

Wow!!! What a journey!!! I cannot believe this is our last AWSC meeting. ☹  
(Sniffle)

I want to thank you for letting me serve as your North Florida Area Panel 46 Delegate and I want to encourage all those who are eligible to stand for this position to do so. If you remember right I gave out my "job accomplishments" at the last Assembly "Job Fair" so should be familiar with what I do, or have done (no surprises). Now...on with my report.



**CONFERENCE SUMMARY** is available on-line (Members' Web site). The World Service Office (WSO) should be shipping to me soon and I will bring Area World Service Committee (AWSC) members' copies to the Fall Assembly.

**AT-LARGE MEMBERS wanted for literature committee**, if you are interested, energetic, dependable and good at using email and the Internet then send your résumé immediately. The World Service Office (WSO) needs you.

- The trial structure will include five members who reside throughout the U.S. and Canada, but not in Areas where there are already Delegates on the Committee.
- The intent of the trial structure is to draw input from a wider cross section of the fellowship. By conducting Committee business via conference calls, e-mail, and the Internet, more people will have an opportunity to participate. At-large members will no longer need to travel to Virginia Beach for quarterly meetings.
- Candidates who have been active in Al-Anon continuously for at least the past five years, and who are not also members of A. A.
- Committee terms run from the first of May until the end of April each year.
- Resume forms are available from the Delegate please limit your information to the first page of the resume/application (*ATTACHMENT 1*)
- Committee work involves discussing ways to encourage the use of existing literature among members, evaluating suggestions from the membership for new literature or changes to existing material, and providing guidance in the development of pieces given conceptual approval by the World Service Conference (WSC). Its reviews are to determine whether or not a piece meets Conference Approved Literature (CAL) criteria—that it is "identifiably Al-Anon in content, responsive to identified needs, factually accurate, timely, and understandable by a broad based reading audience." The value of the Committee members is not based on their awareness of the correct use of the English language, but on their knowledge of the Al-Anon program. A copy editor will proof manuscripts for any grammar, spelling, or punctuation problems after the Literature Committee's approval.

### **World Service Conference (WSC) Standing Committees vs. Task Force and Thought Forces**

In 2007, a few Delegates were assigned to a Task Force on the "Reserve Fund Guideline". This is an example of ways for Delegates to participate in short-term, task-oriented groups where results are readily apparent.

Currently Delegates get to choose a committee or choose to be on a short term Task Force. Task Forces or Thought Forces can be formed to move forward with the activities of the Strategic Plan. The background/history of Committees, Task Forces and thought Forces can be found in the 2008 Conference Summary.

A **Regional Service Seminar (RSS) Task Force** was formed and in July met to develop some of the ideas generated from last year's RSS Thought Force. We are striving to develop a plan for an innovative RSS that could be presented at the 2009 World Service Conference (WSC).

**Group Services** reported in 2007 about 12% of the new groups registered, submitted group names that did not meet World Service Office (WSO) criteria. Most of the groups submitted names that implied affiliation with outside entities, were confusing, or were slang terms. The total number of US Al-Anon Groups in 2007 was 12,946 (it was noted that some US groups have multiple meetings than groups, approximately 1,500 more meetings than groups. These meetings do not receive separate mailings from the WSO). There are 37 on-line meetings registered world-wide and 14 telephone meetings.

**Southeast Regional Trustee** (SERT) was elected for our region and affirmed by the World Service Office (WSO) however she has since resigned. The Southeast Region nor the WSO will be re-selecting another SERT replacement at this time.

I was notified that two people from North Florida have submitted their résumés for **Trustee at Large (TAL)**

**Have you seen “Sketches,” our Public Service Announcement? Have you listened to our new podcast?** I have!

At the 2008 World Service Conference (WSC), I was asked to discuss with our area the **Process for Managing Excess Bequest Funds**. I thought I would do this in stages so I presented all the background information at the last Assembly (also this information is now on our area website) and last month I sent an email to the District Representative (DR) and Al-Anon Information Service Liaison (AISLs) asking them for their input, they were to include it in their written report this weekend. I have already had one conference call with a Trustee and I will be sending your feedback to her shortly after this Area World Service Committee (AWSC) meeting. So the question again is “Do you have any input on the Process for Managing Excess Bequest Funds?” Our answers will help the finance committee as they plan for 2009’s World Service Conference (WSC).

