sales




Al-Anon Family Groups
Help and hope for families and friends of alcoholics

9

These were the top-selling books for 2025.

Number one was "How Al-Anon Works" at 52-thousand units.

Number two was "Courage to Change" at just under 32-thousand units.

"Healing Within Our Alcoholic Relationships" is next, closely followed by "A Little Time For Myself" and the ODAT was fifth.

Financial report

- ▶ 2026 cost per group of services: 495.05 CAD*
- ▶ Consistent giving is key.
- ▶ Literature sales are growing, but slowly.

If nothing else, these are the three things I hope you'll take away from the financial portion of my report today.

And the things I hope you've written down, if you haven't already.

Taking the 2026 budget and dividing by the number of groups in the World Service Conference structure equals 495-dollars and five cents Canadian.

That's the conversion as of last Saturday and it will fluctuate based on the exchange rate.

Some groups like to do one donation to each of their service arms at the very end of the calendar year, but consistent giving throughout the year is really helpful for the World Service Office covering its ongoing expenses and budgeting accurately.

Literature sales have been affected by the pandemic but are forecast to grow this year by six per cent.



Electronic Alateen

There were three major items on this year's World Service Conference agenda that I've been sharing about and discussing with members in our Area throughout the past 12 months.

One is Areas hosting electronic Alateen groups.

Currently, the only permitted electronic Alateen groups are the ones hosted in the Al-Anon mobile app. Alateen groups that were in person but temporarily moved online need to shift back to in-person.

That is not new; I've been sharing that since the beginning of my term.

Areas cannot open new electronic Alateen meetings -- for now.



Electronic Alateen

The World Service Conference approved:

- ▶ Recognizing electronic Alateen groups;
- ▶ Implementing the Electronic Alateen Safety and Behavioral Requirements (EASBR);
- ▶ Recognize Global Electronic Alateen Safety Minimums (Global EASM).

The World Service Conference passed three motions on electronic Alateen. This follows a similar process as when we created the Global Electronic Area and welcomed electronic AI-Anon groups into the World Service Conference structure a few years ago.

The first motion recognizes electronic Alateen groups.

The second implements the Electronic Alateen Safety and Behavioral Requirements (or EASBR) as the requirements for electronic Alateen groups to be registered in the World Service Conference structure.

The third motion recognizes the Global Electronic Alateen Safety Minimums (or Global EASM) as minimums, to be augmented by local geographic legislation related to minors, to allow International Structures to create their own Electronic Alateen Safety & Behavioral Requirements and begin registering electronic Alateen groups.



Electronic Alateen

What happens now?

- ▶ Ontario South can opt-in to electronic Alateen groups;
- ▶ This will be a discussion item this afternoon.

The motions passed by the World Service Conference now clears the way for Areas to decide whether they would like to opt in having electronic Alateen groups in their Area service structures.

We will discuss this more and I will have additional background information on what that could look like, this afternoon.

For that, I will need EIGHT volunteers to help put on three short skits this afternoon.

Some are very small roles that only involve one or two lines, but I need a total of EIGHT people. Could I please have EIGHT volunteers?

(Hand out scripts, assigning roles.)



The next item I want to share with you is the Choosing a Group Name discussion. This conversation has centred around the way World Service Office staff implemented a policy decision by the 2024 World Service Conference. At issue is whether identifiers – like parents, adult children, men, women, et cetera – can be in the names of new groups registering with the World Service Office. Existing groups were not being told to change their names but new groups registering were being told they could not have identifiers in their group's names. The 2025 World Service Conference paused this implementation for one year to allow Delegates to collect feedback and have conversations in their Areas before making a decision at this year's World Service Conference.

Choosing a Group Name

- ▶ Four virtual town halls with the Delegate in November 2025;
- ▶ Collected feedback from an assortment of members and service representatives;
- ▶ Not all Districts were represented.



I held four virtual town hall meetings on this topic last November. I gave a presentation laying out the history of the issue and then opened the floor for discussion and feedback.

