

Virginia Area Al-Anon
2021 Fall Assembly (via WebEx)
Oct. 16-17, 2021

Delegate's Report

“Moving Forward with Unity, Courage, and Perseverance”
“Avancemos con unidad, valor y perseverancia”

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Virginia Area Website:
www.vaalanon.org

WSO website:
www.al-anon.org

1. What does a Delegate do?

- The World Service Delegate is an Al-Anon member elected at an Area Assembly.
- The Delegate represents all the Virginia Area groups at the annual World Service Conference (WSC).
- The Delegate is the primary communication link between the groups and the WSC.
- Shares the Virginia Area experience at 3 annual Conferences.
- Brings the views and the spirit of world-wide Al-Anon back to the Virginia Area.
- See the World Service Conference Chart on page 171 of the *2018-2021, Al-Anon Service Manual*, version 2, to understand more about how our organization is structured.
- The Delegate has the responsibility “To submit to the WSO no later than August 15 of the regional election year, either the Regional Trustee (RT) resume or notification that the Area does not have a candidate.”
- This year is the Southeast Region’s election year. And we submitted a candidate. More on the Regional Trustee nomination process later in my report.

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

- It’s the largest **Informed Group Conscience of Al-Anon/Alateen** world - wide.
- It’s an annual business meeting attended by 67 Area Delegates from all over the United States, Puerto Rico, Bermuda, and Canada, along with the Trustees at Large, the Regional Trustees, the WSO Executive Committee and the WSO Administrative Staff voting members.
- This year it had 91 voting members, plus additional attendees with voice, but no vote.

- On Al-Anon's overall policy matters, the World Service 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
- This year I am serving on the 2022 Thought Force: Diversity Today.
 - That Committee's charge is to: Conduct a Knowledge-Based-Decision-Making (KBDM) process to determine what is currently known about this topic and what remains unknown.
 - This committee met virtually throughout the summer and submitted a report to the Chair of the Executive Committee on Sept. 1, 2021.
 - After the 2022 WSC, the report will be available for use by the Areas, Districts, and Groups.
 - More on this Thought Force's work later in my report.
- I also serve on the U.S. Southeast Regional Committee on Trustees (SERCT). That committee is responsible for reviewing nominees' application for the position of Southeast Region Trustee.
- The 2022 WSC Theme will be:

Enhancing Our Recovery through Abundance, Unity, and Understanding
Enriquecer nuestra recuperación a través de la abundancia, unidad y comprensión
- A trip to visit Stepping Stones, the home of Bill and Lois, in Tarrytown is planned for the 2022 WSC.

3. Trustee nominations – Update on the South East Regional Trustee Election Year, 2021

- In 2022 three Trustee at Large and three Regional Trustee positions became available.
- Qualifications for Trustee at Large and Regional Trustee are the same.
- The Virginia Area belongs to the Southeast Region and our Regional Trustee position was opened for a nomination this year. .
- ***The US Southeast Region consists of 12 Areas: Alabama/Northwest Florida; Florida North; Florida South; Georgia; Kentucky; Mississippi; North Carolina/Bermuda; Puerto Rico; South Carolina; Tennessee; Virginia; and West Virginia.***
- Resumes for the SE Regional Trustee position were due by August 15, 2021. ***This year the Virginia Area submitted an application for SE Regional Trustee member for the first time in anyone's memory.***

