



### **Delegate's Report-August AWSC, 2011**

Good morning! It's so good to be back with all of you again. I hope you were all able to enjoy at least a little bit of a break over the summer.

#### **Chairman of the Board Letter:**

Hot off the presses, I received the very recent Chairman of the Board letter from our new Chairman as the July Board meeting concluded last weekend. Here are some of the highlights:

"Next year's Conference will soon be upon us, even though it seems as if it is a long time away. One of the first actions that signify the beginning of the planning is the choice of the Conference theme. The Board is thrilled to announce that this year's theme is:

"Our Spiritual Journey—we get as we give"

"Nuestro viaje espiritual—es al dar que recibimos"

"Notre cheminement spirituel—c'est en donnant que nous recevons."

We felt that this lends itself to many topics, such as practicing the program, participating in service, being willing to sponsor, etc. Due to the visit to Stepping Stones this year the Conference will be in Stamford, CT."

"Another exciting event scheduled for 2012 is the International Al-Anon General Service Meeting in Cape Town, South Africa. The Trustees and General Service Office Delegates from structures around the world come together with the WSO to share their experience, strength, and hope. The theme, the IAGSM symbol surrounded by the words "No Structure Is Ever Alone – IAGSM," is as energizing as our Conference theme. The meeting's purpose allows General Service structures to share information with each other as they continue to bring the fellowship of Al-Anon Family Groups to those who need us."

"In this world of evolving technology, the following bullet points are an update regarding the current status of numerous Board projects having to do with current technology:

#### ▽ Online Group Records

- This allows all Area Delegates and Group Records Coordinators to look at and report on group information for their Area, as well as allowing Area Group Records Coordinators to update group information directly in the WSO database.

- Future plans include registering Alateen meetings on-line after insuring the safety requirements for each Area will be met.
- ∇ Unlimited Abundant Resources Skills Inventory Database
  - Right now, there are over 1,000 members, but we are always interested in members who would like to offer their expertise to be of service.
  - In the future, there will be a page to update a member's status and to opt out after submitting the data, if the member so chooses.
- ∇ Alateen Chat
  - Eight areas host chat rooms: four in the United States and four in Canada.
  - The registration process is now automatic for teens; they no longer have to wait to be added to the system.
  - The registration process has been translated into French, Spanish, and German.
- ∇ Blogs
  - There are now twelve active blogs: six English, three French, and three Spanish.
  - 'For Members and Groups' and 'Thinking Abundantly in...' are the two newest blogs.
  - Audio is being added to the Traditions blog each month.
- ∇ e-Communities
  - Quite a few communities were added last year, including one for past and current Conference members.
  - The discussion forums are being used by some communities.
  - Area Chairpersons and District Representatives will be the next two communities to be added.
- ∇ Electronic Newsletters and Notifications
  - In early July all members who were listed as the Current Mailing Address for a specific meeting, and had an e-mail address in the WSO data base, were sent the CMA Newsletter.
  - A second mailing to key service people went out at the end of July with the announcement of the Appeal Letter.
  - The plan is to use this process for an e-News for Professionals newsletter and to notify members who formally received Area Highlights that it is posted on the Members' Web site. Many additional notices that would have been posted in multiple communities will now come via this system to avoid Delegates and other trusted servants receiving an e-mail notification for every e-community they can access.
- ∇ Electronic Literature
  - This is still being researched and discussed. As soon as there is anything concrete, the Conference members will receive notification."

"We are as of this week, on Facebook and Twitter. How exciting it is to be able to let all of the people who participate in these social networks know that Al-Anon and Alateen are available to help those affected by a loved one's problem drinking! Remember these are public sites and individuals should not post messages about Al-Anon that breach their personal anonymity at the public level in violation of Tradition Eleven. Not only will your post or "like" show up on your own page, but it will also show up at the bottom of the listings when someone searches 'Al-Anon' on 'Facebook.'"

"Since Conference there have been three TEAM events, and four are scheduled through next April. We continue to share and discuss strategies and processes to enable the Trustees and Staff to contribute to a productive and positive TEAM event. It is a privilege for us to visit your Areas, to present topics of

interest through shared leadership, and to meet all of you. The forms to begin the process to schedule an event are on the Members' Web site. We look forward to hearing from you!"

### **POLICY UPDATE**

"The Policy Update, sent each quarter with the Chairperson of the Board's letter, informs each Delegate about Policy Committee business, including any pending motions regarding the "Digest of Al-Anon and Alateen Policies." This update provides important information regarding questions and concerns generated by the fellowship. The July 22, 2011 meeting generated discussion on all agenda items.