I heard from members who are not active in service beyond the group level, and I had participation from Group and District Representatives.

I did not hear from all Districts, despite sending out a flyer and announcing the town halls in my report at Assembly 2025.

This was something not done before by the Delegate in our Area and it did provide some helpful feedback but I would have liked a more fulsome representation of our Area.

A big part of my role in those town halls was educating members that groups with a focus – like parents, adult children, men, women – exist in Ontario South and have been part of our Area since at least the 1960s. That was news to a lot of folks from more rural Districts.

There was no clear consensus on whether identifiers belong in group's names or whether that information is better placed further down in a listing under "participants" or elsewhere.

Choosing a Group Name

The WSC approved:

- ▶ Allow community identifiers in group names;
- ▶ Notify Delegates & Group Records Co-ordinators;
- ▶ Increase education.



So here's what the World Service Conference decided. The Conference passed a motion that provides the following guidance to World Service Office staff:

- Allow community identifiers such as men, women, parents, adult children, young adults, other gender identification/sexual orientation, etc. in group names.
- Consistently notify the Area Delegate and Area Group Records Coordinator whenever a group submits a registration or name change containing a community identifier to request these trusted servants have a conversation with the group to ensure their group conscience is to welcome anyone affected by someone else's alcoholism in accordance with Tradition Three and advise the World Service Office of the result and decision regarding whether to register the group
- Develop a plan to increase education opportunities to share experience, strength and hope with Area trusted servants on how to be welcoming to newcomers, especially those who do not match a group's community identifier, and to have conversations with group members regarding group names and welcoming.

When the World Service Office notifies the Delegate and Group Records Co-ordinator of a new group with an identifier in their name: if those Area trusted servants don't respond within two weeks, then the World Service Office will contact the group to make sure they will welcome everyone affected by alcoholism. If the group says they

won't welcome everyone then the group will not be registered.



Single Trustee Process

The third of the big topics that I've been talking about with our Area is Regional Trustees and then the idea of moving toward a single trustee process. Currently, we have two processes for selecting trustees, but all trustees have the same role once elected to the Board of Trustees.



Single Trustee Process

- ▶ Regional Trustees are put forward by their Areas.
- ▶ Each Area's selection process can be different; some Areas have no formal process.
- ▶ Ontario South selects a candidate to submit at our Assembly.

I reviewed this and we had a conversation at Assembly, but just to refresh everyone's memory:
(read slide)

Single Trustee Process

- ▶ Ontario South, Ontario North and Manitoba/Northwest Ontario make up the **Canada Central** Region.
- ▶ The current Trustee from Canada Central is **Debbie P.**
- ▶ Trustees are **from** an Area but are not **for** an Area.

Regions are made up of multiple Areas. Our region includes Ontario North and Manitoba/Northwest Ontario.

Some of you remember Debbie P., a former Ontario South Delegate. She's pictured here with me during my tour of the World Service Office. Debbie is the current Trustee from Central Canada.

All trustees once elected have the same role and are responsible for Al-Anon worldwide. Their job is not to advocate for their Areas.



Single Trustee Process

The World Service Conference approved:

- ▶ A Single Trustee Process for a three-year trial;
- ▶ Option #1 but with regional considerations;
- ▶ Trial begins in 2028.

I took your feedback from Assembly last year with me to Conference and I shared our Area's concerns and objections at the mic.

The Conference decided to implement a single Trustee selection process.

Before Assembly I shared three flowcharts showing different options. The option approved by Conference is a modified Option 1. The trial plan will include expanded Area feedback from the Delegates and will include regional considerations in the scoring. For example: if there is only one or no Canadian Trustee on the Board and this year's batch of candidates all score pretty similarly, additional consideration could be given to the Canadian to ensure regional representation from across the World Service Conference structure.

This three-year trial will begin in 2028. It was delayed by one year because 2028 is quite busy for World Service Office staff with the AI-Anon International Convention in Minneapolis and the International AI-Anon General Services Meeting.



Chosen Agenda Items

Each year at the World Service Conference, Delegates get to submit ideas for discussion topics, and then vote to select two Chosen Agenda Items for discussion at that year's Conference.

