

## **DELEGATE'S REPORT**

### **Spring Assembly 2018**

1. Delegate's Thank You: I want to thank all the Al-Anon and Alateen Members in Virginia for sending me to the Southeastern Delegate's Get Together (SERDGT) in March and then onto the WSC in April in West Harrison, NY, April 14 – 21, 2018. Both trips were exciting and filled with information, service and fellowship. The SERDGT is for former and current Delegates with participation from (2) Trustees. The event gives a chance for former Delegates to hear information and have input while the current Delegates have the opportunity to practice for the WSC, ask questions of the Trustees, build relationships with other Delegates and better their overall knowledge of the upcoming WSC. The WSC is the business of Al-Anon Family Groups and a place to gather information to share with the fellowship. The WSC is made up of Delegates and Trustees from the US & Canada and the WSO Staff. The WSC also attended Stepping Stones which was fantastic. Thanks to the many Groups/Members in our Area who sent cards of encouragement and/or packages with Love gifts to me to share with other Delegates. I returned the favor and sent five boxes back to Virginia to share with you the Love Gifts that were sent from all over the United States, Puerto Rico and Canada.
  
2. We are just over the two and a half year mark of Panel 56. You all have accomplished a lot and I am personally proud of the efforts completed to date. As we look to Panel 59 (starting January 2019), it is a good time for all of us to reflect and consider, what is the next best step for the future of Al-Anon in Virginia? The Service Link here is strong and our members continue to benefit from everyone participating in Service. Each Group, District, Area, Officer, Coordinator and Service Center as a team should consider folks that can fulfill Service work opportunities to ensure Al-Anon/Alateen for the future and pave the way for a successful next three years of Al-Anon and reaching out to those who have no serenity. Please approach some folks between now and October to consider serving and let them know how well you think they would be and how their program could benefit.
  
3. 2018 Al-Anon International Convention: Al-Anon International Conventions are a great way to celebrate recovery, meet old friends, and make new ones. An International Convention is where members from Canada, the U.S., and many other countries gather together to speak the same language—the language of the heart. Save the place and date; Baltimore, Maryland (Inner Harbor) on July 5-8th: Celebrating One Day at a Time.  
Registration started in September 2017, registration fees are as follows: \$165.00 U.S. if received between January 1 and May 31, 2018; and \$195.00 U.S. June 1 through the event. You can register Online, via surface mail, or fax. If you have registration questions, call 757-563-1600.  
Special Events:  
*Day of Connecting:* It is an opportunity to connect with staff members and volunteers from the World Service Office in a variety of Al-Anon workshops and meetings. The "Day of Connecting" is a separate event taking place during the day on Thursday, July 5th, before the Convention starts. Everyone is welcomed and the registration fee is as follows: US \$ 40.00 if received before May 31, 2018 and US \$ 45.00 if received between June 1 and the day of the event. Presentations with topics such as:

Our Worldwide Fellowship: Al-Anon's International Reach

Telephone Book or the Internet—What's Your Digital Age? Al-Anon on Social Media Know you're WSO—Service IS Its Middle Name! What Happens at the Office?

Al-Anon's Financial Stewardship: Gratitude in Action

Discussion Meetings:

Dusty Bookshelves: Falling in Love with All Our CAL: Going Beyond the Daily Readers

Tag—You're It! NOW WHAT? Becoming the Leaders Others Know You Can Be

Attitudes – Are Mine Worth Catching? Searching for the Answer in Our Twelve Traditions

The 3 T's of Public Outreach – Tips, Tools, and Techniques – Successful Public Outreach

Panels: Are the Twelve Concepts Still Al-Anon's Best Kept Secret? Hear the Secret of Our Service Structure

Young Members Wanted! Alateen Opportunities: Online meetings, Resources, Sponsorship, Outreach

Big "P" or little "p" - Big "T" or little "t": What's the difference when making decisions in Al-Anon? "Face Time," not what it used to be! The Changing "Face" of Meetings: Online and Phone Groups

There will also be opportunities to listen and learn more about how Al-Anon works through participation in Leadership Talks and Roundtable Discussions. The Day of Connecting will end with a "Meet and Greet" with presenters and participants.