- The Policy Committee is continuing to review draft language to the "Public Relations" section of the "Digest of Al-Anon and Alateen Policies." The 2010 World Service Conference suggested that wording to this section needed revision in light of emergence of new technology and local service arms that are producing "Visual Media" and "Printed Media."
- Based on discussion of memorial contributions from the 2011 World Service Conference, the Policy Committee agreed to a Thought Force to explore the possibility of family member memorial contributions in light of Tradition Five and "giving comfort to families of alcoholics" during times of bereavement.
- The Policy Chairperson will appoint a Thought Force to further explore the "Do Not Refer" issue, to determine what the WSO should do when an Area and a group in that Area are in disagreement over whether the group is adhering to the Twelve Traditions. One proposal under consideration was for the WSO to create a "Do Not Refer" list so that operators on the toll-free meeting line would not refer newcomers to groups that Areas have determined are in violation of the Traditions. Delegates shared their experiences with this issue at the 2011 World Service Conference.
- The Policy Committee approved a proposal by the Literature Committee to change the name of *To the Mother and Father of an Alcoholic* (P-16). The Literature Committee determined that this title could be interpreted as non-inclusive and limited to only members who belonged to families with both a mother and a father. Following the Literature Committee's recommendation, the new name for P-16 will be: *To Parents of Alcoholics*.
- By consensus, the Policy Committee agreed to make available to members of the fellowship a document, "Procedure regarding collaboration with outside researchers." This document explains the internal policies that govern the World Service Office's interactions with researchers examining family recovery from the effects of alcoholism.
- The Policy Committee discussed the safety of baby-sitting services at meetings and agreed that wording about this is more appropriate in "Groups at Work" and so the idea was referred to Group Services."

The entire Chairman of the Board letter will be posted on the Members' website in a short time.

### **Members Website:**

I hope you all are remembering to log onto our members' website regularly. There is always useful information and new links being added or updated. Some examples I found this week included: on the Inside the World Service Office (WSO) link, an archives page giving a great deal of historical background about Al-Anon. On this same Inside the World Service Office (WSO) link there is financial information including the most recent Quarterly Appeals Letter (Attachment 1), S -21, which discusses monetary as well as service *Seventh Tradition* contributions (Attachment 2), as well as a link highlighting how a five dollar member contribution is used (Attachment 3). Also, on the Group Services link there is a page on special needs resources for members.

On the homepage of the site, there is a link to order the 2011 World Service Conference Summary, and information regarding the latest Sponsorship podcasts (Attachment 4).

On the members' website on the surveys link, there are also two surveys members may participate in. The newest one is regarding adult children of alcoholics. And, as mentioned above, the survey called "Unlimited Abundant Resources Skills Inventory" is still available on the site.

On the Publications link there is another link that goes to *other publications to download*, where you can find *S-62, Group Inventory-Use Of Conference Approved Literature (CAL)* (Attachment 5).

This site will be updated in the near future. However, there continues to be pertinent information to meet our members' needs. Please visit the site yourself, and remind our members to visit the site at: [www.AI-Anon.org/members](http://www.AI-Anon.org/members) and then to enter his or her group name followed by AFG.

### **The Forum:**

*Forum* subscriptions appear to have declined over the last few months. I hope you are all remembering to use *The Forum* in your meetings, and reminding your GR's to talk about *The Forum* in their meetings. As you heard in my spring report, we are all urged to remember that *The Forum* is not a "meeting in our pocket" to be read in isolation, but our AI-Anon magazine written by members for members in "Sharing Recovery, Unity, and Service."

### **Twitter and Facebook:**

As mentioned in the Chairman of the Board letter, we now have pages on Twitter.com and Facebook.com. "These new Web pages have been prepared in accordance with the direction given by the Policy Committee earlier this year. The Policy Committee approved the use of these Web resources for outreach purposes, provided that they comply with our Traditions" (Attachment 6).

### **2013 AI-ANON INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION, VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA, JULY 5-7.**

Following the Board's approval of the 2013 International Convention theme, "Celebrating Worldwide Unity—AI-Anon Family Groups," a logo was designed for the Convention. The logo will be used for stationery throughout July 2012 – July 2013, flyers, registration forms, etc. Be sure to save your change, and order or renew your passport in plenty of time! There is a "Save the Date" flyer with this report. (Attachment 7)

### **2018 AI-Anon International Convention Bid:**

As I mentioned in my spring assembly report, each area has the opportunity to submit a convention bid to host the 2018 AI-Anon International Convention. We did not have much time to discuss whether we should submit a bid at our spring assembly, so I would like to take some time today to hear your thoughts related to possibly submitting a bid. Perhaps during the first five or 10 min. of your lunch today you can jot your thoughts, questions, or concerns regarding the bid process. The deadline for us to submit a bid is December 1, 2011. I have the forms and process to help guide our discussion this afternoon.

