

Virginia Area Al-Anon  
2019 Spring Assembly  
May 4-5, 2019

# Delegate's Report

## On the 59<sup>th</sup> Annual World Service Conference

### "Action is Attraction – There Is No Growth in the Comfort Zone"

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WSO website:  
[www.al-anon.org](http://www.al-anon.org)

#### 1. What does a Delegate do?

- The World Service Delegate is an Al-Anon member elected at an Area Assembly.
- Represents all the Area groups at the annual World Service Conference (WSC).
- The Delegate is the primary communication link between the groups and the WSO.
- Shares the Area experience at 3 annual Conferences.
- Brings the views and the spirit of world-wide Al-Anon back to the Area.
- See the World Service Conference Chart on page 171 of the Service Manual.

#### 2. What is the World Service Conference (WSC)?

- It's the largest **Informed Group Conscience of Al-Anon/Alateen** world- wide.
- An annual business meeting attended by 67 Area Delegates from all over the United States, Puerto Rico, Canada and Bermuda, along with the Trustees at Large, Regional Trustees, WSO Executive Committee and WSO Administrative Staff.
- This year it had 94 voting members, plus some attendees with voice, but no vote, and an International visitor from Mexico.
- On Al-Anon's overall policy matters, the Conference makes the final decisions.
- The Conference can direct committees to further study or to refuse to act in a given situation.
- The Conference cannot mandate or govern the Al-Anon fellowship, which it serves.
- As part of their duties, Delegates are invited to serve on either a:
  - Thought Force
  - Task Force
  - Or a Delegate Member committee.
- I'm on the "Thought Force: Identifying Ways to Look at Service in Relation to Roles, Terms and Possible Roadblocks."
  - That Committee's charge is to: "Complete a Knowledge-Based Decision-Making Process (KBDM) on new ways to look at roles and terms of service. Identify possible roadblocks to service that might arise if roles and terms were different."
  - This committee will continue to meet via teleconference throughout the summer and submit a report to the Chair of the Executive Committee by Sept. 1, 2019.
  - The Executive Committee could return the report for additions and/or revisions.
  - The Final Report will be due Dec. 1, 2019
  - After that, I will be moved to a different committee, with a different charge.

### 3. Trustees

- The Board of Trustees is made up of 7 to 21 volunteer members, one sustaining member (the Executive Director), Trustees at Large, and Regional Trustees.
- Regional Trustees present their resumes to their respective Areas.
- The qualifying chosen resume is then submitted to the WSO by the Area Delegate.
- The Virginia Area belongs to the Southeast Region.
- Currently the Southeast Region has a vacancy for our Regional Trustee, with 2 years of a 3 year term remaining.
- The deadline for submission of a resume by an interested candidate is August 15, 2019.
- See the WSO website for a listing of Duties, Qualifications and the resume form. [www.al-anon.org](http://www.al-anon.org)>Members>Board of Trustees>WSO Volunteers> Qualifications.

### 4. WSO Finances

- **A budget deficit of \$178,956 is projected for 2019. (See Attachment A).**
  - Overall expenses are budgeted to increase this year, including:
    - Costs of French and Spanish interpretation services at the 2019 WSC.
    - Increased travel expenses of WSO Staff and Board of Trustee members for:
      - 3 Zonal meetings
      - 6 TEAM Events in 2019
      - Cost-of-living salary increases (1% increase in this expense over 2018).
    - Estimated income is \$344, 194 less than last year's.
    - Estimated contributions at \$2,050,000 is slightly higher than last year's actual.
    - A 4% transfer from Reserve Fund to General Fund is planned.
  - **WSO Expenses Per Group (Al-Anon and Alateen) for 2018. (See Attachment B).**
    - Average Cost per Group: \$292.39
    - Average donation per group in USA/Canada: \$147.76, with 64.11% of groups donating.
    - Average donation per group in Virginia: \$119.01, with 70.1% of groups donating.
  - **NOTE: If every group donated \$8.00 more than they did last year, we could make up that deficit!**
  - CAL sales in 2018 were high because of the release of new literature, especially *Intimacy in Alcoholic Relationships* (B-33), as well as the pamphlet "Hope & Understanding for Parents and Grandparents," (P-94), the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary edition of *One Day at a Time*.
  - Other than the new bookmark, *Just for Tonight* (M-81), no new CAL is planned for 2019.
  - More details on WSO finances in subsequent Delegate reports.
  - Copies of current financial reports available in the Delegate's Notebook on table.