*Language of Love Parade:* The parade is a celebration of joy and gratitude reflecting our worldwide fellowship of Al-Anon Family Groups. The parade will take place on Friday evening at the beginning of the Big Meeting. Information regarding the Language of Love Parade will be available in the spring of 2018. Please note that in order to march in the parade, you must sign up to march. Participation is limited and will be based on a first-come, first-served basis.

*Pioneer Luncheon:* The Pioneer Luncheon is a special, ticketed-event luncheon to celebrate our history. Everyone who registers for the Convention—whether they have been in the program for one day or for 60 years—is invited to purchase a ticket for the Pioneer Luncheon. When you register for the International Convention, there will be an opportunity to purchase a ticket. Please note that seating is limited. The deadline for purchasing a Pioneer Luncheon ticket is May 31, 2018. No tickets will be sold at the door.

*Al-Anon workshops & Big Meetings:* Will be held at the Baltimore Convention Center. Al-Anon workshops, Alateen workshops, and A.A. meetings will be held during the day on Friday and Saturday. The Big Meetings—all International Convention attendees are welcome—will be held on Friday and Saturday nights and Sunday morning.

*Alateens:* Alateen will have a variety of daytime workshops on Friday and Saturday that Alateens 12 through 19 wearing Convention badges may attend. Children ages 9 through 11 may also attend Alateen workshops. Al-Anon Members Involved in Alateen Service (AMIAS) who are currently certified by their Area will serve as Sponsors for the Alateen workshops. A special identification for the Convention Badge will be given out at the workshops indicating this service position.

Commemorative edition of One Day at a Time in Al-Anon (ODAT) (B-6) – Books go on sale at the International Convention which includes a ribbon book mark and front cover indication "50th Anniversary". This book will only be offered at the International Convention.

You can stay connected to "breaking news" related to the 2018 International on the International Convention Web site: [www.alanoninternationalconvention.org](http://www.alanoninternationalconvention.org) and a new App that will be interactive with maps, schedules, messaging, pictures, etc.

#### 4. World Service Conference:

Note: As some of you know there were many things in progress but not finished or finalized, we are always asked to not talk about those items unless the Board, WSO or Committee needs feedback.

Task Force: Celebrating our Differences and Common Purpose – Facing our Biases

Finances: The WSO budget is very challenging this year covering many goals including full staffing. The WSO had another strong year of literature sales, contributions consistent with prior year, Improved Investment performance helped to grow the Reserve Fund, resources allocated to technology and innovation, connections with professionals enhanced, 2018 Membership Survey created and new literature being introduced in 2018. Currently 48% of Revenues come from Literature sales, 34% Contributions, 13% Investment Income and 5% Forum. Top selling book is Courage to change followed by "How Al-Anon Works" and then Paths to Recovery. The following Program Services (Activities that fulfill the purpose of the WSO's mission; Public Outreach, Outreach to Professionals, International Services, Group Services, Literature and Conference. The 2018 Operating Budget has Total Estimated Revenue at \$5,503,800 (2107 Actual was \$5,212,031), Total Operating Expenses \$5,433,028 (2017 Actual was \$5,278,530) and Depreciation (Executive Building) \$68,000 (2017 Actual was \$47,512). Net Increase (decrease) is \$2,772 (2017 Actual was (\$66,499)).

Motions:

MOTION #1 - That the following persons be seated at the 2018 World Service Conference. With voice, but no vote: Niketa Bailey, Director of Finance and Operations (Non-Al-Anon Member); Scot Powers, Associate Director of Digital Strategy (Non-Al-Anon Member); Ann Wiedenbein, International Representative-Denmark (Al-Anon Member); Gabriela Patricia Ojeda Guzmán, International Representative-Mexico (Al-Anon Member). With voice limited to Executive Committee for Real Property Management (ECRPM) business, but no vote: Jeffrey Keeny, Chairperson, ECRPM (Al-Anon Member).