They need to be topics that have not recently been discussed and are of relevance, interest or concern to AI-Anon as a whole.

One of this year's Chosen Agenda Items discussed how AI-Anon can responsibly use Artificial Intelligence to carry the message while preserving and honouring the spiritual principles in our legacies.



Chosen Agenda Items

- ▶ A service tool is in development, similar to "Let's Talk Safety in Al-Anon Meetings";
- ▶ It will not be a Guideline;
- ▶ No estimate on when it will be published.

The first thing I learned in this conversation is that the World Service Office is aware of the desire for some sort of service tool around use of artificial intelligence. A tool is in development but there's no detail yet on when we will see it. It will not be a full-page Guideline but it will look more like the service tool, "Let's Talk Safety in Al-Anon Meetings".



Chosen Agenda Items

- ▶ New service manual has a statement about copyright and AI;
- ▶ "Feeding" our literature into AI tools violates copyright.

Our new service manual has a statement about copyright and AI on the copyright page, just inside the cover.

Something a lot of folks will do is copy and paste a page or pages of a book into an AI tool and ask it to spit out a summary or explain certain concepts within the text. One of the things that was highlighted by this conversation was that feeding our literature into AI violates copyright. Once it's uploaded you can't take it back, it's in there forever.



Chosen Agenda Items

- ▶ "If you aren't paying for the product, you are the product."
- ▶ Information entered into "free" services is then used to train AI models.

Like almost every office and workplace today, our World Service Office does use some artificial intelligence tools. These include writing tools to help craft communications like memos and emails, to take something a staff member has written and soften the tone or to help provide a starting point for writing those sorts of things.

But our World Service Office only uses paid services. We were warned to beware of so-called "free" services that use or are AI.

"If you aren't paying for the product, you are the product." - This is a quote from Vali F., the Executive Director of the World Service Office. She first shared that in a communication a couple of years ago when AI was first coming on the scene. What that quote means is that if you are not paying for a technology product, the information you're feeding into it becomes the product. It's being used to train AI. In an anonymous fellowship such as ours, I think that's worth considering.



Chosen Agenda Items

- ▶ AI can "hallucinate";
- ▶ AI summaries can be inaccurate;
- ▶ Verify original source content.

World Service Conference members shared their experience with AI and some of their concerns.

One member shared about using an AI summary that ended up being inaccurate. That member learned the importance of verifying the original source content. The term AI companies use is "hallucinate." In plain language, that means the AI just totally made something up out of whole cloth.

I've experienced being in a meeting where what the chairperson was reading from sounded AI-Anonish, but something was off. I later came to realize she was reading an AI summary from the top of a Google results page after searching for that night's meeting topic.

I don't think anyone's saying that all AI is bad and scary and wrong but it is a new technology and we have to learn how to use it safely and responsibly.




Passing It On

The World Service Conference received an update from staff about one of the major projects currently underway at our World Service Office.

It's called Passing It On. It's being developed to help pass on our program's service knowledge from one generation to the next.

It came as a result of Delegate suggestions for what to do with the excess reserve funds back in 2024, but the trustees were also having similar conversations about knowledge transfer etc.



Passing It On


- ▶ Task Force charged to create toolkits, study guides for service;
- ▶ WSO is looking for content developers;
- ▶ Application window opens later this year.

A seven-person task force was charged after last year's World Service Conference to create study guides and toolkits for service.

All of the service tools created will belong to the World Service Office and will be available to the whole fellowship.

They are looking for content developers. There's an application open for members to submit two examples of materials they've developed to assist other members in service.

Those submissions will be reviewed and the candidates who meet the standard will be interviewed. After interviews, the task force will select three content developers. The application window is to be determined at some point later this year and it will be announced.



Passing It On

- ▶ Task Force consists of staff, plus current and former WSO volunteers;
- ▶ Staff/volunteers will deliver content in all 68 Areas;
- ▶ Funded by excess reserve funds.