### 5. Highlights of the 2019 World Service Conference:

- **2019 WSC was the first tri-lingual Conference in its 59 year history.**
  - Our Delegate from Quebec East speaks only French.
  - Our Delegate from Puerto Rico is bilingual, but had an interpreter.
  - Our International Representative from Mexico speaks only Spanish.

- **WSC members passed a total of 7 motions:**
  - A routine Seating Motion – to allow non-voting members who had information to deliver to members to attend Conference.
  - Approval of the 2018 Annual Report from the Board of Trustees.
  - Approval the 2018 Audited Financial Report.
  - Approval of the 2019 Finance Committee Report.
  - 3 Motions to revise Service Manual texts:
    - Alateen Policy Text Revision – no change in policy; text revision for clarity only.
    - Concept Five – revisions to descriptive text only.
    - Text revisions on pages 139, 140.168 and 171.
    - These text revisions will be posted in the online version of the current Service Manual and will be in the printed version when it is released after 2021.
  
- **Affirmation of nominees for Trustees at Large, Regional Trustees and a Board Officer of the Executive Committee for Real Property Management (ECRPM).**
  
- **Conference members heard reports from a variety of Committees, Thought Forces and Task Forces;**
  - **Policy Work Group Discussion – Electronic Meetings**
    - Currently there are 214 registered electronic Al-Anon meetings, with 1000s of members.
    - AFG Connects for Electronic meetings went live on Jan. 25, 2019.
    - Other electronic meetings not registered with WSO will be sent a letter inviting them to register.
    - No electronic Alateen meetings due to safety issues.
    - WSO meeting list is **the** place to find electronic meetings; Google searches pull up anything using our name. Beware.
  
  - **2018 Al-Anon/Alateen International Convention with A.A. Participation, in Baltimore**
    - 4,029 registered attendees, with 49 Alateens and 271 A.A. members.
    - 122 members self-identified as Spanish speakers; 37 as French speakers.
    - In addition to members from USA/Canada, Puerto Rico and Bermuda, members came from: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Cayman Islands, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, England, France, Germany, India, Ireland, Lithuania, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Panama, Qatar, Scotland, Singapore, South Africa, South Korea, Sweden, Switzerland and Uruguay.
    - 330 members volunteered to help put on the Convention.
    - Meetings were offered in English, Spanish, French, and in Sign Language.
    - Convention Finances:
      - Total Revenue: \$710,809
      - Total Expenses: \$493,451
      - Net Revenue: \$217,358.
  
  - **2020 A.A. International Convention with Al-Anon Participation**
    - July 2 – 5, 2020, Detroit, Michigan
    - Online registration opens September 9, 2019.
    - Registration is \$115; after April 15, 2020, it goes up to \$140.
    - Between 50,000 and 60,000 attendees are expected.

- **2023 AI-Anon/Alateen International Convention with A.A. Participation**
  - June 29 – July 2, 2023, Albuquerque, New Mexico.
  - Further information will be announced as it develops.
  
- **Public Service Announcements**
  - Ready for Public Outreach use by August, 2019.
  - 2 Versions:
    - One is aimed at the typical member – female spouse in early 40s.
    - Second is based on the 20 Questions Bookmark.
    - Both are available in English, Spanish and French, with choices in length.
  
- **Mega Issue: A Hybrid Conference**
  - Defined as a “live” in person event at a physical location with a “virtual” online component.
  - Topic originated from the Conference Leadership Team.
  - “Mega Issue” replaces the previous “Big Question,” based on 2018 WSC evaluations.
  - Over 3 days, Conference members explored various aspects of how this could be possible, what would be gained or lost and what members’ feelings about it are.
  - Using the 4 Knowledge-Based Decision Making (KBDM) Questions, we discussed the topic.
  - No resolutions; no decisions; ongoing process.
  - Discussion comments will be recorded in the 2019 WSC Summary, available by August.
  
- **Board of Trustees Chosen Agenda Items**
  - **Topic – Whether or not a group that has a period of meditation or quiet time as part of its format is following the Legacies.**
    - The Service Manual, p. 34, under ‘WSO Registration Process,’ states “... groups that practice specific therapies, such as *guided meditation*, are not in keeping with AI-Anon principles, and do not qualify to be registered as an AI-Anon group.”
    - *Courage to Change*, Dec. 3, p. 338 defines meditation in AI-Anon terms and lists multiple ways to meditate.
  