### **World Service Office (WSO) – July 2008**

- **WSO Finance Update** (*ATTACHMENT 2*)
- **WSO Policy Update** (*ATTACHMENT 2*)



**THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION WAS A BLAST!!!** For the records the North Florida Area did not fund my attendance to the International Convention. I saved my nickels and dimes like everyone else.

There were several members from the North Florida Area who marched in the parade (what fun).

There is a 2008 International Convention blog that has been set up...visit

<http://al-anon.org/members/2008InternationalConventionBlog/>

In addition to giving members a place to share their Convention experiences, we hope to attract other members to attend our next Al-Anon International in Vancouver, British Columbia, July 5-7, 2013 (START SAVING THOSE NICKELS AND DIMES NOW).

**2009 World Service Conference (WSC)** will be held April 18-23, 2009 and the Conference theme is:

Embrace the Legacies: Our Spiritual Bridges to Expand the Future”

Embrassons les Héritages : Nos ponts spirituels pour élargir l'avenir

Acojamos los Legados: Nuestros puentes espirituales para ampliar el futuro

Although the World Service Conference (for Delegate's) will be held April 18-23, 2009 our next Delegate may need to arrive one day earlier to attend the new Delegate's Orientation. The conference will be held at the Wyndham Hotel in Virginia Beach, VA. Conference members will be able to visit the World Service Office (WSO) during this annual meeting. The hotel mailing address to ship the love gifts to (and dates packages will be accepted) will be publish at a later date.

**Memo re: Al-Anon Declaration and A.A. Responsibility Statement** (*ATTACHMENT 3*)

The theme chosen for the 1974 World Service Conference was “LET IT BEGIN WITH ME.” At the opening dinner, Conference Chairperson Penny B. stated, “You also have a small card at your place. This is the Declaration built on the theme of our Conference. Let us repeat it together: “When anyone, anywhere reaches out for help, let the hand of Al-Anon and Alateen be there, and LET IT BEGIN WITH ME.”

**Sharing Area Highlights** – Delegate's share “Successes and Concerns”

- How do we get ourselves and others more involved in recovery, thus energizing our spiritual quest?
- What are our responsibilities to ourselves, to the fellowship, and to newcomers?
- How can we, as a fellowship, provide guidance and education to the membership about good leadership and healthy sponsorship?
- What is happening or what would you like to see happen in your Area to energize involvement?

Look for all the feedback in the 2008 Conference Summary, page 3 and 4

ATTACHMENT: 1

**Al-Anon/Alateen World Service Office Committee Resume**

Please print or type. Use this side only; no attachments

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

List in order your areas of interest for the World Service Office Committees (Alateen, Forum Editorial, International Coordination, Literature, Outreach to Professionals, and Public Outreach):

1.	2.	3.	4.
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**Personal information:**

Name:		Date of Birth: (Alateen member only)	
Address:		Daytime phone:	
		Evening phone:	
City:		Years active in Al-Anon/Alateen:	
State/Province:		Home Group:	
Zip/Postal Code:	Country:	Region:	Area:

**If Alateen member, custodial parent(s) information:**

Printed name(s):	Daytime phone:
Signature(s):	Evening phone:

**Al-Anon/Alateen service experience, beginning with most recent (include dates):**

Group experience:	Dates (from – to)
Area experience:	
World Service Office experience:	

**Other information:**

Personal history, including education, training, work, and other volunteer experience:
Tell us something about yourself:

**ATTACHMENT: 1****COMMITTEES WITH AT-LARGE MEMBERS**

- **Alateen Advisory:** addresses the needs of Alateen members, encourages Alateen group sponsorship and supports Alateen Coordinators.
- **Forum Editorial Advisory:** recommends editorial policies for our monthly magazine; considers articles for publication and seeks to place *The Forum* in the hands of every Al-Anon and Alateen member.
- **International Coordination:** aims to maintain worldwide unity; plans a biennial meeting of delegates from structures around the world; coordinates review of CAL translations.
- **Literature Committees (2):** both committees seek to aid recovery by creating new and revised Conference Approved Literature (CAL) and seek ways to encourage members to enhance their recovery through increased awareness and use of our literature and service materials.
- **Outreach to Professionals Advisory:** insures that the WSO remains “friendly with our friends” by cooperating with professionals, government agencies, associations, institutions, and public and private agencies.
- **Public Outreach:** develops policy and program outreach for both the public and professional community; keeps the public informed about Al-Anon through staying attuned to the ever-changing media environment.

**REQUIREMENTS FOR AT-LARGE COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP:**

- Continuous active Al-Anon membership for at least the last five (5) years or continuous active Alateen membership for at least the last two (2) years and at least 13 years old. The at-large committee members are appointed to serve one-year terms up to a maximum of six years. These committee members may divide these terms between one or more committees but may serve on only one committee at a time.

Trustee or delegate service on these committees does not count towards the maximum. Past WSO staff may serve on committees after three years from the date of termination. However, past staff members may not serve on the same or similar committees nor any committee within the same department in which they worked.

- Family members may not serve on the same committee.
- Members of Alcoholics Anonymous may not serve in these positions.
- The Literature and Public Outreach Committees have delegate members who bring a geographic diversity to their committees; at-large members of these committees will be chosen from the geographic area not to exceed a radius of 300 miles of Virginia Beach.
- The ability to attend meetings four to eight days per year, including weekends.
- Time and ability to work on committee projects throughout the year.
- WSO committee members are required to relinquish information service, literature distribution center, or area world service positions (GRs and alternate DRs may serve provided they do not serve in another area capacity).
- At-large members of all advisory committees may come from anywhere in the United States and Canada.

Mail completed form to:

AFG, Inc. World Service Office  
1600 Corporate Landing Parkway  
Virginia Beach, VA 23454

**ATTACHMENT 2****WSO FINANCE UPDATE:** July 2008 - Frank R, Treasurer

The following update is based on the unaudited financial statements for the first quarter that ended June 30, 2008. Income of \$112,000 was recorded for the period as compared to income of \$286,800 in the prior year. Overall income and expenses were generally in line with budget projections.

**WSO INCOME**

Literature sales were \$114,900, or about 5% less in the first two quarters of this year when compared to the same two quarters last year. The gross profit on literature sales was 82% for 2008 compared to 80% for 2007.

Contributions were \$582,000 compared to \$612,000 last year. This was a 5% decrease.

Income from Forum subscriptions are up about 2% from last year.

**WSO EXPENSES**

Total operating expenses increased by \$139,000, or 6.7%, from last year. Overall expenses are in agreement with the budget. Payroll expense is higher because of merit and cost of living increases and more employees qualified for the retirement plan. Occupancy costs are lower because interest on the bond is less and last year we incurred repairs to the heating and air conditioning system as well as other repairs of about \$7,000. Because of increases in rates from UPS and other shipping companies, shipping is an expense this year, compared to generating a slight income last year. Postage expense is higher than last year because we are including the free *Forum* in the General Fund this year. Travel is higher due to the trips to India and Central/South America, and the increased costs for the Conference this year. All other expenses are lower due to fewer outreach activities.

**WSO RESERVE FUND**

The market value of the Reserve Fund investments totaled \$5,350,000. This amount includes an unrealized gain of \$524,000. In compliance with a Board motion, 4% of the average balance of the Reserve Fund over the prior 36 months will be transferred to the General Fund.

