

Virginia Area Al-Anon  
2020 Spring Assembly (cancelled)  
May 16-17, 2020

## Delegate's Report

### On the 60<sup>th</sup> Annual World Service Conference

### "Dreaming Big with 20/20 Vision"

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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, the WSO Executive Committee and WSO Administrative Staff members.
- This year it had 92 voting members, plus some attendees with voice, but no vote.
- 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.
- This year I have been asked to chair the "Task Force: Conflict Resolution Workshop."
  - That Committee's charge is to: "Create a workshop for the 2021 WSC that can be used in all Areas, Districts, and Groups on how to use the Conflict Resolution Tools we have taking into consideration Concept Five."
  - This committee will meet via WebEx throughout the summer and submit a report to the Chair of the Executive Committee by Sept. 1, 2020.
  - The Executive Committee could return the report for additions and/or revisions.
  - The Final Report will be due Dec. 1, 2020

- After the 2021 WSC, the workshop will be available for use by the Areas, Districts, and Groups.
- I will also serve on the U.S. Southeast Regional Committee on Trustees. That committee will be responsible for reviewing any nominees' application for the Southeast Region Trustees.

### 3. The 2020 World Service Conference (WSC) – the first hybrid WSC

- I am a Delegate of Panel 59, meaning that I, and the other Panel 59 Delegates, attended our 2<sup>nd</sup> of 3 Conferences this past April.
- The 2020 WSC is the first hybrid Conference, ever. Even though the Conference did not meet face to face in Virginia Beach as it usually does, we met in a combination of online discussions on AFG Connects for WSC members and on 2 four hour WebEx sessions and a 2 hour observation of a Board of Trustee meeting.
- Voting took place electronically, through an app, titled VoxVote. Votes were cast on voting members' devices, and the app tabulated, then posted the results.
- Under normal circumstances, this Conference would have included a visit to the WSO headquarters in Virginia Beach. This was not possible this year. *(I was fortunate to have already visited the WSO office for a tour during the 65<sup>th</sup> Al-Anon Anniversary a few years back. Go to the end of this report to see a few photos of my trip to the WSO office from that time. Note: Becky D.'s photo appears with her permission).*
- This Conference also had to cancel the Opening night and Closing Dinner speakers. Outgoing Panel 58 Delegates will be invited to an event later in the year and their speeches will be recorded.
- To partly make up for the lack of opportunities for social interaction among members, Panel 59 scheduled an online Panel 59 meeting after the Conference, just to share impressions and takeaways from the Conference. We may do it again next month.

### 4. Highlights of the 2019 Audit

- The Audit was released to WSC members on March 6, 2020.
- The WSC approved the report on Wed., April 22, 2020.
- *(the following is from the Audit memo to WSC members):* On December 31, 2019, our World Service Office (WSO) had total assets of \$11,059,746 and liabilities of \$1,530,745, leaving **net assets of \$9,529,001** among three funds: General, Reserve, and Building.
- Last year, income from operations totaled \$5,468,281 in the General Fund, and expenses for the year were \$5,383,762. As a result, the General Fund net assets increased by \$84,519.
- **Literature sales yielded a gross profit of \$2,914,454, and contributions for the year were \$2,186,645.** Forum subscription income totaled \$274,853.
- In October 2007, the Board of Trustees (BOT) approved annual transfers to the General Fund; these transfers could total up to 4% of the average fair value of the Reserve Fund for the 36 months leading up to December 31 of the prior year. The Finance Committee determined that a transfer to the General Fund was not needed to fund operations for 2019.
- A net increase of \$998,237 was recorded in the Reserve Fund net assets. The Reserve Fund income included realized and unrealized gains totaling \$1,155,032. Included in the increase is a \$156,795 increase from the estimated postretirement health benefits liability.
- Building Fund expenses are charged to the General Fund as occupancy costs. A transfer of \$82,164 represents the occupancy costs for 2019.

### 5. Highlights of the 2020 Budget

- The Preliminary 2020 Budget was released to WSC members on March 6, 2020.

- The Budget was approved by the WSC voting members on Wed., April 22, 2020.
- *(the following is from the Budget memo to WSC members)*:The 2020 Budget shows that we expect expenses to be \$129,866 more than revenue for the year. We are estimating expenses to be \$5,773,026 and revenue to be \$5,643,160.
- **Overall expenses** are budgeted to increase in 2020. The increase is related to the costs of French and Spanish interpretation at the 2020 World Service Conference, execution of Strategic Plan Initiatives, expanded digital market for Public Service Announcements and facilitation of the International Al-Anon General Services Meeting (IAGSM) in London. Salaries are budgeted for normal cost-of-living increases, which represent only a 1% increase in salary expense over 2019's budget.
- We are **estimating income from 2020 literature sales** to be comparable to last years'. Included in Magazine sales are *The Forum* subscription and *Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism* (AFA) sales. We are budgeting contributions to be \$2,000,000, which is comparable to last year's budgeted amount. Beginning in 2008, we agreed to transfer up to 4% of the fair value of the Reserve Fund to the General Fund. For 2020, we have budgeted a transfer of 4% again. In addition, The Board of Trustees (BOT) voted to fund the Strategic Plan Initiatives from the Reserve Fund. The transfer of those initiatives total \$68,160 for 2020.