  - **“Encouraging Service” Break Out Session discussed:**
    - The group is fundamental; it is the basic unit of our fellowship. What are some ways we can support group growth?
    - How can we encourage older and newer members in our Area to participate in service?
    - What are some ways we can increase new member participation?
    - How can we address the issue of gaps in the links of service?
  
  - **Electronic/Virtual District and Area Business meetings Break Out Session Discussed:**
    - How can we step out of our comfort zone – in this case face-to-face District and Area business meetings – and incorporate electronic participation?
    - Our Virginia Area seems to be among the Areas that are already doing this.
      - Area Officer meetings;
      - Committee meetings – Convention Planning and Long Range Planning;
      - Some District meetings are using our WebEx capacity.
    - Some Areas have not yet begun discussing this.
    - Other Areas are somewhere in between.

- **International Coordination Committee report**
  - Report from Staff members' visits to Al-Anon in Greece and in Norway, Finland, Sweden and Estonia.
  - 40% of world-wide Al-Anon meetings are outside the WSO organization structure; they have a national structure of their own, or an evolving structure.
  - The 2018 Annual Report contains more detailed information on what WSO is doing in many countries around the world.
  - See the WSO website for much more information on international outreach and for the biennial meetings of the International Al-Anon General Services Meeting (WSO website>members>International>IAGSM Summaries.
  
- **Speakers:**
  - International Representative Speaker – Maria Lourdes Morales Jimenez, from Mexico (in Spanish, with translation.)
  - 3 Minute “Sharing Ourselves” talks from Delegates across USA/Canada.
  - Opening Dinner – Outgoing Chairperson of the Executive Committee, Paula Burleson.
  - Closing Dinner with 2 Spiritual Speakers, Sarah Smith, Panel 57, Missouri and Terry Tavel, Panel 57, Alaska (and my new Mentor!)
  - I brought back 3 sets of Speaker CDs to loan out.
  
- **2020 World Service Conference Dates:**
  - Monday, April 20 through Friday, April 24.
  - Arrive Sunday, April 19; depart Saturday, April 25.
  - Site will be the same hotel as 2019, Sheraton Virginia Beach Oceanfront Hotel, 3501 Atlantic Ave., Virginia Beach, VA 23451.
  
- **Thank you, thank you for all the wonderful Love Gifts and cards!**
- **Thank you, Duane, for the beautiful flowers!**

## ATTACHMENT A

### MEMORANDUM

**TO: Conference Members**

**FROM: Joan S., Treasurer, Trustee**

**Niketa Bailey, Director of Finance & Operations (non-member)**

**SUBJECT: Highlights of the 2019 Budget**

**DATE: March 5, 2019**

The 2019 Budget shows that we expect expenses to be \$178,956 more than revenue for the year. We are estimating expenses to be \$5,566,556 and revenue to be \$5,387,600.

### **PROJECTED EXPENSES**

Overall expenses are budgeted to increase by \$174,648 from last year's actual. The increase is related to the costs of French and Spanish interpretation at the 2019 World Service Conference, execution of Strategic Plan Initiatives, and increased travel and meetings (there will be three Zonal meetings and six Team Events in 2019). Salaries are budgeted for normal cost-of-living increases, which represent only a 1% percent increase in salary expense over 2018's budget.

### **ESTIMATED INCOME**

We are estimating income from 2019 literature sales to be about \$344,194 less than last year's and Forum subscription income to be comparable to the prior year's. Literature sales income is expected to be less than it was in 2018, when new literature was introduced. We are budgeting contributions to be \$2,050,000, which is slightly higher than last year's actual. Beginning in 2008, we agreed to transfer up to 4% of the fair value of the Reserve Fund to the General Fund. For 2019, we have budgeted a transfer of 4% again.

Distributed at the 2019 World Service Conference



# WSO EXPENSES PER GROUP

## (Al-Anon and Alateen)

### 2018

Total Expenses (2018 Audit page 4)	\$ 5,416,985	
Less Donated Non Cash Services (2018 Audit page 4)	\$ (25,077)	
Less Literature Distribution Services (2018 Audit page 4)	<u>\$ (859,503)</u>	
Adjusted Total Expenses		\$ 4,532,405
Less Forum Expenses		
Postage	\$ 105,575	
Printing	<u>\$ 81,224</u>	
Forum Before Overhead	\$ 186,799	
Estimated Overhead	<u>\$ 91,065</u>	
Total Forum Expense		\$ (277,864)
Estimated Cost of Group Services		\$ 4,254,541
Number of US & Canadian Groups		14,551
Costs per Group		\$ 292

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