

Delegate's Report-March AWSC, 2011



Good morning! It is so good to be back with all of you again. Wow, we really are in year three of our Panel. How quickly time flies!!!

Since Assembly, there has been a steady stream of activities and deadlines as we get closer to the 2011 World Service Conference.

SERDGT:

I attended the Southeast Regional Delegate's Get-Together February 3-5, 2011 in Raleigh, North Carolina. I will pass around a picture of those who attended this year including our SE Regional Trustee who's a past Delegate. She gave a very detailed Trustee report during the weekend. We all also had the opportunity in advance to submit "timely topics" on issues Areas are facing. Twenty-five topics were submitted; similar topics combined, voted on in terms of priority, and as time allowed the topics were then discussed during the weekend. I will also pass around the list of topics discussed this year.

For several months, I've been part of a World Service Conference Task Force preparing a document we're hoping to be ready by the 2011 World Service Conference (WSC). Reports are that the WSC timeline for the document to be ready looks promising. If final approval is made, the document will be put into use later this year. I also chaired the Conference Committee on Trustees (CCT), and sat on a Regional Committee on Trustees, (RCT).

TAL Resume` Solicitation:

Speaking of the CCT, hopefully you all received the information regarding an urgent resume` solicitation for a one year appointment of a Trustee at Large (TAL). The details are as follows: "The Board of Trustees is soliciting résumés to fill one vacant Trustee at Large (TAL) position for a one-year appointment. **Résumés must be submitted to the World Service Office by March 15th**. The Nominating Committee and the Conference Committee on Trustees (CCT) will score the résumés by April 4th. The Nominating Committee, upon reviewing the scoring and comments from the CCT and Nominating Committee will recommend up to two candidates for the vacant TAL slot by April 9th. The names will be communicated to the Board of Trustees on April 10th and then to the CCT. The CCT members will have until April 15th to submit

written objections to any of the nominees to the Nominating Committee Chair. At the Annual Board Meeting on April 16th, an appointment to fill the vacant TAL position will possibly be made.

Please encourage qualified members to apply for this position. **Also, remind applicants of the importance of following directions when filling out the résumé. The form should not be altered and should fit on a single page and all questions should be addressed directly. These details are considered by those making nominations.** For these appointments only, submitting a response to an additional question will NOT be required for Trustee candidates.”

If a candidate is appointed, that individual could also submit a new resume` by August 15, 2011 to possibly be elected to the board for another two years with election occurring at the annual board meeting in 2012.

I have again attached a resume` form and list of instructions and current requirements for your convenience. Please read the requirements and encourage qualified members in your districts to submit a resume` to the WSO no later than March 15. If you or potential candidate have questions please get in contact with me right away as time is now very short. Thank you for your help in getting the word out and for your help in this important task of finding possible candidates (Attachment 1).

2011 World Service Conference Details

The 2011 World Service Conference will be held April 11-15, 2011. It will again be held in Norfolk, Virginia at the Wyndham Hotel, where it's been the two previous years. As a Panel 49 Delegate, I will have the opportunity to visit Stepping Stones on Sunday the 10th in the morning, before traveling to the Conference site. Thought Forces, Task Forces, and Committees will meet on Monday to continue or finalize work before the Conference begins. Again the theme of the 2011 Conference is:

Expanding our community of hope by embracing:

- **Yesterday's foundations**
- **Today's successes**
- **Tomorrow's possibilities**

Ampliamos nuestra comunidad de esperanza al acoger:

- **los cimientos del pasado**
- **los éxitos del presente**
- **las posibilidades del futuro**

Élargir notre communauté d'espoir en intégrant:

- **Les bases d'hier**
- **Les succès d'aujourd'hui**
- **Les possibilités de demain**

As you hopefully also know, this year, Al-Anon Family Groups celebrates its 60th Anniversary with an open house Saturday, April 16, 2011, 1:00-4:00 pm. There will be a special ceremony at 3 pm commemorating paying off the WSO's mortgage at WSO, 1600 Corporate Landing Parkway, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23454.

Continuing the celebration, there will be a 60th Anniversary Banquet, at the Virginia Beach Convention Center, 1000 19th Street, Virginia Beach, VA 23451, which will be a ticketed event with limited seating, Saturday, April 16, 2011; Reception 6:00 – 6:45 pm; Banquet at 7:00 pm. Tickets are (\$50 U.S.). You can find the ticket order form on the Members' website at www.Al-Anon.org/members . The deadline for getting tickets is March 31, 2011. **“Please note: The Open House is free of charge; the Banquet is a ticketed event and seating is limited.”**

Love gifts:

As a reminder, love gifts sent are not for or about one Delegate, but about all the Conference members. They are sent by each district in each Area to show appreciation for the Conference members' participation in the World Service Conference.

