

DELEGATE'S REPORT
Fall Assembly – October 20, 2018
Duane Faircloth

Virginia Business

1. I looked into the subject of Insurance and read several communications discussing Group, District, State and Corporate Insurance coverage. Recently, even the Treasurers AFG Connects had discussions on this subject. Overall, it seems more folks are feeling a need to have the coverage particular at the corporate level and State to cover the big events and Officers against any major liabilities. In some States this coverage seems to be in the \$500 to \$900 range per year. I recommend we continue this conversation at assembly with the Long range Planning Committee and look at pulling in a few experts to give advice.

WSO

2. WSO has an Employment section on their website, al-anon.org/employment-at-al-anon/. Administrative Assistant – Bilingual Spanish is the latest. I encourage all of you to pass this information to the Districts and Groups particular due to our close location to WSO.
3. 2018 World Service Conference Summary is currently on line in the members section of WSO website. Hard copies became available in late September for \$5 each, including shipping.
4. 2018 Membership survey objectives: Determine the demographic and sociographic profile of Al-Anon Family Group members. Identify the relationship between the Al-Anon member and the alcoholic. Measure the impact that an alcoholic has had on the Al-Anon members' lives. Determine the impact of the Al-Anon Family Groups program on the quality of life of the members. Results on WSO Website.
5. In accordance with page 107-108 of the Manual, WSO can only grant permission for "limited excerpts" from Conference Approved Literature—usually a couple sentences to a paragraph. Permission needs to be requested for each individual reprint. Please use the "Request for Permission to Reprint" form found in the "Forms" folder of AFG Connects. It can also be found at, <http://al-anon.org/members/pdf/reprintInside.pdf>. The WSO does its best to process these requests very quickly, but asks that you not wait until the last minute, as out-of-office trips and other events can sometimes cause delays. Reprint request form attached.

WSC

6. Chosen Agenda Items
 - a. #1: How do we instill enthusiasm and positivity for leadership in our program?
 - b. #2: How do we increase our membership?
 - c. #3: When does group autonomy end and an issue begin affecting another group or Al-Anon or AA as a whole?
 - d. #9: Rural populations and meetings in our Structure. How do the small group meetings in rural America fit into the Board's vision and mission?
7. Mega Issue: How best to address Spanish and French translations needs across the fellowship.
8. Public Outreach

9. Literature

10. Al-Ateen

11. Virginia is in the Southeast Region. Delegates in the Southeast just participated in the process of voting and recommending candidates to the Southeast Regional Trustee position.
12. Marsha W. Director of WSO Programs was the Opening Dinner Speaker. Marsha spoke here at an Assembly in the past three years.
13. The World Service Conference theme this year was, "Al-Anon, there is no standing still!" The conference spent time discussing obstacles in the way, looking into the future and being open to different ways if needed to encourage growth and help to those who are hurting, applying our spiritual principles in addressing the future, visited the home of Bill and Lois to remind us of the pioneering and the continued effort to build this program into the success that it is today and understanding our differences and that no matter where we are in the program that we are all equal across the whole worldwide fellowship.

Board of Trustees

14. Dear Conference Members, Our Al-Anon groups are spiritual entities, yet we find we are not immune to the same difficulties that affect the world around us. Over the past several years, our fellowship has reported an increase within their groups of the same behaviors demonstrated outside our meeting rooms; stalking, bullying, financial coercion and presentation of outside issues. Recent correspondence from members, conversations between the Executive Director and members of the fellowship, discussions at the 2018 WSC and increases in member use of the WSO online meeting search led to a robust discussion amongst Conference Staff and, subsequently, the Board of Trustees during our July meeting. The conversation centered around the potential legal and financial risk to Al-Anon Family Groups stemming from potentially dangerous and harmful situations. Following the recommendations of our WSO Staff-the frontline workers who, on a daily basis, deal with members seeking assistance-the Board of Trustees identified the need to take proactive action to encourage Al-Anon Family Groups to discuss safety (which may entail the distribution of service materials regarding safety to all groups), and to support Areas who have created robust "Do Not Refer" policies, particularly in matters where safety and affiliation with outside entities are involved. In 2011 and 2012, the WSC held two policy discussions related to Area "Do Not Refer" policies. Many ideas and good practices can be extracted from these conversations. The 2012 discussion offered encouragement for Areas to create these policies: "If the Areas have a process in place and the WSO sees it as fair and balanced, then the Policy Committee would discuss whether they would have a 'Do Not Refer' policy. We may consider not referring, but not delist." (pg. 50) Since then, several Areas have acted to create thoughtful and balanced policies and have removed meetings from local listings while maintaining their rights as groups. However, those meetings remain accessible to current or potential new members through the WSO meeting search and toll-free number. Following a three-hour deliberation, which included review of past Conference materials, submissions from members presenting their concerns and considerations, and review of those Areas that currently have "Do Not Refer" policies in place that appear to be fair and balanced, the Board of Trustees made, seconded and carried the following: MOTION: that the Board of Trustees directs the World Service Office to send a statement alerting all registered groups on the importance of discussing