The task force's next steps include finalizing the module syllabus, then open applications for content developers, then develop and pilot test the content. This task force consists of staff, current World Service Office volunteers and past World Service Office volunteers.

The end goal is to have teams of staff and/or members go out into all 68 Areas and deliver the content.

This effort will be funded by the excess reserve funds, as discussed last year.

To refresh everyone's memory, the reserve fund has in excess of one year's operating expenses so this was one of the projects selected to use those funds for the fellowship.



Convention reports

World Service Conference members received reports on the most recent AA International Convention in Vancouver and the preparation for the 2028 Al-Anon International Convention in Minneapolis.

How many of us went to Vancouver last year?



The slide features a background image of a city skyline, likely Vancouver, with a large body of water in the foreground. The text is overlaid on a white, angular shape that points towards the right. The title 'Convention reports' is in a blue font. Below it, there are four bullet points, each starting with a blue triangle.

Convention reports

- ▶ Vancouver attendance was down "because of outside issues."
- ▶ About 32,000 people;
- ▶ Just under 2,000 Al-Anon members;
- ▶ 44 Alateens.

Conference heard that attendance was down at the 2025 Vancouver AA international convention "because of outside issues."

A total 32-thousand people attended but it had been projected between 50- and 60-thousand.

There were slightly under two-thousand Al-Anon members, and had projected three-to four-thousand.

44 teens attended Alateen meetings (including four spanish-speaking Alateen members).

Colour coding of badges showed many AA-registered members attending Al-Anon meetings during the day on Friday and Saturday.

Convention reports

- ▶ Al-Anon International Convention
July 20-23, 2028;
- ▶ Registration opens
September 2027;
- ▶ Estimated cost solo:
\$1,776;
- ▶ Estimated cost with a
friend: \$1,278 each.

Al-Anon's next International Convention is in Minneapolis, July 20th to 23rd, 2028. The love parade and first big meeting will be on the Thursday, July 20th. Registration opens in September 2027.

Our World Service Office staff crunched some numbers and did some research and came up with this information:

The estimated average cost for one member in the World Service Conference structure to travel alone to the convention is 17-hundred, 76 dollars. As of last month, that broke down to saving 68 dollars a month until the convention.

The estimated average cost for two members to travel to the convention together is 12-hundred and 78 dollars each, or saving 49 dollars per month.

The bulk of Al-Anon's hotel room bloc is in the two hotels that are directly attached to the convention centre, and then there are other hotels within a five-minute walk from the convention centre.



We have a new service manual!

It's available digitally on al-anon.org for free, or you can order a hard copy from the Literature Distribution Centre. They are in stock now!

Please order new ones, because it's filled with great new information and updates. Plus, the old ones are now out of date, so please order your replacement service manuals.

This first batch has an issue where the text along the inside margins is very close to binding. That was an error in the process and it shouldn't happen again.

A decision was made to keep these ones and make them available to World Service Conference members because they were already printed and they're still legible but it was not an intentional choice.

A photograph of two hands shaking, one light-skinned and one dark-skinned, symbolizing partnership and support. The background is a light gray with blue geometric shapes on the left and right sides.

Public Outreach

- ▶ Canadian Psychiatric Association conference in Montreal;
- ▶ New AFA in development;
- ▶ Distributed anniversary news release to U.S. and Canadian media outlets;
- ▶ Formal government recognition of Al-Anon's efforts.

Our World Service Office public outreach staff have been working on a few projects. They have been attending professional conferences to represent Al-Anon, including at the Canadian Psychiatric Association's conference in Montreal. A new edition of Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism is in development. This is a magazine that explains the benefits of our program. Because this year is Al-Anon's 75th anniversary, the World Service Office distributed a news release to American and Canadian media outlets. Public Outreach staff also requested formal recognition of Al-Anon's efforts from government officials, and several were displayed at the 75th gala.

International Services

- ▶ Translation of literature and PO materials;
- ▶ Latvia preparing to translate;
- ▶ Ukraine translating 5 books;
- ▶ Nepal & Georgia have attended structure meetings.