## 6. WSO Expenses Per Group for 2019:

- In 2019, the average for US/Canada groups' contributions to WSO was \$152.61 with 64.53% of groups contributing.
- In 2019, there were 14,429 groups in the U.S. and Canada, down from 14,551 in 2018.
- The average cost of services per group was \$304.39.
- For the Virginia Area, group contributions averaged \$125.56, with 70.6% of groups contributing.

## 7. 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 Conference gave Traditional Approval to the following nominees, who were then elected during the Annual Meeting of the Board of Trustees, on Friday, April 24, 2020.
  - Trustee at Large:
    - Therese (Teri) M.            Second three-year term
    - Jeryl (Jeri) W.            First three-year term
  - Regional Trustee:
    - Diane B., US South Central      First three-year term
    - Cynthia (Cindy) M., US Southwest    First three-year term
  - Board Officers, 2020-2021:
    - Lynette K                      Chairperson of the Board
    - Rosa (Rosie) M.              Vice Chairperson of the Board
    - Catherine (Cathy) T.        Treasurer
  - The Board of Trustees, in its legal capacity, made the following one-year appointments:
    - **\*Julius (JP) M.,              US Southeast Trustee**
    - Mary W.,                      US Northwest Trustee
    - Nancy S.,                      Trustee at Large
    - Elizabeth D.                  Executive Committee for Real Property Management

- The Board of Trustees, in its legal capacity, elected the following:
  - Executive Committee:
    - Deborah (Debbie) G.      Second one-year term
    - Karen W-P.                Second one-year term
    - Terry F.                     First one-year term
  - Chairperson of the Executive Committee:
    - Deborah (Debbie) G.
  - Executive Committee for Real Property Management Chairperson:
    - Katherine (Kay) R.      One-year term.
- **\*Please note:** The US Southeast Region, to which Virginia belongs, has had a vacancy for the past two years.
  - The Board of Trustees appointed someone to fill in the last year.
- If interested in standing for the next three-year term for the Southeast Regional Trustee, the **deadline for filing with the WSC is August 15, 2020.**
- Anyone interested in filing for this position needs to file with the Virginia Area by June 6, 2020, for preliminary vetting by the Area.
- See the WSO website for a listing of Duties, Qualifications and the resume form. [www.al-anon.org/Members>Board](http://www.al-anon.org/Members>Board) of Trustees>WSO Volunteers> Qualifications.

## 8. Highlights of the 2019 WSO Annual Report

- The purpose of the Annual Report is to give the membership a glimpse of the accomplishments of the WSO Staff and Volunteers (Board of Trustees).
  - In response to many past requests, the 2019 WSC was the first tri-lingual Conference (English, Spanish, and French).
  - It was also the first Conference with an Annual report released in the same three languages.
- WSO Staff made many upgrades to the WSO website in 2019.
- WSO Staff continued to answer “significant volumes of member inquiries” related to the following common themes: crosstalk, resolving group concerns, group bank accounts, how to welcome newcomers who express a family member problem other than alcohol, service participation by Al-Anon members who are also A.A. members, gender neutral language in service materials, dominance and lack of rotation of leadership, use of Alateen name at events that are not connected to an Area, and “Let’s Talk About Safety in Al-Anon Meetings.”
- **Electronic Meetings** (not to be confused with regular Al-Anon meetings that are temporarily meeting electronically because of the corona virus pandemic. Those meetings are not counted as Electronic meetings by WSO).
  - As of the end of 2019, there are 252 registered electronic meetings – 106 online and 146 telephone.
  - 38 more meetings have been registered since the first of the year.
  - The electronic meetings are held in a variety of languages.
  - Electronic meetings are listed at [www.al-anon.org](http://www.al-anon.org).
  - Electronic meetings do not have GRs, are not confined to any geographic area, and therefore do not belong to any District or Area.
  - They have a Current Mailing Address (CMA).
  - Their CMAs hold quarterly business meetings with WSO directly.

