

VAWSC Meeting, March 2, 2024

Stacy Lewis, VA Area World Service Delegate, Panel 62

Our Path toward Grace, Unity, and Understanding....

Panel 62 it started with a shoe

Delegates Report

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Chairman of the Board Meeting Highlights (2/17/24) – Kathi M., Ann Marie Z., Pennie K.

- **WSC** – For the 2024 WSC, I will be providing pins as our Love Gifts for the conference members. Therefore, the traditional hand-made Love Gifts will not be needed this year. Delegates will be allowed to receive cards with notes of support at the hotel which need to be sent ahead of the conference.

Those wishing to send cards and notes, please address cards as follows:

Stacy Lewis (Hold for WSC 4/18-4/21, 2024)
The Founders Inn and Spa
5641 Indian River Road
Virginia Beach, VA 23464

Important – please send them to arrive AFTER April 13, 2024. Also, use this address as a return address so cards can be forwarded to me if delayed in the mail.

Stacy Lewis
3920 County Street
Portsmouth, VA 23707

- **Chairman of the Board Comments** – In January, the Board continued discussions about diversity and inclusion on a group level. The discussion brought out the idea of “hidden norms” that are not documented but can represent unconscious biases. The Board is looking at Board of Trustees Handbook, Governance Handbook and the Orientation for New Trustees to try to identify those items. The Chairman asks that we – as an Area or District – might want to look for “hidden norms” that might help your future trusted servants.
- **Trustee Nominating Committee** – At the 2022 WSC, the Delegates voiced concerns about the lack of clarity in the Trustee application process. The Committee is working to revise and update the Trustee Role Description as well as redeveloping the whole interview process. This will be a very positive change for the future applicants.
- **Finance** – Overall, Al-Anon had a great year thanks to all of our member contributions and sales of our new daily reader. This was the highest grossing year for literature sales. The market was very favorable and our Reserve Fund had a YTD increase of \$1,089,173. More financial details will be revealed during the WSC and in my report at Assembly.
- **Road Trip** – The 2024 Road Trip will be held on October 26, 2024 in Columbia, South Carolina. The event is where you can connect with the Board and Executive Committee for a day of fellowship, sharing workshops and learning about links of service. Information about applying to host the 2025 Road Trip will be available at the WSC. Unfortunately, this is the weekend of our Assembly – the most important Assembly of the panel – but please share with your groups.

- **2025 Visit to Stepping Stones** – Recent discussions have focused on the feasibility of continuing the tradition of having the WSC in New York every 3 years. Having the conference in New York is definitely more costly than having it in Virginia Beach. The conference is held in NY only to allow the Delegates the opportunity to visit Stepping Stones – the home of Bill and Lois Wilson – as part of their experience. For now, the 2025 conference will be held in NY as originally planned and no permanent decisions to change this have been made. However, the conversation will be continued in April to address future Panels.
- **International Notes** – The Board granted permission to Latvia and Mongolia to translate CAL into their respective languages.
- **Strategic Projects Update** – Here is what the WSO is working on for 2024
 - EBooks globally
 - Online Store Version 2.0
 - Electronic Alateen Planning & Validation
 - A.A. 2025 International Convention in Vancouver
 - AI-Anon 2028 International Convention Site Selection
 - Revamping the Trustee Application
- **Envisioned Future Work Group** – Discussions are starting about AI and what that will mean to AI-Anon. I just wanted to bring this up so you know that the Board is getting into this conversation.

Follow-up about In-Reach

During the VAWSC and Assembly I have brought up the idea of In-reach. I have heard Districts starting to use this tool to reach out to their members and I want to keep the idea going. I am including the content from my Spring 2023 VAWSC report again so we will continue sharing and using the resources we have available.

- **In-reach Follow-up** – I had a question about a topic I shared during Assembly in October. While browsing the AI-Anon.org website, I had found a list of discussions about In-reach. Intrigued, I looked further and uncovered a new term that is really something that every group discusses – how to KEEP members in our rooms. We welcome the newcomers nearly every week but then share our discouragement when they never return. What are we doing wrong? The million dollar question. Then what about the member who sits in the chair every week yet never engages in service or attends workshops?

I encourage your Districts to revitalize within – not just sharing AI-Anon outside of your meetings, but rebuilding the fellowship and sense of belonging that has been on the back burner. Everyone knows the book ‘When I got busy, I got better’ and that is the truth! Go back to my Delegates report from the fall (on our website) to review all the amazing ideas your Districts shared to get and keep members.

To find more In-reach ideas, go to the AI-Anon.org website and look here:

Members/World Service Conference/Chosen Agenda Items Index. Then use the drop down menu under Index Filter to find all references to Inreach. Find topics about member retention, building Alateen and Diversity – just to name a few.