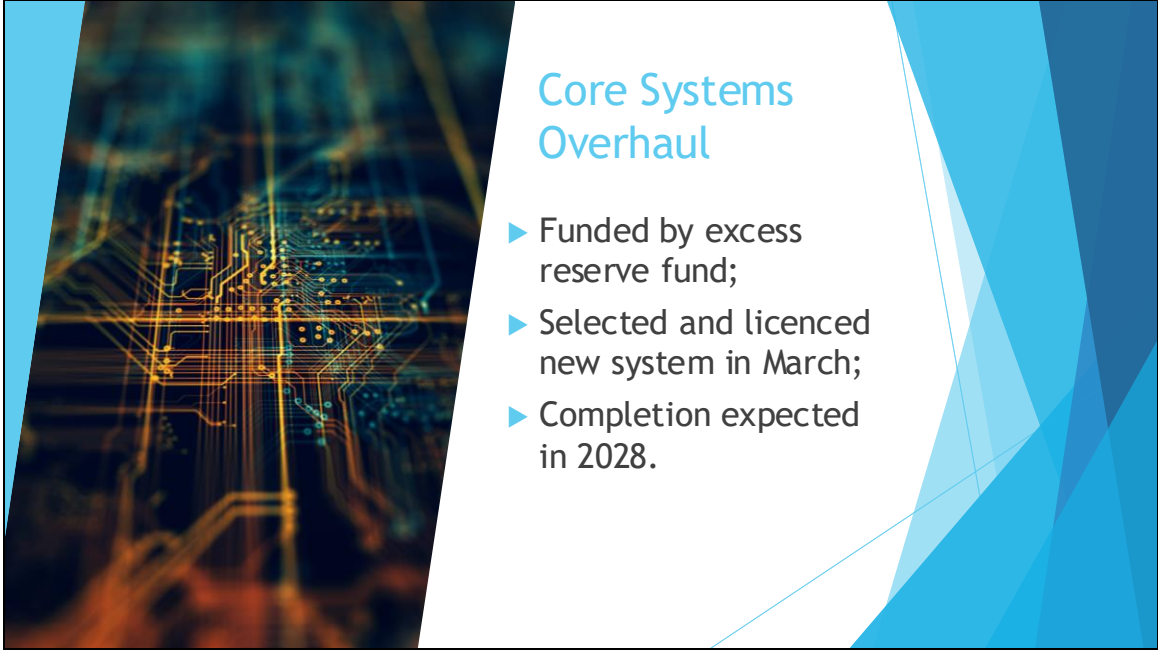


We received a report from Tracy, who's the head of international services. Translation of literature and public outreach materials is a big part of her department's work

Latvia is preparing to translate books and Ukraine is translating five books from our Conference Approved Literature.

Nepal, Georgia and others have attended structure meetings.

When AI-Anon starts in other countries it will go from a collection of groups, to something called "evolving structures." They could end up with an AI-Anon Information Service or progress all the way to having their own General Service Office.



Core Systems Overhaul

- ▶ Funded by excess reserve fund;
- ▶ Selected and licenced new system in March;
- ▶ Completion expected in 2028.

The World Service Conference received an update on the core systems overhaul. This is one of the projects being funded by the excess reserve funds.

The existing system the World Service Office and our trusted servants use for group records, Alateen records, etc. is rapidly aging and difficult to support.

This new system supports online group records and searching for meetings online.

The World Service Office selected and licenced new CRM software at the end of March.

It is purpose-built for associations and it operates on the Salesforce platform.

This should enable easier updates for service positions and Alateen recertification.

The implementation timeline is nearly two years, so that puts the estimated completion date some time in 2028.



Pins!

Something that Delegates do at Conference is exchange pins from their Areas. The pins you see on my World Service Conference lanyard are from other Delegates and I wear it as a reminder of how we're connected to a larger Al-Anon family beyond Ontario South.

I've collected these pins each year I've gone to Conference but Ontario South delegates have not – to my knowledge – taken pins to give away.