- *We had to quickly invent an “Area Process” to follow in order to submit an application. You may remember receiving an email request to read and approve of our first nominee from the Virginia Area. That is our own past Area Chairperson, Valerie Palamountain. She received a 100% approval vote from the Virginia Area voting members.*
- *I then forwarded her nomination to the WSO, who then sent Val’s application to the Board of Trustees.*
- *The next step is in process now.*
- *From the Board of Trustees, all nominees for the SE Region had their applications sent to the SE Regional Committee on Trustees (SERCT). That committee consists of all 12 SE Regional Delegates, plus the Out of Region Delegates that are assigned to the SERCT. The SE Region is allotted 3 Out of Region Delegates, plus 2 Alternates, for a total of 15 voting members. The Out of Region Delegates and their Alternates are drawn by lot at the preceding World Service Conference, which was in April 2021.*
- *The SERCT then read and scored the applications and submitted them back to the Board of Trustees by Sept. 30, 2021. There were two applications for the SE Regional Trustee position.*
- *The next step takes place in October 2021. The Nominating Committee, with input from the tally sheets received from the respective Regional Committees on Trustees, selects up to two candidates from each Region. The Nominating Committee then notifies the Delegate members of the SERCT of the nominees for that region.*
- *Then in January 2022 the Board of Trustees will consider the needs of the Board and may select one of the two candidates as the Regional nominee.*
- *That Regional nominee will be presented at the 2022 World Service Conference in April for traditional approval, meaning that the Delegates vote to approve or not of the nominees.*
- *The Regional Trustee nominees may then be elected at the Annual Board of Trustee meeting immediately following the April 2022 World Service Conference.*

4. The October 2021 Quarterly meeting of the Board of Trustees is planned for the week of Oct. 18, 2021.

- The reports from that Board meeting will be released after this Assembly meets. The actual reports will be posted on the WSO website and an announcement of the posting is sent out in *In the Loop*. I will prepare and distribute an update after I receive them, which should be before they are released in an edition of *In the Loop*.
- The July 2021 Board of Trustee meeting reports were released after the August 7, 2021 VAWSC meeting. I sent out a supplemental report to my Delegate’s Report to the VAWSC, dated August 11, 2021.
- It is attached here as Attachment A.

5. Updates from the WSC - 2022 WSC Thought Force: Diversity Today

- This is the Thought Force I served on this year. The Thought Force was made up of 9 Delegates and 1 Board of Trustee member. We met virtually over the spring and summer to carry out our Charge: to conduct a Knowledge-Based Decision-Making (KBDM) process to determine what is currently known about this topic and what remains unknown.
- To support our work, the Thought Force looked at a variety of resources, including the 2018 Al-Anon Membership Survey, several past WSC Summaries, *Many Voices, One Journey* (B-31), and the 2018 Bias Inventory from a 2018 WSC Presentation.
- We developed a Power Point presentation that was submitted on Sept. 1, 2021. It will be reviewed by the Board of Trustees and readied for presentation at the 2022 WSC. After that time, your new Delegate will be able to share with you our findings.
- For anyone interested in this topic, please see the **Bias Inventory from the 2018 WSC** presentation.
- It is posted on VA Area website, under 2021 Spring Assembly, Dialogue with the Delegate, as “Bias Inventory. At that workshop, we used this Bias Inventory. This is a good tool for any groups or Districts that wish to explore this topic further.

6. Updates from WSO

- **Road Trip! You and Your Board Connect, Cleveland, Ohio, Oct. 23, 2021 – postponed**
 - The Board of Trustees held a special session on Sept. 24 to discuss the scheduled event.
 - Considering the CDC Guidelines for organizations planning large events, the Board decided to postpone the event.
 - Questions as to refunds and rescheduling will be made within a week or two of the Sept. 24 meeting and will be announced soon.
- **The 2021 Al-Anon Membership Survey results should be available before the end of this year.**
- **The Longitudinal Study**
 - The WSO will contact those who indicated interest sometime before the end of this year.
- **2021 WSC Summary**
 - Available online at the WSO website, at no charge.
 - Hard copies are available at the WSO Online Store now, for \$5.00, plus.30 shipping.
- **2022-2025 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual**
 - When the new Service Manual is released sometime next year, please be sure to acquire your new copy.
 - The 2021 WSC approved extensive changes to the Policy section in connection with the coming Transformation of Electronic Meetings to AFGs, so your old copy will be out of date.
 - The Service Manual, current or future edition, is available electronically for free on the WSO website. It will also be available as a hard copy book for a modest fee.