MOTION #2 - To end the three-year trial authorizing the use of electronic devices for note-taking starting at the 2015 World Service Conference and adopt the use of electronic devices at this and future World Service Conferences.

MOTION #3 - To approve the 2017 Annual Report.

MOTION #4 - To approve the 2017 Audited Financial Report.

MOTION #5 - To approve the 2018 Finance Committee Report.

MOTION #6 - That the 2018 World Service Conference give conceptual approval to develop a bookmark based on an August 2016 Forum article titled "Just for Tonight" using inclusive language.

Vali F., Executive Director of Al-Anon Family Headquarters, Inc. - Introduction

Chosen Agenda Items

Trustee: Open positions and what it is like serving in this role. Affirmation process was set in motion for this year and Teams were formed to recommend candidates to the Board.

Three Minute Talk

Stepping Stones: is the Wilsons' cozy Dutch Colonial, three-bedroom home built in 1920 as a summer cottage. It sits in the middle of rolling, wooded country, with its barn-like gambrel roof and cinder-block studio. The air is sweet with blooming forsythia, almost as if bread is baking inside, but no one has lived here since Lois died at age 97 in 1988.

The six buildings on the eight-acre Stepping Stones homestead are intact and unified. Among the highlights: A large living room dominated by a stone fireplace and wall-length French doors. A collection of antiques, glassware, china, photographs, printed materials and musical instruments of the Wilsons, including Bill's cello and Lois's piano, which visitors were encouraged to play, but now are off limits for the sake of preservation. A porcelain-topped table in the kitchen where Bill W. first discussed with a newly sober friend the importance of trusting the God of one's own understanding. A winding stair leading to the second-floor library, which has been preserved as Lois Wilson left it when she died in 1988. Lois's desk in the home's upstairs library is where, in 1951, Lois Wilson organized the first Al-Anon groups. The house is as Lois left it: wall lengths of books stacked five shelves high, scores of grandmotherly collections, a gallery's worth of photos and framed proclamations by dignitaries ranging from Pope Paul VI to President Eisenhower. Outside: The garden and its surroundings include antique roses and fruit trees. Bushes and trees grace the hillside. Bill Wilson's homemade backyard studio named Wit's End has a picture window and the desk where he wrote four books about the A.A. experience. The two-car garage is now turned into a Welcome Center, which has an orientation display, restrooms, and a gift shop. Much of the archival material previously stored in a small hallway is now on display, and the Center is a place to more appropriately welcome visitors. The Annual Lois's Family Group Picnic is held on the grounds every year in June (this year will be its 67th).

Stepping Stones is managed by a foundation that Lois Wilson formed in 1979, eight years after Bill's death. Stepping Stones is an important historic site for Al-Anon and is designated as a State and National Historic Place.

International Representatives: Ann Wiedenbein, Denmark & Gabriela Guzman, Mexico

Policy Thought Force – Virtual Meetings

International:

Public Outreach Committee:

Trivia:

Where was the first stand-alone International Convention for Al-Anon held (with AA participation)? Salt Lake City 1998.

What year did Bill and Lois purchase and move into their home at Stepping Stones? 1941

Where and when was the first Al-Anon World Service Conference held? April 1961 in New York.

Unanswered Questions/Reflections - At the end of each day, the Chair asked for folks to come to the mike to ask questions or give reflections. I would like to see the Assembly take on this practice, I know Val has been open to it but has had a hard time working it in with all the other objectives and information.

5. Reminder: WSO just updated their Website, more interactive, more information, looks great!
6. Board of Trustees and WSO Service Annual Vacancies – (3) at-Large Trustees, (3) Regional Trustees (rotates depending on Region), (1) at-Large member, Executive Committee for Real

Property Management, (5) at-Large members, Forum Editorial Advisory Committee, (5) at-Large members, Literature Committee, (5) at-Large members, Public Outreach Committee, (2) at-Large members, Audit Committee and Executive Committee for Real Property Management at-Large Member. Application deadline is August 15, 2018. Applications and guidelines can be provided by the Delegate.