I will say however, that getting mail while at the World Service Conference from members and groups in the area is very special.

If you need information on how to send love gifts, please send an email to me at:

delegate@northfloridaal-anon.org

Property Ownership Discussion:

Lois said once, "There is no difference between good business practice and good spiritual practice". As you may remember, the 15-year trial of owning our World Service Office will end in 2011. At that time, the Conference having looked at all the information obtained during the trial will vote to end the trial and keep the property, end the trial and sell the property, or continue the trial for another period of time. If you have any lingering questions regarding this upcoming vote, please let me know. If I don't know the answer, I'll find out for you.

Diversity:

I'm happy to report that the discussion regarding diversity within and outside of groups continues. Some districts in our Area have increased their interest in having discussions regarding diversity. One of the WSC presentations will likely be on cultural diversity again this year, a chosen agenda item at the World Service Conference will cover diversity this year, one of the topics chosen by our team task force and presented by WSO TEAM Task Force member will address diversity, and it continues to be a topic of ongoing discussion by the Board of Trustees. Please help to keep the conversations going in your districts and groups.

Chosen Agenda Items (CAI):

At the March 2010 AWSC meeting, there was interest by AWSC members in the chosen agenda item submitted by me to possibly be discussed on the conference floor. Therefore, I thought I would share again the topic I submitted this year, as well as the two topics that received the most votes by conference members. Here are some guidelines we are given prior to submitting a topic, followed by the topic that I chose to submit, and the culmination of the topics chosen based on receiving the highest number of votes:

“As we gather to discuss new ideas, concepts, and issues that affect Al-Anon worldwide, what topic do you believe needs to be discussed at the 2011 WSC? In your leadership role as World Service Conference Delegate, WSO staff member, Executive Committee member, or Board of Trustees member, please review the topic you are submitting for the following criteria:

- Is this something the *Service Manual* can answer or something that belongs in the group, district, or Area? *Think big.*
- Does the topic merit time on the Conference agenda for an in-depth discussion that would benefit Al-Anon groups and members worldwide?
- Does the topic consider the Conference theme?
- Will the framing of the topic help to clarify, taking care that opinions have been avoided?"

Florida (N) Topic:

Diversity and inclusion-12-Step work, attraction vs. promotion, cooperation vs. affiliation, outreach to diverse communities and/or populations, participation vs. observation, non-professional while using special workers, leadership, delegation, selected committees-tying it all together

Framing the topic:

“Do the members of my Area reflect the diversity of my state/province? Does my district and home group reflect the diversity of my community?” “How can my Area, district, and home group better reflect the diversity of my state/province and my community?” (2010 WSC Celebrate Diversity Handout)

At our two Assemblies this year, I asked all those present who **did not** fit the category of a fifty-six year-old Caucasian female noted in the 2009 Membership survey to stand. Almost all of the approximately two hundred people stood up.

These two threads for reflection highlight the continued need for awareness where we may not be being inclusive within our fellowship, and where we may not be reaching those in need in our communities who are of different cultural backgrounds and/or spiritual practices.

Staying aware of this diversity, what do we do with this awareness? The Board Vision Statement, Mission Statement, and Strategic Plan are embodied in this year's Conference theme of Expanding our community of hope by embracing Yesterday's foundation, Today's successes, Tomorrow's possibilities. From the Al-Anon-Alateen Service Manual, 2010-2013, pg. 171, “One theme welds the three Legacies together- Pass Along Understanding.” As we pass along this understanding, we must also seek to gain understanding from those we are trying to reach regarding how to be inclusive, and possible barriers to understanding and inclusivity.

As a fellowship and as an organization, we are trying to be “flexible and nimble” both in and out of our meeting rooms. This flexibility is vital in order to “expand our community of hope” and seek to find “Everyone Everywhere” who desire recovery. How do we balance being flexible and nimble, maintaining the tenets and practices of our Legacies, and successfully reaching diverse potential members who may not know of or recognize Al-Anon's value, and/or may not yet feel welcome or accepted because of their diversity.

Topics with similar themes were then combined and the two overall topics then chosen by Conference members based on receiving the most votes were 1.) **Topic:** Minimal (or unsuccessful) Public Outreach conducted by Al-Anon members because many do not know the latest media terminology (jargon), lack familiarity or comfort with current technological methods of communication, and have no training about evolving media unless received outside of AFG. This was combined with a similar **Topic:** Considering yesterday's foundations, today's successes, and tomorrow's possibilities, how can we expand our community of hope by embracing the use of

technology to enhance communication at the group, district, Area, and WSO levels?

