

Virginia Area Assembly, October 14-15, 2023

Stacy Lewis, VA Area World Service Delegate, Panel 62

Love, Laugh, and Grow Together

Delegates Report

Stacylee31@gmail.com

Chairman of the Board Meeting Highlights (8/12/23) – Jeri W., Kathi M., Ann Marie Z.

The following updates are summaries of the conversations and minutes from the Board of Trustees' Quarterly Meeting.

- **COB Letter** – Road Trip! 2023 will be held on 8/28/23 in Southern California. The Board has postponed for one year the trial of Road Trip as a hybrid event until 2024. Offering a hybrid Road Trip allows many more members the opportunity to learn about Al-Anon and hear the Trustees and Board members.
- **International Convention Highlights** – There were 3776 in-person participants and 741 virtual participants. The number of registrants – 4517 – was a record. There were 8628 total copies of the new daily reader *A Little Time for Myself* sold in 3 different languages.
- **Alateen Feasibility Update** – A motion was passed to allow the Strategic Leadership Team to proceed with identifying the next steps to create an Electronic Alateen Safety & Behavioral Requirement for Areas with the WSC Structure.
- **Finance** – Contributions, literature and magazine sales are all coming in above budget for the year through June 2023. That is even before the International Convention sale of the new daily reader. Thank you to all members for making sure that Al-Anon is here tomorrow and for the next generation.
- **Conference Leadership Team** – The next WSC will be held on April 18 through April 21, 2024 in Virginia Beach.
- **Additional Info** – The Quarterly Appeal Letter always shares insights into the work at the WSO. Please make sure your groups are getting this information at the meetings.
- **Policy Committee** – The Policy Committee discussed a question from the membership: *“Is the gendered language in the Steps and Traditions in alignment with Al-Anon’s Legacies?”* The fellowship has been discussing this question for many years and this quarters discussion was ‘spiritual, robust and powerful’. Engaging in the discussion does not change any of the boundaries established in the Al-Anon World Service Conference Charter. The conversation will continue.
- What are these groups and committees discussed above? It can definitely be confusing and seem unimportant so let me offer some additional information.
The Conference Leadership Team has the responsibility to prepare the agenda for the World Service Conference held in April and attended by all of the Delegates. The agenda is prepared based on past agenda formats as well as input from the Delegates, Chairman of the Board, WSO and the Board of Trustee’s.

The Policy Committee has the responsibility to review questions and topics generated by the fellowship regarding issues or concerns that need clarification or interpretation of the Twelve Traditions and the Twelve Concepts of Service.

1. The GEA – Global Electronic Area – has voted in an interim Delegate. His name is Bert and he is located in California so that Area has been moved to the SW Region. He is still on Panel 62.
2. Just for Tonight Alateen bookmark is available.
3. Book binding on newer literature??
4. New Public Outreach ideas – Ask permission to put Al-Anon pamphlets at rest stops and tourist centers. Check to see if your meeting listed in the bulletin/newsletter of your host facility.
5. Links of Service – During phone conversations and meetings with members at the WSO, it became obvious that many members are not familiar with the Links of Service. See page 176-177 of the new service manual. Please share the links of service to all members so they know the quickest and most accurate way to get answers to their questions.
6. Reminder!!!! You can search for Zoom/phone meetings on the Al-Alanon.org website. You can choose a day or time to search OR the browser will automatically show you meetings that are about to start. This is a great feature for all procrastinators – just log in and join a meeting. Cannot be simpler than that!
7. The WSO is redoing the S70 – Al-Anon AFG Welcomes Gays & Lesbians – to be more inclusive. The original pamphlet was discontinued a while ago.
8. The WSC Summary for 2023 will be available online in later October and the printed copy will be ready about 6 weeks later. Meanwhile, a highlight summary is available here: [Highlights of the WSC - Al-Anon Family Groups](#)
This has some additional information not shared below.

Additional notes from WSC April 2023

- **Financial reminder** – the WSO spends \$321 every year to support your meeting. The WSO supports your meeting in so many ways – public outreach, creation of literature, social media, live support for your GR and DR, and acts as a clearinghouse for all things Al-Anon. So many, many other things. The cost is the same whether your group has 3 members or 20. Please remember this support as you discuss your contributions to your service arms.
- **Group budgets** – I have discussed group budgets during several of my Delegate reports and I hope that groups have taken that information and created budgets – making it a yearly activity going forward. Breaking the Buck barrier will never change unless your group discusses what that 7th Tradition money is used for. All your members, new and long time, need to be reminded that Al-Anon is whole community of people that work together to keep your doors open and that does not happen without funding. \$1.00 in 1952 equals approximately \$6.79 today.

- **Diversity workshop** – This workshop was originally presented only to the Board of Directors by an outside individual and they thought it was so informative it was included in conference. One member made this comment – Al-Anon is not racist. People are racist. This is a reminder that changing something must start with ourselves. Take time to think about what you can do and what your group can do to be more welcoming.
- **Electronic/Phone meetings** – In the Spring I shared the changes that were being made to the Al-Anon.org website to make finding a meeting easier. I challenged each of you to find a meeting and attend if you have never done it before. Did anyone try this? For those who didn't, will you accept this challenge now?
- **Chosen Agenda Item** – Prior to the WSC, Delegates are asked to send in topics for an informal discussion during an open forum. One of the topics was 'How to attract members into service?' Here are a few of the shares from the Delegates:
 - 'We need you and we need your experience'
 - Sponsors support their sponsee's in their service and recovery journey
 - Share your enthusiasm to participate
 - Being 'voluntold' might not be the best approach
 - AA does service really well – encourage their participation in this discussion
 - Always, always connect service to recovery
 - Reminder that doing service work is a service to our children, grandchildren and future Al-Anon members who enter our rooms
- **Motion #4** – The Literature Committee presented a motion to pursue a new piece of literature about Sponsorship and Service Sponsorship and it was approved.

Fun Fact: Ann Landers first wrote about Al-Anon – actually Alateen – in 1962. She covered Al-Anon extensively in 1967 and the WSO received bags of mail from people desperately seeking help after each column.