### **Trustee At Large Resume:**

I want to remind you all that the deadline for Trustee At Large (TAL) resumes to be into WSO is August 15, 2011. I e-mailed all of you a copy of the resume for your information with a reminder that if you had members who were interested in submitting resumes, they needed to contact me to get the resume. To date, I have only received one request. However, there is still week if you know of anyone who is qualified, willing, and may be interested in serving as Trustee. Maybe you forgot to approach a potential

member or search over the summer for qualified candidates. The requirements to be a Trustee include the following criteria:

Delegates to the World Service Conference are not eligible to be candidates for Trustee until two (2) World Service Conferences have elapsed after their term as Delegate ends.

A **Trustee at Large (TAL)** can live anywhere within the World Service Conference (WSC) structure. **If chosen to serve as a Trustee, I agree to abide by the following:**

- I understand that serving as a Trustee requires more than just a “willingness to serve.”
- I am an active member of Al-Anon Family Groups, with at least ten (10) years of continuous membership, and I will continue attending Al-Anon meetings.
- I am not a member of Alcoholics Anonymous (A.A.).
- I must relinquish all Al-Anon service positions beyond the group level during the term of service.
- I will be required to become an Al-Anon Member Involved in Alateen Service (AMIAS).
- I will be required to attend Trustee meetings on a quarterly (i.e., January, April, July, and October) or even on a monthly basis. These meetings may range from 28-to-60 days a year, depending on assignments.
- I can be available to the WSO for consultation and on short notice to attend special meetings of the Board of Trustees.
- I will be required to manage my own luggage, and to share a room with another Trustee.
- I am able to speak and write proficiently in the English language.
- I am in good health, and can sit for long periods of time.
- I can devote sufficient time to complete all assignments on Task Forces, Committees, and Work Group projects in a timely manner. I understand these assignments require a computer and will require work between Board meetings, by phone or e-mail, individually, or on a team.
- I will be asked to speak to large groups, both inside and outside of Al-Anon Family Groups.
- I may be asked to travel anywhere in the world on behalf of Al-Anon Family Groups.
- I understand the Board Vision and Mission statements, and will support the Board’s group conscience decisions, regardless of my personal opinions.

The resume is an acrobat reader document, is filled out in acrobat with word efficiency needed as Box 1 allows 5 lines, the five questions boxes allow three lines. The resume is then printed, signed and sent directly to WSO

Do you have questions regarding the resume or the requirements for the position? If you know of anyone in your districts please hurry home on Sunday and encourage him or her to submit a resume. As Concept 9 suggests, it is all of our responsibilities to find our future trusted servants. The complete resume with instructions is attached (Attachment 8).

#### **Trustee Visit:**

We are again going to have a Trustee with us at our fall assembly. We are still working on the details of what the Trustee will be doing at our assembly as we are cognizant of our elections occurring. However, I hope you will agree that our WSO visitors have added much to our assemblies during this panel.

#### **Conference Summaries:**

In your baskets, you all received the 2011 World Service Conference (WSC) Summary. You will notice that the work completed by the Thought and Task Forces over the last year is included in this year’s summary. Please take a look, as there are some interesting ideas that you may want to try in your districts.

Also, just for fun, if you turn to page 39 of the Conference Summary you will see a picture of many of the Conference members during the Property Ownership discussion and vote. At the microphone, is Harriet T. who visited our first assembly with Laurie K., "the hat lady," who's out of sight in the back of the room. Harriet is reading the entire motion we would be voting on. You may be able to see Mary G. seated to the left.

You may not recognize the back of my head, but I am in the middle section toward the front. This year, they happened to stick me right behind the Executive Director, the outgoing Chairman of the Board who was also the incoming Chairman of the Executive Committee, the incoming Chairman of the Board, the outgoing Chairman of the Executive Committee, and next to the Chairman of the Nominating Committee for Trustees I truly wondered whether my higher power thought I needed this seating arrangement to help me behave. I'm not sure however, how much it helped.

**Bid Discussion**: please remember during lunch to take a few minutes at the beginning to consider the question of whether we should submit a bid for the 2018 Convention. I'm hoping for a thoughtful interchange this afternoon on the topic.

Love in service,

Terry F.  
Delegate, Panel 49