and creating safety guidelines. MOTION: that the Board of Trustees direct the WSO Staff to utilize the Policy Committee criteria presented at the 2012 World Service Conference to ensure that an Area has established a fair and balanced "Do Not Refer" and "Re-Refer" policy. These criteria allow the WSO to support Area "Do Not Refer" group conscience decisions and remove group meetings from the WSO meeting list. Groups not being referred by the WSO remain active and registered. As noted within the motions, the Board, in their legal authority, has directed the WSO to send a statement alerting all registered groups on the importance of discussing and creating safety guidelines. This will be communicated through AFG Connects, In the Loop and other modes of communication as defined by the WSO. "Do Not Refer" and "Re-Refer" policies that Areas have put in place will be reviewed by the WSO to ensure they are within the spirit of being fair and balanced, as framed by the Policy Committee in the 2012 WSC discussion. If it is determined that these policies satisfy the spirit of that guidance, groups that are not being displayed on Areas' meeting lists will no longer be displayed on the WSO meeting search or given out on the toll-free meeting line. It is important to note that groups not being referred by the WSO remain active and registered. Areas determining the need to establish "Do Not Refer" and "Re-Refer" policies must submit their policies to the WSO for review. Further details outlining the process will be communicated through AFG Connects and In the Loop. It is the hope of the Board of Trustees that the actions taken during our July meeting will encourage the growth of new groups and the continued strength and diversity of our current meetings. The decisions of Board of Trustees were made with the utmost of care, consideration of all factors and information and ultimately, with the guidance of our collective Higher Power. We look forward to the discussion these decisions may bring forward within this WSC Members community and within your respective Areas.

15. Dear Conference Members: Over the past year a Task Force of the Conference Leadership Team (CLT) was charged with discussing the possibility of offering professional interpretation in Spanish and French during the WSC. The CLT and the Board of Trustees recognize that, while the WSC is English speaking, our WSC Structure serves three languages: Spanish, French and English. The Board realized that in order to remain true to its Mission and Vision Statements and Strategic Plan Priorities, it needed to take a look at interpretation during the WSC and how offering or not offering interpretation could impact the WSC Structure and Al-Anon as a whole. After lengthy discussion, scrutinizing of costs by our Finance Committee and seeking of guidance from our Higher Power, the Board of Trustees approved the following: MOTION: to approve a special project to provide professional interpretation, when required, to support Spanish- and French- speaking Delegates who attend the World Service Conference. The project will start in 2019 as a three-year trial, with the annual net Conference cost of over \$100,000 to be transferred from the Reserve Fund. Logistics regarding the process of providing interpretation will be posted on the WSC Members AFG Connects community. While interpretation during the WSC will be provided, it is with the understanding that only oral interpretation, and not written translation of presentations, can be provided. Virginia Al-Anon Family Groups, consider ways you can include and offer assistance to those with differences that could help them find help and hope in this Program.
16. The Chairman of the Board sent Val and I the following; I am pleased to share that Vali is available to participate at the May 4-5, 2019 Virginia Area Assembly. Please let me know should

you have any questions or further needs regarding the Trustee Visit. I want to thank you both for your efforts in making this happen. I believe it's been a number of years since a Trustee, the ED or a WSO Staff member have visited the Virginia Area Assembly.

Final Words

17. Today is an emotional day, filled with proudness of what you have done over the last three years. A sincere appreciation to all of you who have joined arms with us and served our fellowship in Virginia unselfishly. Your hard work and dedication has been most outstanding and has been productive beyond that which we can see. It is your heartbeat and love using the principles of this program along with a loving higher power that attracts, restores and gives the tools to provide serenity. Each one of us doing our small part to make the whole fellowship a healthy secure place to find hope and happiness is so beautiful.
18. In thinking about the WSC theme, "Al-Anon, there is no standing still!", we are encouraged to think about our personal program; to take action to comfort and welcome newcomers including follow-up; be steadfast in ensuring healthy groups; to light a fire in our Districts to provide fun events, workshops and speaker meetings; to attend Assemblies and stay connected and give back to the success and hope we all have come to enjoy in Service.
19. My experience as Delegate has been awesome from visiting your meetings, District events, State meetings, Assemblies and Conventions, Service Centers, Southeastern Regional Delegate's get together and finally the World Service Conferences. Each event you met me with open arms, encouragement and love. Some of you took me in and let me sleep overnight, some of you took me out to dinner with your family or invited me in your home for a warm meal. What could seem like such a chore and mountain of responsibility became a blessing that will always be with me. I have learned from your Service, sometimes that I needed to step mine up but many times that you had a special way of conducting your Service in love for this program and the people in it.
20. I want you to know that I did not perform a perfect Service, but one from the heart to stand hand and hand with you to provide a place and opportunity for those in need. I also want you to know that I could not have had better District Representatives in our District Sessions, best State Coordinators, a wonderful hard working group of Officers and awesome Past Delegates to escort me to the finish line with all the love in the World. Thanks you so much for this opportunity, the blessing and friendships.
21. The group of Panel 56 Delegates continues to hold regular conference calls and I am looking forward to the one on this Sunday at 6pm.

Thanks,

Duane Faircloth

Virginia Delegate, Panel 56