

Virginia Area Al-Anon Assembly, May 17-18, 2025  
Laura Lovern, VA Area World Service Delegate, Panel 65  
WSC Theme – Investing In Each Other to Preserve Our Legacies  
Panel 65 Theme - Keeping Our Legacies Alive

Delegate Report  
on the  
2025 World Service Conference

[lovern.laura@gmail.com](mailto:lovern.laura@gmail.com)

[delegate@vaalanon.org](mailto:delegate@vaalanon.org)

It was an honor and a privilege to attend the 2025 World Service Conference (WSC) as your Virginia Area Delegate. The WSC was held April 24 to 27 in Windsor, Connecticut. The Annual Open Board of Trustees Meeting was held the afternoon of Sunday, April 27, and Delegates had the option to visit Stepping Stones on Monday, April 28, 2025.

Thank you to every individual and every group who sent a card or caring word to me in Connecticut! Hearing from you and thinking of the support I had back home really gave me the warm fuzzies. I appreciate you!

**What is the World Service Conference?** In the descriptive text of Concept Two on page 184 of the 2022-2025 Service Manual, the WSC is defined as “the active voice and the effective group conscience of [Al-Anon] in world affairs.”

**Who participates in the World Service Conference?** Area Delegates, WSO Staff, Board of Trustees and the Executive Committee. The voting ratio is 2/3 Area Delegates to 1/3 staff and volunteers.

**My experience of spiritual principles in action – the Spirit of the Conference** – “We believe our fellowship is a spiritual [program] characterized by enough enlightenment, responsibility, and love for God and man to ensure that our democracy of world service will work under all conditions. (SM p.184, cont’d.)

Take a step to the left story.....

**2028 Al-Anon International Convention Site Announcement** – Minneapolis, Minnesota; July 20-22, 2028. From our Executive Director, Vali, “Minneapolis is incredibly vibrant and walkable; we secured two hotels attached to the Convention Center and the remaining overflow hotels are within five-minute walking distance; and the city is only a four-hour flight from anywhere in the continental United States and Canada.” \*Please note this is a different weekend in July from the usual

**Quote: “This is my place and these are my people”**

## **2024 Membership Survey Results –**

- 15,375 members responded to the survey
- 87% of respondents were female
- Average age of respondents was 63.4
- 86% identified as white
- 77% have completed undergraduate or graduate programs
- 69% reported being affected by alcoholism spanning two or more generations
- 91% of members with 4+ years of program indicated improved mental health
- 43% were referred to AI-Anon by a professional

**Quote: “AI-Anon is about unity, not uniformity”**

## **Choosing a Group’s Name Policy –**

The 2024 WSC approved a motion to edit the “Choosing a Group’s Name Policy” in the Policy Digest of the Service Manual. Changes were to include language clarifying that the only requirement for membership in our program is that there be a problem of alcoholism in a relative or friend and that the AI-Anon groups should take care to be “inviting, attractive, and avoid public controversy”. Implementation of the policy included denying submitted group names that contained identifiers of race, gender, sexual orientation, etc. Appeals from groups and members began to come in and Delegates were inundated with questions about what was going on. Group names such as Women Who Run with Wolves, Agnostics and Atheists Welcome, and AI-Anon and Adoption were among those turned in.

From the Policy Committee Chairperson’s WSC Choosing a Group’s Name Policy & Implementation Statement dated April 26, 2025, following our 2025 WSC:

- The Policy Committee acknowledged concerns that the 2024 Delegates were not able to discuss with their groups prior to last year’s Conference the proposed Policy so their groups could express any concerns to allow the Delegates to be informed when discussing at the 2024 WSC and committed to discussing how to address this concern in future.
- The Policy Committee acknowledged that their updates could have provided clearer, more detailed information since decisions in the July 2024 and subsequent Policy Committee meetings involved implementation of the Policy. The Committee realized the information regarding implementation that they presented was interpreted as Policy. They “made a mistake by not having the foresight to recognize that possibility and we regret the harm that oversight caused.”

After many hours and three sessions of discussion, the 2025 WSC approved a motion to allow group names to continue to include identifiers such as those currently listed on page 28 of the 2022-2025 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual (P-24/27) v4(a) including “men, women, parents, adult children, young adults, other gender identification/sexual orientation, etc. with the understanding that in keeping with Traditions Three and Five, the groups will welcome anyone affected by someone else’s drinking” until the 2026 World Service Conference to allow WSC Structure Areas to discuss the implementation of the 2024 WSC-approved “Choosing a Group’s Name” Policy.

“As the Policy Committee Chairperson, I want to reinforce that it was never the Policy Committee’s intention to one day direct the WSO Staff to enforce this Policy on existing groups – EVER!”

Where does the Virginia Area want to go from here regarding implementation?

- Thought Force
- Town Halls
- Email Feedback
- Workshops

I will take the Virginia Area feedback back to the World Service Conference in 2026!

