

Delegate's Report-AWSC-Panel 49-March 2009



Good morning everyone. Is anyone feeling a little overwhelmed in your new service position? Well, I want you to know you're not alone.

Before I left the October assembly, I was informed by our panel 46 Delegate that I needed to make plane reservations for the SERDGT the first weekend in February. Then I was e-mailed some documents that Lisa thought would be useful. I then had to work with our panel 46 treasurer to get the funds for the first plane ticket. Then I was sent my first mailings as Delegate from WSO. I was added to e-communities where I have now gained access to 79 Delegate documents and 117 documents of coordinators. Next, I worked with our panel 49 treasurer to buy my plane ticket for the World Service Conference in April. Then I went to the SERDGT. Then I met 5 deadlines from WSO for the month of February and was feeling very good indeed. Until...I was given 7 new deadlines for March! I participated in my new Delegate conference call on February 28th, had email contact and a phone call from my conference mentor (formerly conference sponsor), and email contact a few times from my assigned trustee at large contact, as well as the trustee who gave her report at the SERDGT who is also the chairperson of this year's World Service Conference. And it's only March 7th!

The Delegate's get together was interesting and a great opportunity to meet past and current Delegates. There was "knowledge based discussion" as this is not a decision making body, but there was a great deal of experience, strength and hope offered. I want you to know Lisa took care of me very well even taking me to get "drugs" when I began to get sick. She was a good guide and an enthusiastic participant as always! Next year's SERDGT will again be held in Myrtle Beach, and one of our own past Delegate's is chairing it!!!

World Service Conference information

The Board of Trustees continues with two goals for the World Service Conference that have been in place in the last few years. The goals are as follows:

- 1.) *"The spiritual tone of the WSC will prevail by the demonstration of mutual respect and acceptable conduct by its members."*
- 2.) *"Conference members will understand the purpose of the Conference, relationships within the structure, and be able to articulate Conference decisions."* (BOT letter)

Delegates of the conference are a voice from their area, but they represent Al-Anon as a whole, not just their area. They make decisions regarding Al-Anon, not Al-Anon for their specific area.

The 2009 WSC will be held April 19-23 in Virginia Beach. On Saturday the 18th. The theme of the conference is “Embrace the Legacies: Our Spiritual Bridges to Expand the Future”. This theme builds on the theme of the 2008 conference.

On Saturday, April 18th, there will be a new Delegate Orientation, Conference Committees, thought and task forces, a Sharing Area Highlights session, and an opening dinner where the third year Delegates will each give a short talk. On Friday morning April 24th before I fly home, I will attend and observe a board of trustees meeting.

Love gifts: How many of you new D.R.s know about love gifts? Did you know what they're for and why we send them? I myself was not very clear so I thought some of you might have questions as well. Love gifts are sent to the WSC to thank all the participants of the WSC for their time, effort, and willingness to do the necessary work of the conference. The gifts are not for or about one Delegate, but about all the Delegates. Love gifts are sent by each district in each Area to show appreciation for the conference members' participation in the World Service Conference.

How to send love gifts- **After April 15th, 2009, send packages and mail to:**

**Terry F. (hold for WSC 4/19-/4/23, 2009)
Wyndham Virginia Beach Oceanfront
5700 Atlantic Avenue
Virginia Beach, VA 23451**

Please remember to put my name and home address in the return address section of the envelope in case mail is delayed.

**Return address is: Terry F.
4100 Ocean Beach Blvd. #407
Cocoa Beach, FL 32931**

Conference Discussion

Now I need your help: As I mentioned above, this year's conference theme is: “Embrace the Legacies: Our Spiritual Bridge to Expand the Future”. During the conference, one of the sessions will be how our legacies have been used as barriers to progress in the past. In one of the WSO letters I'll read a statement: “As trusted servants we have indeed been eager to make operational improvements at the World Service Conference (WSC), as well as in our own Areas and groups. However, time and time again we have been stopped in our endeavors by someone saying, ‘Oh, you cannot do that because of this Tradition or that Concept.’ Our history shows that we have used our Legacies as barriers to progress.

At this year's WSC, we want to have a discussion on our Conference Theme, "Embrace the Legacies: Our Spiritual Bridges to Expand the Future." To do this, we need your help. We invite all Delegates to send an example of how the Legacies have been used as barriers to progress in the past. Examples:

- Step Nine says we can't make amends to people if it will hurt them.
- We can't own property because Tradition Six says it will cause problems.
- We can't have too much money because Warranty One says only a prudent reserve.

Please consider how the Legacies have been used as barriers to progress and give an example. Please take some time today and write one down to give to me during this weekend. I may then submit it for discussion at the conference. Please do work on it this weekend as this is submission is one of my WSO deadlines for this next week.

Service Manual

There are updates to the service manual on the WSO members website. You can download the updates and add them to your service manual.

E-Communities

Have all of you Coordinators successfully accessed your files on ecommunities? Most of you have files posted, so please let me know if you have difficulty getting on the site. I'm willing to help you access information, but I don't want to engage in double headed management by presenting your information.