7. Upcoming Virginia Area Events: new District Representatives Orientation, DR 101

- For all new District Representatives, I am planning a series of 3 workshops to help new DRs get off to a great start in their new service positions.
- The **3 Workshops** will be via WebEx; they will be recorded (audio only).
- Dates:
 - **Sunday, October 24, 2:00 to 4:00**
 - **Sunday November 14, 2:00 to 4:00**
 - **December 12, 2:00 to 4:00**
- Each workshop will cover different material and will cover DR duties and responsibilities at the District level and at the Area level.
- Each workshop will have presentations from VA Area Coordinators, and Officers to help DRs with various aspects of their jobs.
- Each workshop will include a Question and Answer session with a variety of service members to address DR concerns.
- Feel free to invite other District Officers to attend.
- **Session 1** – we'll look at the basics of DR responsibilities at the District level and at the Area level; the Service Structure chart in the Service Manual and why it matters; what is your term of office. This session will include a presentation by the Group Records Coordinator on how to handle Group Records for your District, how to change them, and related topics.
- **Session 2** – we'll look at your first District meetings; how often should your District meet; how to plan an Agenda for your District meeting; the roles of other District Officers; who votes at a District meeting and why. We will also look at how to handle your District's treasury; how to decide on an Ample Reserve; how to anticipate what expenses your District should plan for; how to advise your GRs on their groups' donations to the Service Arms; and what they need to know. There will be a presentation from the Area Treasurer and some District Treasurers.
- **Session 3**- we will focus on how to get your GRs ready for their first Assembly; a look at the *GR Guide to the Assembly*; how to prepare GRs to vote for their groups at Assembly; what information to take back to their groups after Assembly. We'll also explore how your District can plan and carry out a Workshop or other District wide event; how to decide on suitable topics; and how to plan it, either virtually or as an in-person event. There will be a presentation from the Alateen Coordinator and the AAPP (Area Alateen Process Person) on what your role as DR is when your District has an Alateen meeting; how to start an Alateen meeting and how that is different from starting an AI-Anon meeting; and what your responsibilities are when your District has AMIAS (AI-Anon Member in Alateen Service).

- The goal of these 3 workshops is help the new DR feel confident in moving forward in their new service position and to help his or her District's GRs feel the same in theirs as well.

8. Transforming Electronic Meetings to AFGs – Motion to be voted on at this Assembly

- The Voting Motion was sent out to all VAWSC members prior to the Assembly. It was also included in the documents for the Assembly.
- There is time in the Assembly Agenda to discuss the Motion later this afternoon.
- Please remember today's vote is to grant approval to form a Task Force to write the new Policy, not to vote on the actual Policy, which does not yet exist.
- The new Task Force, if approved by this Assembly's vote, will then write the new Policy, with input from Virginia Area members. See the Voting Motion for information on Town Hall meeting dates.
- The goal is to have a new Policy ready for Assembly vote by the 2022 Spring Assembly.
- Please consider that this new Policy is new territory for both the Virginia Area and for AI-Anon as a whole. We are undertaking this in response to a vote at the 2021 WSC to address the rapid growth of Electronic meetings that has occurred in recent months, partly fueled by the Covid-19 pandemic, and the growing concern of the inequity of Electronic meetings' lack of representation and voting rights in the business of running AFG, Inc.

9. I am available to attend your District meetings to talk about any of these topics, or anything else on your members' minds.

If your members have questions or are curious about how our organization works, I will be happy to discuss them with you. Please contact me if you would like me to attend your District's meeting to discuss matters you have questions about with your GRs.

Respectfully submitted,
Terry Woodside, Virginia Area Delegate to the World Service Conference, Panel 59.

Attachment A

VAWSC Meeting, August 7, 2021

Delegate's Report, supplemental, August 11, 2021

Terry Woodside, VA Area World Service Delegate, Panel 59

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“Moving Forward with Unity, Courage, and Perseverance”

“Avancemos con unidad, valor y perseverancia”

The Board of Trustees meets quarterly and their last meeting was in the third week of July. Their report to the WSC members did not arrive in time for me to include the reports in my Delegate's Report to the VAWSC on August 7, 2021.

I am updating my VAWSC report to keep you up to date and to give you current WSO financial information to help your groups make informed decisions about how to distribute your group and District funds.