The second topic chosen included 4 similar themed topics including our Areas' topic: 2.) Topic: Our Survey indicates that our members are primarily well educated, 56-year-old, white women. Have we become a polite society that behaves correctly, but lacks a spiritual connection with those we see as different from our personal "normal"? Have we fallen into a political, societal vortex that exists on labels, categories, and codes, failing at the desired spiritual connection? Topic: What plan of action does AI-Anon with its trusted servants have to address undocumented immigrants entering AI-Anon from diverse communities? Topic: How can the World Service Conference develop an effective tool to build on Yesterday's Foundations using Today's successes to make a difference in Tomorrow's possibilities by enhancing our relationships within the minority cultures throughout our fellowship? Using forward thinking efforts today, can we strategize to develop an increase in minority membership? Topic: Diversity and inclusion—Twelve Step work, attraction vs. promotion, cooperation vs. affiliation, outreach to diverse communities and/or populations, participation vs. observation, non-professional while using special workers, leadership, delegation, selected committees—tying it all together.

CHAIRMAN OF BOARD LETTER

The entire Chairman of the Board letter including updates, and past letters can be found on the members' website by clicking the Inside the WSO link. However, here are a few highlights from the most recent letter:

"This past quarter, the Board heard a report regarding implementation of some of the strategies identified by the "Integrating Alateen into AI-Anon where no Alateen meetings exist" Thought Force and discussed at the 2010 World Service Conference. Staff members in the Member Services section are acting as a Task Force to develop a timeline and plan for implementation of several identified strategies.

The Board of Trustees continued its process of reviewing and revising its Strategic Plan to better serve the needs of the organization and to incorporate the strategies into the Operational Plan of the Staff. We began the process in October 2010 and conducted a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) analysis at the January 2011 Quarterly Board meeting. We plan to formulate and prioritize our goals and objectives at the April Special Board meeting.

One more exciting piece of news is that a title has been selected for AI-Anon's new book: *Many Voices, One Journey*. This book is the story of growth and recovery of the fellowship and its members over the past 60 years."

POLICY UPDATE

The purpose of the Policy Update sent each quarter with the Chairperson of the Board's letter is to provide Delegates with information regarding:

- Current discussions by the Policy Committee in response to questions and concerns generated by the fellowship.
- Pending motions to be presented to the next World Service Conference (WSC.)
- In the case of the second quarter letter, Policy motions passed by the WSC.

Current Discussions:

- By consensus, the Committee agreed upon a strategy to reorganize the "Public Relations" section of the *Policy Digest*. The new structure for the section will be organized according to AI-Anon principles. A Task Force will be formed to recommend changes to the section.
- The Committee further discussed the question of applying the "Do Not Refer Code" to meetings that are believed by their Areas to be in violation of the Traditions. A Task Force will be appointed to create a framework for discussion of this topic at the 2011 World Service Conference. One aspect of this issue would be to define criteria that would determine cause for delisting, and reason for listing that meeting again.

- The Committee approved the WSO moving forward with the creation of a “passive” Web page on one or more social networking sites, while taking care to ensure that no Al-Anon member’s anonymity is broken on any such Web page.
- The Committee agreed to allow the World Service Office to begin sending e-mail to the group CMAs, provided that the office adheres to procedures that limit the type of information shared by e-mail and allow the CMAs to opt in to this process.

Other Attachments Included With My Report:

- As a second attachment, you will find the January Al-Anon Information Services (AIS) news. It includes a request for Legacy workbook sharings, a reminder about the Legacy blogs, information about AIS websites and guidelines, and a reminder about the Al-Anon international convention in Vancouver in 2013. (Attachment 2)
- Attachment three is a coupon for a French or Spanish version of the 2010-2013 Service Manual. (Attachment 3)
- A fourth attachment is a reminder memo about the four Group Representative (G.R.) podcasts now on the members’ website. These podcasts include: *how the group functions as a community*, *structure of the Al-Anon/Alateen fellowship*, *the need for GR's and the G.R. duties*, and *how do I become a GR?* The members sharing on these podcasts were selected from responses to the "Unlimited Abundant Resources Skills Inventory” also available on the members’ website under the surveys tab. Members interested in participating in future WSO projects such as the podcasts and Thought Forces are encouraged to complete the skills inventory. (Attachment 4)
- And a final attachment is an AIS/LDC new registration/update form. (Attachment 5).

As we move into our last year of Panel 49, we will continue to focus on leadership at all service levels, and using our Legacies at **all** levels of service.

Do you have any questions, and/or the Trustee at Large resume` solicitation and appointment process?

I look forward to continuing to learn, laugh, and grow with you during the next year. And remember you can invite me to visit you.

Love in service,
Terry
Delegate-Panel 49