**WSO POLICY UPDATE:** July 2008 - Mary G, Chairperson, Policy Committee***Current Discussions:***

At the July Policy Committee meeting the following topics were discussed in depth using the KBDM format as follows:

**1) On-line meetings that violate the Traditions**

The Policy Committee discussed the importance of on-line meetings to the fellowship and concluded that generally, on-line meetings do abide by the Traditions. Complaints about on-line meetings are similar to complaints received about face-to-face meetings. The *Electronic Al-Anon Meeting Guideline* (G-39) addresses most problems. Districts and Information Services do not deregister problem groups, however when a serious problem arises, they can remove the group from their meeting lists until the problem is resolved. Because electronic meetings are not geographically based, the WSO serves as their support and can also remove them from the WSO meeting list while resolving problems reported by members. It was deemed that current policy and procedures are sufficient at the present time.

**2) Local Service Section of the Policy Digest p.89**

A request to review the requirement for local answering services to maintain a listing in a phone directory as a requisite for registration was deemed to retain its importance and validity as a means of reaching the public.

**3) Anonymity Policy Language adopted at the 2008 WSC**

The Policy Committee discussed whether additional language was needed in the Policy Digest regarding anonymity and maintaining anonymity as it relates to new technology. The discussion resulted in a consensus that no additional language was needed and that the Group Services Department would ensure that there is continuity of thought and language in Guidelines and other appropriate service literature that supports the Policy wording as adopted in April 2008.

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Conference Members  
FROM: Executive Director  
DATE: August 6, 2008  
RE: Question regarding Al-Anon Declaration and A.A. Responsibility Statement

The WSO was asked at the 2006 WSC to send a copy of questions it receives from Conference members and our responses to all Conference members so that they can share leadership by responding to recurring questions in their Areas. The WSO believes that the following question and our response might be one of those topics.

**Question:** The Al-Anon Declaration (“*Let It Begin with Me* When anyone, anywhere reaches out for help, let the hand of Al-Anon and Alateen always be there, and—*Let It Begin with Me*”) seems to closely parallel A.A.’s Responsibility Statement (“I am Responsible. When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And for that: I am responsible.”). Was this intentional or is there some other reason why the statements seem to be nearly the same in structure and form?

The similarity between the Al-Anon Declaration and A.A.’s Responsibility Statement appears to have been intentional. Here are the facts regarding the Declaration’s origin:

The November 9, 1973 minutes of the International Convention Committee for Al-Anon/Alateen activities in the 1975 A.A. International Convention with Al-Anon/Alateen participation stated the following:

“Henrietta told the Committee of a call she received from AA telling how impressed they are with our proposed choice of theme—‘Let It Begin With Me.’ They might even want to adopt it as the overall Convention theme.”

The Convention Committee for Al-Anon/Alateen activities then recommended that this theme be used as a declaration. The recommendation was brought to the Policy Committee in January 1974. In April 1974, the Policy Committee reported to the World Service Conference that:

“The slogan ‘Let It Begin With Me’ is to be worked into a declaration, similar to AA’s ‘I Am Responsible,’ and it is to be printed in a small leaflet to be introduced at the 1974 World Service Conference.”

The theme chosen for the 1974 World Service Conference was “LET IT BEGIN WITH ME.” At the opening dinner, Conference Chairperson Penny B. stated, “You also have a small card at your place. This is the Declaration built on the theme of our Conference. Let us repeat it together: “When anyone, anywhere reaches out for help, let the hand of Al-Anon and Alateen be there, and LET IT BEGIN WITH ME.”

In 1975, the Conference was asked to approve decisions of the Policy Committee. These did not appear as a Conference motion. The *1975 Conference Summary* lists the Policy decisions, as revised by the Conference, and states that they were approved as amended. Among them was the following from the March 19, 1974 Policy Committee meeting:

“The following was adopted as Al-Anon’s declaration: ‘LET IT BEGIN WITH ME—When anyone, anywhere reaches out for help, let the hand of Al-Anon and Alateen always be there and LET IT BEGIN WITH ME.’