- They have their own AFG Connects.
- WSO developed a Welcome Kit for new members to Electronic meetings that is only accessible through the Electronic meeting CMA.
- In the current Service Manual, see pages 32-33, 76, and 88-89 for more information on electronic meetings.
- **Conference Approved Literature (CAL)**
  - **The top 10 Best Selling Books/Pamphlets in 2019** (in English), in order from highest units sold to least.
    - *How Al-Anon Works* (B-32)
    - *Courage to Change* (B-16)
    - *One Day at a Time* (B-6)
    - *Hope for Today* (B-27)
    - *Paths to Recovery* (B-24)
    - *Intimacy in Alcoholic Relationships* (B-33)
    - *Blueprint for Progress* (P-91)
    - *"Groups at Work"* (P-24)
    - *Reaching for Personal Freedom* (P-92)
    - *Paths to Recovery* (P-93)
  - **New Daily Reader** (working title) progress
    - First approved in 2014
    - First milestone achieved – 1,587 submitted sharings have been read and evaluated.
    - First draft of first quarter of the book has commenced.
    - Three articles about the book's progress have been published in "Inside Al-Anon Family Groups" in the May, June, and October issues of *The Forum*.
  - The "Request for Reprint" forms are now available as an online form at [www.al-anon.org/reprint-permission](http://www.al-anon.org/reprint-permission). Use this form to request permission to reprint limited excerpts from copyrighted CAL.
  - **20 quotations for use in fundraising calendars** without requesting written permission have been made available again this year.
  - **Recovery magazines** – in addition to *The Forum*, there are now *Le Lien* and *Al-Anon y Alateen en accion*, French and Spanish magazines, published six times a year. They contain excerpts from *The Forum*.
  - **Alateen Talk** is the quarterly publication of Alateen and AMIAS/Alateen Group Sponsors.
    - A complimentary copy is mailed each registered Alateen group.
    - It is also available by subscription.
    - 2019 subscriptions increased by 25%, from 1,773 to 2,218.
    - 2019 was the publication's 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary and included sharings from Russian and Mexican Alateens, translated into English by members.

## 9. Events coming up

- **2020 A. A. Convention** in Detroit, MI – cancelled because of the corona virus pandemic.
- **Al-Anon's 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration – Sat., April 17, 2021**
  - Anniversary Banquet, Sat., April 17, 7:00 – 10:00 pm
  - Held at the Westchester Marriott in Tarrytown, NY
  - Anniversary attendees wishing to visit Stepping Stones, home of Bill and Lois, must contact Stepping Stones to check availability for a Monday through Saturday 1:00 pm tour. No walk-in tours.
  - 2021 WSC closes on Friday, April 16, 2021,

- Tickets (price to be determined) will go on sale early next year and will be sold on a first come, first served basis.
- 500 guests maximum
- Watch *In the Loop* for updates.
  
- **2023 AI-Anon 7<sup>th</sup> International Convention Update – June 29 – July 2, 2023**
  - Held in Albuquerque, NM
  - Daytime sessions on Friday and Saturday will include: Book studies, Next Picks, Panels, Speaker meetings, Table Topics, and Workshops.
  - Also there will be fellowship activities in the Hospitality Area.
  - There will also be A.A. daytime meetings on Friday and Saturday.
  - Evenings on Friday and Saturday, and on Sunday morning, there will be Big Meetings with Speakers from members who live outside the World Service Conference Structure, that is, outside of the U. S., Canada, Bermuda and Puerto Rico.





April 2016, Al-Anon's 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, Terry W. and Becky D. outside the WSO building in Virginia Beach, VA. Note the Al-Anon symbol, in gray stone, on the building, above Becky's head.





Model of Lois' Blue Shoe that she famously threw at Bill, in exasperation. Not an Al-Anon recommended practice. For the full story behind this anecdote, read "Lois' Story" in *How Al-Anon Works*(B-22), pages 136 – 138. "Lois' Story" is also in *The Al-Anon Family Groups*(B-5) as "Adventures in Growth," pages 54 – 59.



**Alateen – The First 25 Years**



The earliest Alateen registrations were recorded from California and are found in Alateen's first ledger, the "Little Black Book."



The first Alateen conference was held in College Park, Maryland. The number of groups registered. In response, the Alateen world held first joint of members and the Alateen Committee was formed at the World Service Office.



Alateen Speaks to Children of Alcoholics tells the story of Alateen. It tells of their lives, their problems, their hopes and their achievements. It is a book for parents, teachers, and children.



The members of the celebration of Alateen's 25th birthday. "Happy 25th Birthday Alateen" was a gift to Alateen from the members of the Alateen Committee.

Display of Alateen throughout its first 50 years.

**Alateen – The Second 25 Years**



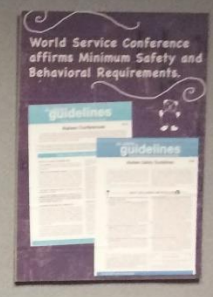
The Alateen Advisory Committee began a three-year trial period. The Committee identifies and articulates the needs of teenage members.  
 A Guide to Alateen Sponsorship – An Unforgettable Adventure #148  
 This book is distributed to all the Sponsors. There should be one Alateen without their Sponsors available. For every group must have a Sponsor.  
 Sponsor: A Guide to Alateen Sponsorship. An unforgettable adventure page 14



"Operation Alateen" was launched to improve Al-Anon's commitment to Alateens. Al-Anon groups were asked to send a new banner group to support an existing group.  
 October was declared "Alateen Focus Month" for a three-year trial basis.



The 2002 World Service Conference passed Motion 88 endorsing Al-Anon for full responsibility for operating Alateen groups.  
 On December 8, 2002, the Board of Directors passed the Alateen Motion that included Minimum Safety and Behavioral Requirements.



The 2004 World Service Conference passed Motion #12 affirming the Safety and Behavioral Requirements.  
 The Alateen Guidelines #14 and Alateen Safety Guidelines #148 were the first guidelines created to reflect the new Alateen policy.