7. WSO Communications:

- a. Now members can sign up to receive a free subscription to AFG Announcements—all we need is your email address (you can easily unsubscribe at any time). This communication system for individual members will deliver announcements from the World Service Office (WSO) right to your inbox. Some examples of announcements include: new literature, surveys, WSO employment opportunities, and Group eNews, to name a few. Members in service who currently receive information through the "Announcements—WSC Structure" community on AFG Connects will continue to receive announcements in that manner so there is no need to subscribe.
- b. In the Loop - The former "Group eNews" was replaced with "In The Loop" in September 2017. "In The Loop" is electronically focused, i.e. "headlines" with links to various places on the WSO web site.
- c. Pat Q. will retire after 22 years of service in June 2018.
- d. The WSO has two exciting opportunities for employment at the World Service Office in Virginia Beach. Both positions are directly related to serving the AI-Anon's primary purpose.
  - 1) The first position is for a Translation Project Coordinator. This is a key position in serving members and potential members whose native language is different than English. The primary focus of the position is coordinating and prioritizing translation of AI-Anon literature, service materials, periodicals, web pages, social media content, and correspondence between English, Spanish and French.
  - 2) The second position is for an Editorial Quality Specialist. This position directly supports the AI-Anon's primary purpose by editing various written service materials, executive reports, literature and periodicals utilizing grammar standards, editing guidelines and experience.

Please visit this web page to find link to the job announcements and position requirements: <http://al-anon.org/employment-at-al-anon/>. Qualified candidates can email their resume and cover letter to the Employee Resources Manager Bill Piersol at [bill@al-anon.org](mailto:bill@al-anon.org). Bill can be reached by the email listed or by telephone at 757-563-1600 to answer any questions regarding these positions. Applications will be accepted until the positions are filled.

8. Trustee Visit – Val and I have been in dialogue with the AI-Anon Family Groups Chairman of the Board, Debbie G. concerning a Trustee Visit at one of our Assemblies. I am happy to report that this event is scheduled for Spring Assembly 2019 for a Trustee and the Executive Director. We are excited to finally get this on the calendar and the whole membership will be invited. The VAWSC will provide more details at Fall Assembly.

9. Chairperson of the Board Letter – Several topics already included in this report including the following;
- a. Personal Trustee Visit – After careful review, the Board realized (14) Areas had not had a Trustee Visit and contacted all of those areas the opportunity to understand a little more about the Trustees relationship with Al-Anon, raising awareness of the “why” of the Boards work. All transportation, meals and lodging will be handled by the WSO.
  - b. Road Trip! You and your Board connect – Saturday, October 20, 2018 in Houston, Texas.
  - c. Forum Articles, Trustee Letters from the Heart – The sends their thanks and gratitude for those members who took the time to respond to the online survey requesting your input regarding the Trustees articles which appeared throughout the past year in the Forum. Your honest input will assist the Board in gaining a greater understanding of how the fellowship views the work, composition of and process involved in becoming a member of the Board of Trustees.
  - d. The Board of Trustees and the Staff of the WSO thanks all of its members for the contributions and literature sales received in 2017. These contributions and literature sales reflect the resources necessary for the Staff to develop and provide the following new programs and services in 2017 and beyond: Completion of the newly designed al-anon.org website, Completion of the newly designed members link, ability to hire and retain staff versus the expense of outside consulting, Completion of a new meeting search, Ability to not only look to the future but the continued commitment to our primary purpose of reaching families and friends of alcoholics.
10. In Closing – It is with great gratitude, that I thank each one of our members for coming to meetings, working to make our meetings healthy and welcoming the newcomers with open arms. Each time one of you sets up, Chairs a meeting, listens when someone is in need, you open the doors to Al-Anon to a hurting group of people so they can come in and realize they are powerless over alcohol and their lives have become unmanageable. From there with your help, this wonderful Program and tools helps us all to recover, trust in a higher power and become new sane people. Your continued willingness to serve in these capacities and many trying out GR, DR, Committees and even serving at the State level not only make our Virginia Area healthy but contribute to the success of this Program around the United States, Canada and the World.  
Thank You!

Thanks,

Duane Faircloth

Virginia Delegate, Panel 56