I had been thinking about taking pins this year and I started looking into the logistics. You can buy Ontario pins from the legislature's gift shop – at four dollars each. With about 100 attendees at the World Service Conference, that would get very expensive and I didn't think the Area would give me extra money for that.

I contacted my MPP to find out if there were tourism programs, etc., to obtain them for free or a reduced rate. I learned that you can get these pins for free, from your provincial member of parliament. But mine would only give me 25.

Between myself, our Area chairperson, one of our Advisors and a member from my home group, I got an assortment of Ontario pins to take with me and give to other World Service Conference members so that they could have a piece of Ontario South to take back to their Areas.



Task Force: Applying Step Four to Encourage Area Inventories

In addition to representing their Areas and being guardians of Al-Anon worldwide, Delegates also serve on various committees, thought forces and task forces at the World Service Conference.

This past year, I've been chairing a Task Force titled: "Applying Step Four to Encourage Area Inventories."

Our charge from the Executive Committee was: "Create a presentation that encourages and inspires Areas to conduct regular searching and fearless Area inventories applying the same spiritual principles of the Fourth Step that we utilize in our personal recovery to Area-level service responsibilities." Our charge did NOT include creating a new service tool.

Task Force: Applying Step Four to Encourage Area Inventories

- ▶ Skit demonstrating Area problems
- ▶ Presentation with literature quotes
- ▶ Singalong!

What we did do was open with a skit that had an Area riddled with problems like gossip, members not fulfilling their duties, a lack of rotation of leadership in its service positions and controlling behaviour. The members in that Area conclude they need help and decide to try something like doing a Fourth Step, but for the Area – and with a Higher Power at its centre.

We then progressed into a more traditional PowerPoint presentation based on inspirational quotes from our literature, followed by a singalong!

Task Force: Applying Step Four to Encourage Area Inventories

This is what it looks like when I try to act like a hype man and get the crowd pumped up. We got the crowd on its feet, dancing along with us. I was miming out some of the lyrics, like "start strong, dig in deep." And "fearless now, we take the leap."

The song is the creation of an AI song generator – a paid version! -- and the song's rights-holder is a member who was part of the Task Force so there are no issues with copyright infringement or playing it publicly.

No, I will not be acting this out at Assembly.

But if you would like a copy of this presentation, including the music, please ask me and I can e-mail you a copy.

Panel 64 Entertainment

So each new group of Delegates who start at the same time are called a panel. I'm part of Panel 64 because our first Conference was the 64th World Service Conference. One of the things third-year Delegates do at the World Service Conference is provide the entertainment after the closing dinner.

Ours was a skit titled, "What We Did For Love."

It centred around a group of delegates testing out a fictional mobile app, "Ask Lois and Anne."

Lois and Anne come out from behind the curtain to an angelic sound effect and answer the delegates' questions, which were reenacted scenes based somewhat on our real-life experiences over the past three years.

It included a couple of musical numbers, including one song reworking the lyrics to the Josh Groban song, "What I Did For Love."

It was a lot of work and planning and rehearsing, but it was very well received – from the gasps of surprise when Lois and Anne came out, to the tears as we sang "What We Did For Love" to the laughter from the other Conference members recalling living the episodes we were reenacting at the front.

It was a lot of fun and a great way to bond even more with the group of Delegates with whom I've served over these three years.



This is one of my favourite photos.

This is a photo of your five most recent Ontario South delegates, in reverse chronological order from left to right.

