

**Virginia Area Al-Anon
2019 Fall Assembly
Oct. 19-20, 2019**

Delegate's Report

“Action is Attraction – There Is No Growth in the Comfort Zone”

Terry Woodside, Virginia Area Delegate, Panel 59
Twoodside1@verizon.net

WSO website:
www.al-anon.org

1. July 2019 Board Week Highlights:

2020 World Service Conference (WSC) Theme selected – “Dreaming Big with 20/20 Vision”

2. French and Spanish translation services to be provided at next WSC – 2019 marks the start of a three year trial to provide translation services for the WSC members who speak French and Spanish as part of WSO's ongoing commitment to supporting diversity within our fellowship.

Panel 59 Delegates, in honor of the 2019 WSC being the first tri-lingual Conference, chose the following tagline:

**PANEL 59
Yes. Oui. Sí.
Concept 9**

3. Regional Trustee Selection:

- Virginia belongs to the Southeast Region.
- No Regional Trustee nominees from our region, for second year in a row.
- One year left of the current vacant position.
- The Board will address the vacancy at the Oct. Board meeting, later this month.
- For more information about Trustee qualifications, duties and for a nomination form, go to the WSO website address (listed above)>Members>Board of Trustees>WSO Volunteers.
- Please consider if this position is an area of service that appeals to you.

4. Upcoming Conventions:

2020 A. A. International Convention with Al-Anon participation:

- July 2-5, Detroit, MI.
- Registration opened Sept. 9, 2019.
- Registration is \$115; after April 15, 2020, it goes up to \$140.
- Between 50,000 and 60,000 attendees are expected.
- To register, go to WSO website address (listed above)>Calendar> International Convention.

2021 Virginia Area Convention:

- Information from the 2021 Convention Coordinator, Val P., today.

2023 Al-Anon/Alateen International Convention with A. A. participation:

- June 29-July 2, 2023, Albuquerque, N.M.
- More information will be posted later on the WSO website.

5. Policy Committee Updates:

- The function of the WSO Policy Committee is to consider problems or projects brought to its attention by any Al-Anon or Alateen member, frequently via the Delegates.
- Its statements of policy are based on our Traditions.
- Policy statements are subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees and the World Service Conference (WSC).
- See the Service Manual, pages 79-131, “Digest of Al-Anon and Alateen Policies,” for past work of the Policy Committee.
- **Ongoing Policy work:**
 - From a 2019 WSC request regarding “**past members of A. A. wanting to participate in service to Al-Anon.**” The Committee has voted to form a **Thought Force** to “further consider if the policy on Al-Anon members who are also members of A. A. applies to prior members of A. A. , and how or if former members of A. A. might be defined and by whom.” (from the July 2016 Policy Committee Update letter).
 - **Text Revision (Service Manual text)** – this is an ongoing process. Part of the charge of the Membership and Group Meeting Text Revision Task Force is to “edit or remove text that is written as procedure rather than Policy.
 - **Current review is of pages 100-117 in the Service Manual.**
 - **The Alateen Preamble Task Force** has met and is planning to present text at the October Policy Committee meeting.
- **Text revisions that your Delegate has suggested to the Board of Trustees:**
 - Page 51, paragraph 2, under “Group Conscience,” – the term ‘informed group conscience’ is not defined in the Service Manual.
 - Page 34, under WSO Registration Process, it states, in part, that “groups that practice specific therapies, such as guided meditation ... do not qualify to be registered as an Al-Anon group.” This is not listed in the index and questions about meditation in meetings and workshops has been coming up more frequently. More clarity in the Service Manual would be helpful to the membership.
 - Page 101, under “Financial Matters: Spiritual Principles of Al-Anon’s Self Support.” Again, this is not listed in the index, which makes it easy for members to miss the change in Al-Anon’s outlook towards using spiritual principles to look at financial matters.
- **“Open” and “Closed” meeting designations: In the Sept., 2019 *In the Loop*, this change was announced.**
 - Background – In the Jan., 2018 Policy Committee meeting, there was a policy discussion about the terminology. It was decided that the current meeting designation terms were

“not consistent with our spiritual principles of confidentiality and anonymity, nor welcoming to newcomers.”

- The Executive Committee approved a motion to use the wording “**Families and Friends Only**” (instead of Closed) and “**Families, Friends, and Observers Welcome**” (instead of Open).
- This change had been implemented on a trial basis of six months with the AFG Electronic Meeting Registration Update form.
- After a review, the Policy Committee recommended to the Board of Trustees at the April 2019 Board meeting, “to end the trial and update the language permanently for both the Electronic Meeting Registration form and for the Group Records form. The recommendation was accepted by the Board.

•

6. Happy Birthday to Dee Moore!

- **November 18** will be Dee’s 95th birthday!
- Past Virginia Area Delegate, Panel 8.
- Our oldest Delegate.
- She has remained active in Al-Anon service for over 50 years!
- Please join me in wishing Dee a Happy Birthday and send her a card to her home address:
 - **Mrs. Dee Moore**
 - **2322 Broadway Avenue, SW**
 - **Roanoke, VA, 24014**

7. Healthy Groups and Healthy Districts:

From the 2015 World Service Conference Summary, page 63 (WSO website>Members>WSC>WSC Summary Archives).

- Task Force: Identify, Gather and Present Practices that Demonstrate a Healthy, Thriving Group:
 - The Task Force was asked to define a healthy, thriving group. They found: “In a healthy group, members join local groups which have a welcoming atmosphere, where the Al-Anon/Alateen program is shared and where members participate in service. The Al-Anon and Alateen members usually consider one group as their “home group.” By regular attendance, friendships are established, and growth is acknowledged. In a home group, members and newcomers find a place where they feel accepted, no matter what. There may be time before the meeting where all members and newcomers are greeted as the room is being set up; refreshments and beverages may be available; and time after the meeting for more conversation and sharing on a one-to-one basis. Tradition Five ensures the group will be safe, friendly, welcoming, and non-judgmental. As always, our Higher Power is present in all meetings.”
 - Page 66 – Characteristics of members (of a healthy meeting): “They study the Steps with a Sponsor and choose a healthy group. Groups encourage working a program.”

Concept Nine “Good personal leadership at all service levels is a necessity. In the field of world service the Board of Trustees assumes the primary leadership.”

- Service Manual, page 194 – “Good leadership can be here today and gone tomorrow. Furnishing our service structure with able and willing workers is a continuing activity. We must constantly find the right people for our many service tasks... our future effectiveness thus depends upon ever-new generations of leaders...”
- Thank you to each and every one of you here today. Please carry the message back to your groups and districts. Our organization, our Districts and our Area are only as healthy as our home groups.
- Discuss with your groups the characteristics of healthy meetings. Hold regular business meetings. Conduct annual Group Inventories.
- Study the Traditions and the Concepts in your meetings.
- When asked to do service in Al-Anon/Alateen, say ‘yes.’