**Quote: “Imagine if there was no Al-Anon and we were all running around loose in the streets!?”**

#### **Finances –**

- Total revenue in 2024 was \$6,796,472 – literature sales and contributions constitute the majority of revenue
- Group contributions make up 42% of total contributions
- The major expense categories include salary and benefits, office expenses, occupancy, PSAs, professional fees, travel and Conference costs
- Reserve fund investments fluctuate with the stock market
- Projected revenue for 2025 is \$6,495,766
- The 2025 budget reflects a surplus of revenue over expenses of \$135,970
- The annual cost of WSO services per group is up to \$337.53, or \$28.13/month, or \$6.49/week
- Excess Reserves (above one year’s operating expense total) carried forward have been used to purchase a van for WSO transportation and some new office equipment. Other ideas being discussed are a Core Systems Overhaul project that would include global online group records and enhanced accounting and AFG Connects functions

**Quote: “The WSO finances are handled wisely and with transparency”**

**International Coordination Committee (ICC)** – The ICC is charged with supporting international growth while helping to preserve worldwide unity in our Fellowship

- International Groups make up 41% of our groups
- The Covid pandemic brought us together with members from all over the world, in a way we might never have imagined; we can attend meetings in Africa, Australia and Asia, to name a few.
- The WSO has contracted with independent reviewers for CAL translations in Bulgarian, Latvian, Romanian, and Farsi. Multiple Al-Anon international trademarks have been renewed, including Mexico and the Cayman Islands, and the process of registering our trademark has begun in China.
- An arrangement has been made to provide translation of CAL in e-Book form, through PublishDrive, the selected vendor. PublishDrive has access to hundreds of e-Book platforms, including Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Kobo, Apple, and Google Books. Since e-Book sales can impact the ability of International Structures to become fully self-supporting, the WSO will allow General Service Offices to receive net revenue from sales recorded in their geographic area.

One of the most exciting parts of the World Service Conference for me was Tracey (International Services Manager) and Stacy’s (Director of Programs) presentation on their trip to Asia, to engage with the members in South Korea, Mongolia, India and China (virtually) to assist them with their service needs. Planning the trip started a year in advance and involved 15 vaccinations for each staff member! Over 100 members in South Korea participated in a workshop about Alateen, and even learned to say “love you” in English. An Al-Anon meeting was held in Mongolia with 200 people in attendance, 100 of whom were newcomers. The members received training in utilizing the 12 Concepts of Service. Entry into China was not to be, so a virtual visit was very quickly put together, where a workshop was held on the 12 Traditions, sponsorship, welcoming newcomers and Alateen Safety and Behavioral Requirements. In China, Al-Anon lacks formal structure because of political and governmental barriers, but they more than make up for it in the willingness to recover. Poverty is a real problem in India and discussions centered around the possibility of utilizing lending libraries and having reading buddies due to the lack of funding to purchase CAL. An in-person meeting was held and for some it was there very first. It is clear from the experiences shared that the challenges of the GSOs and the WSO are much the same.

Tracey has an article in the May *Forum* if you are interested in learning more...

**Quote: “When the eyes and heart speak, anything is possible”**

**2025 AA International Convention with. AI-Anon Participation** – is being held at the Hyatt Regency in Vancouver, BC, July 3-6, 2025. In March, over 30,000 people had registered.

**Single Trustee Process Task Force** – A single Trustee application process for both Regional Trustees and Trustees At Large (TAL) is under consideration. For the past 5 years, our Board of Trustees (BOT) has been operating at a 72% capacity rate, due to lack of Regional Trustee applications. At the same time, the need for guidance through technology expansion, changes in cultural awareness, cybersecurity and legal threats have grown substantially. Because the Regional Trustee process requires an intermediate level Area approval prior to being submitted to WSO, many qualified applicants opt for the faster application process of the Trustees at Large. 3 options for a Single Trustee Application are being considered by the Task Force and the Task Force has agreed to hold a detailed review of the options online with all Delegates soon. We will discuss this topic in more detail at our August VAWSC meeting.

**Quote: “We don’t wait for the future, we create it”**

**Road Trip! You and Your Board Connect** – this year’s Road Trip! will be held in Omaha, Nebraska on Saturday, October 25, 2025. The application deadline for Area’s to host the 2026 Road Trip! in their Area is September 19, 2025.

**Chosen Agenda Items (CAI)** – The 2 chosen agenda items discussed at Conference were *Service Participation in the Electronic Age*:

- How do we do fellowship at our online meetings?
- How do we achieve unity for District and Area meetings that are online?
- Has participation in AI-Anon increased with hybrid/virtual meetings?

and *Attracting and Retaining AI-Anon Members in the 20- to 40-Year-Old Age Range*:

- Welcome young mothers with children
- Request input on social media applications from our Alateens
- Take our Alateens to AI-Anon meetings before they age out
- Create youth-oriented service projects
- Hold Conventions on college campuses

**AI-Anon Turns 75!** – From Associate Director, World Service Events and History, Suzanne Martin “I’m excited to share that the Board of Trustees has approved a 75th anniversary celebration! The celebration will begin right after the 2026 World Service

Conference with an Open House at the WSO followed by a banquet back at the hotel that evening. We'll have a speaker or two and plenty of tickets so that many members can come and celebrate with us. This will be a golden celebration in honor of 75 years of help and hope!

### **Stepping Stones Visit Through Pictures w/ Laura's commentary**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Lovern, Delegate, Panel 65, Virginia Area

To Be Discussed Later in 2025:

Local Services

Growing Future Volunteer Leaders – The Passing It On Project

Thought Force (ThF) – Revitalizing Archives to Enhance Our Recovery

Electronic Alateen Validation and Implementation Planning, including EASBR

Delegate Participation on Conference Leadership Team (CLT)

Literature