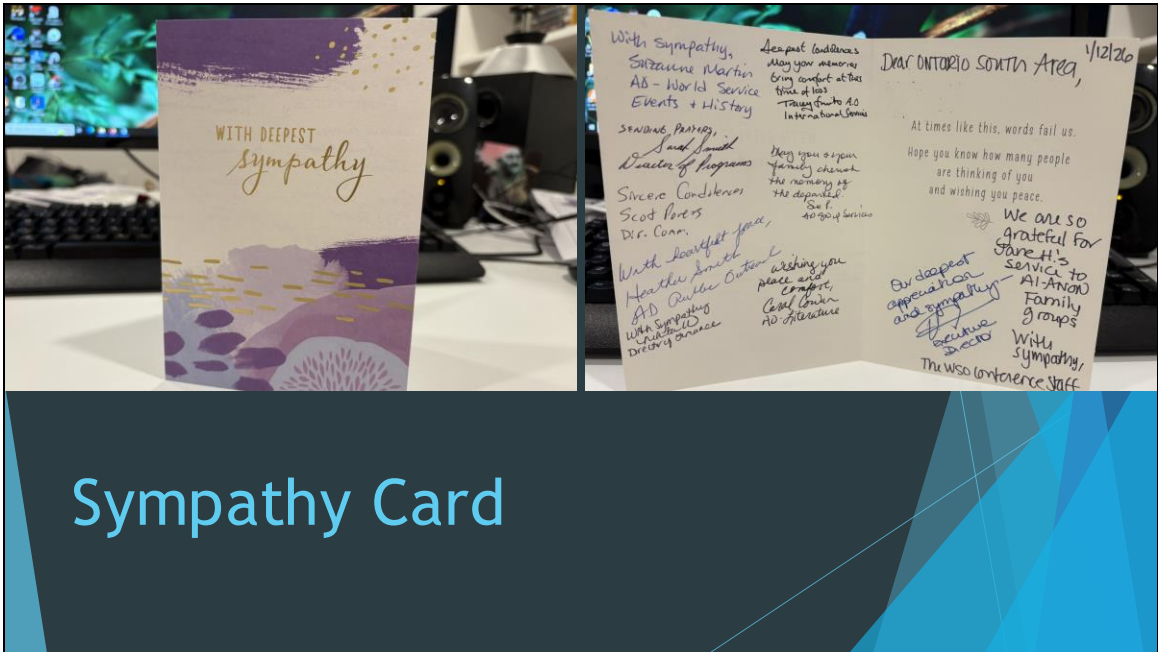
This photo was taken at last year's Trillium, in London.

Some of you will recognize the member on the right, Jane H. Jane passed away at the beginning of this year.

A common occurrence is for an Area's Delegate to post on AFG Connects in the "Past and Current WSC members" community to let the others know a former Delegate has died.

I posted the news of Jane's passing and shared a bit about how much she meant to my service journey.

A few days later, an envelope arrived at my home in the mail.



Sympathy Card

This is the sympathy card our World Service Office sent after they heard Jane had passed away. It's signed by various staff member directors at the office. It's been on my desk at home since then and has been a source of comfort for me. Now I'm sharing it with you. I have it here if you would like to take a look at it today or tomorrow. After we close this meeting tomorrow, I will be giving the card to Jane's husband.



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Please remember that if you have any questions about any of the materials I've presented, please write them down and I will take your questions after the break. If we don't have time to take everyone's questions, you can contact me at any time through the information on the screen.

E-mail is the best method for me to keep track of things. Some questions need a bit more research than dashing off a quick text and I work shift work so I'm not always free for a phone call when you are. But we can absolutely use e-mail to schedule a call if you need to discuss something more in-depth. I will also be around all weekend.

I will leave this up on the screen but I think this is a good time to pause.

For now, I will turn the podium back to our chairperson who has a couple of housekeeping items.

Questions and Answers

- ▶ Please keep your questions to the material presented today.
- ▶ Please share your thoughts/feelings/opinions with me at another time.
- ▶ Please come to the mic to speak.



Now it's time for your questions!

I want to hear what you think about things – but please share thoughts feelings and opinions with me on breaks

I need your help to share all of this information with the groups and to do that we need to make sure we understand what's been discussed here

That's why I think focusing on the material in my report and asking clarifying questions is the best use of this time.

Sharing opinions one on one by email or in person gives me a better sense of how many people feel that way, rather than one person at the mic and 10 nodding heads in the audience that I may not see.

It's a maximum of two minutes at the mic or three questions, whichever comes first.

Please line up at the mic and begin by stating your name and District or Area position.