From the Chairman of the Board letter:

1. The full reports from the July Quarterly meeting will be posted on the WSO website after all 4 reports are translated to include our Spanish and French speaking members. Expect them in about 3 weeks from now. Watch for the announcement in our newsletter, *In the Loop*.
2. The International Coordination Committee (ICC) update:
 - The European Zonal Meeting will be held Sept. 3-5, 2021, via Zoom. The WSO International Associate Director, Kerri K., and the Board of Trustee ICC Chairperson, Jean L., will attend.
 - The ICC has begun planning for the 2022 International Al-Anon General Services Meeting, (IAGSM). It will be held in London, England, Oct. 13-15, 2021.
3. Road Trip! You and Your Board Connect:
 - This event will be held this year on Sat., Oct. 23, 2021 in Cleveland, Ohio.
 - This is an opportunity to meet and interact with members of the Board of Trustees and the Executive Committee.
 - Registration information went out today, Aug. 11, in *In the Loop*.
 - You can also access the information at al-anon.org/roadtrip.
 - Mail-in and online registration deadline is Fri., Oct 8, 2021.
4. Strategic Planning:

- The Strategic Leadership Team (SLT) held a 2022 Strategy Options session with the Board of Trustees to prioritize and select the Strategies that will effectively advance the Goals and Envisioned Future of the AFG, Inc. Strategic Plan.
- The 2022 Strategies will be announced in the Oct. 2021 Chairman of the Board letter.

5. Compensation Committee Update:

- A Compensation Study is conducted every 3 to 5 years by the Board to assure that salaries and compensation for WSO employees are competitive with the market.
- The Compensation Study was postponed last year because of budget restraints.
- The Study will proceed this year.
- A Compensation Consultant will make a report to the Oct. 2021 Board of Trustees of findings.

6. Alateen Certification:

- Last year the Board of Trustees passed 2 motions –
 - The first motion established a WSO AI-Anon member AMIAS training program.
 - The second motion required all Trustees and Executive Committee members to become AMIAS through the WSO AMIAS program.
 - The first WSO AMIAS training session was held and was led by Sue P., WSO Associate Director of Group Services.

From the Policy Committee:

1. A new Task Force, Public Outreach in Relation to Social Media, led a discussion on the term “local” in the context of globalization.
2. Two other Task Forces, Announcing Events and Local Services, continued meeting. More information will be released in the Oct. 2021 Policy Committee Quarterly report.

From the Conference Leadership Team (CLT):

1. The 2022 World Service Conference (WSC) will be held April 26-30, 2021, at the Westchester Marriott in Tarrytown, NY. A visit to Stepping Stones is planned.
2. The 2022 WSC theme will be:

*Enhancing Our Recovery through Abundance, Unity, and Understanding
 Enriquecer nuestra recuperación a través de la abundancia, unidad y comprensión
 Enrichir notre rétablissement par l'abondance, l'unité et la compréhension*

3. The CLT reviewed the Evaluation comments from the 2021 WSC regarding the Chosen Agenda Items (CAI) and agreed to include 2 45 minute sessions in the General Session of the 2022 WSC.

From the Finance Committee:

1. The full report will be posted on the WSO website after the announcement in *In the Loop*.

2. At the halfway point of the year –

- Expenses are lower than expected
 - This is largely because some of the open positions at WSO have not been filled yet.
 - As these positions are filled this year, salaries and associated costs will cause an increase in expenses for the second half of the year.
- Contributions –
 - 2020 was a record year for contributions.
 - 2021 contributions have not been as high so far as hoped.
- Literature Sales –
 - Sales are higher than expected for the first half of this year.
 - But literature sales are not as high as in years past.
- Deficit budget –
 - The Finance Committee is expecting an **increased deficit budget of \$(233, 753)**.

3. The Finance Committee, along with the Board of Trustees thanks all the individuals, groups, Districts, AIS/LDCs, Areas and General Service Offices for their support and contributions.

- Without your continued contributions and purchase of literature, AFG, Inc. would be unable to serve the groups as needed.
- Please consider these facts and figures as your groups and Districts make decisions on distribution of your funds.