Question to think about:

One of the questions presented at the SERDGT regarding service positions, was "are you a worker bee or a wanna be?" Can someone tell us the difference? A worker bee is someone who takes a service position and is serious about doing the duties of the position to the best of his/her abilities. A wanna be is someone who takes a service position, perhaps for the sake of having a title, but makes minimal or no efforts to adequately fulfill the position. We all know people in both these categories. Think about which group you are in.

Action Committees

One of the other topics we discussed was the purpose of Action Committees in our areas. The point was made that Action committees *take action*. During this panel, we'll hopefully be action oriented, taking and putting new ideas into action back within our districts and groups.

New Service Event

A task force was convened over the last several months, to assess the effectiveness of Regional Service Seminars and to plan a new service event more flexible than the RSS. I will be getting more information at the WSC, but this new service event is to be "innovative" and more accessible and useful to the areas.

Traditions Blog

There is a new blog on the WSO members website. As some of you know, last year there was a year long blog on the Concepts of service. Though that blog is now closed, members can still go on the site and read that blog. Now, starting in January 2009, WSO began a new blog on our 12 Traditions. Please let members know of the blog and also please visit the WSO members website and share your own experience, strength and hope with the Tradition of the month. Members will also be able to subscribe to the sharings. At the end of the month, the Tradition and posts will be archived so that newcomers to the blog will be able to read the earlier writings, even though they will only be able to post comments to the current Tradition. French and Spanish-speaking members can also do so in their own languages.

En Accion and Le Lien

The entire issues of En Acción and Le lien are now being posted on the Spanish and French Members' Web sites. The current issue will be archived when a new one is posted. Beginning this year, the *Inside Al-Anon* articles will also be indexed annually. If your district has French or Spanish language groups, they will continue to receive copies of the appropriate publication by mail. Districts without French or Spanish language meetings are invited to read the publication on-line. Please let the members in your districts know about the availability of this valuable resource.

Alateen Advisory Committee (AAC)

In 2007, Alateen Advisory Committee (AAC) meetings were held in West Virginia and Ontario North, in conjunction with the Regional Service Seminars (RSSs). This provided input from more Alateens and Al-Anon Members Involved in Alateen Service than ever before, and allowed participation of Canadian members for the first time. The RSSs were enhanced by the Alateen presence, and RSS evaluations reflected enthusiasm for supporting Alateen. There will be no RSSs in 2008. To continue the AAC momentum from 2007, a proposal was approved on a three-year trial basis to hold Alateen Advisory Committee meetings in nine Areas (three per year), with Committee members selected from the Area in which it is held. The meetings will be held at the same time and place as Area Assemblies. Here is how it will work: Each year, Areas in one Canadian region and two U.S. regions will be invited to submit a "bid" to host the ACC. The region schedule will be as follows:

2008	2009	2010
U.S. Northeast	U.S. Southeast	U.S. South Central
U.S. Southwest	U.S. North Central	U.S. Northwest
Canada West	Canada Central	Canada East

This collaboration with the Areas will provide a bridge of understanding among the Area Assembly, Alateen, and WSO, and generate additional excitement for support of Alateen. A WSO staff member and volunteer will attend the Assembly when the AAC is not meeting, and may be available for limited participation in the Assembly relating to Alateen.

North Florida did submit an AAC bid for 2009 to WSO for the Southeast region for 2009. Let's be sure to thank Justin for his willingness and effort in submitting the bid for the AAC to be held in our area. I'm not sure how many proposals were submitted. WSO has decided that the next AAC will be held in Georgia.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON TRUSTEES (CCT) GUIDELINE

In 1984, the Conference Committee on Trustees (CCT) was formed. The CCT, a subcommittee of the Board's Nominating Committee, is composed of World Service Conference Delegates and elects its own Chairperson annually. The members of the CCT independently review and evaluate resumes submitted for Trustee at Large openings. A compilation of their reviews is provided to the Nominating Committee to assist it in the selection of candidates to be presented to the Board.

Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual
Twelve Concepts of Service, Concept Eleven

I Membership

- a. Delegate Chairperson (A new Chairperson is affirmed from among the second-year Delegates.) A Chairperson-elect is elected from the first-year Delegates at the CCT Committee meeting during the World Service Conference (WSC). The Chairperson and Chairperson-elect take office immediately following the WSC.
- b. Delegate members from each panel. *
- c. Chairperson of the Board of Trustees (non-voting).
- d. Executive Director (non-voting).
- e. Chairperson of the Nominating Committee (non-voting).

II Meetings

- a. Meets as a Committee during the WSC.
- b. Attends a meeting of the Nominating Committee during the WSC. CCT members have voice but no vote at the Nominating Committee meeting.

III Duties

- a. Reviews and evaluates TAL candidate resumes at least annually.
- b. Reviews and evaluates ECRPM candidate resumes at least annually.
- c. Encourages all Delegates to seek out members who will make themselves available as candidates for TAL and ECRPM positions.

* The number of Delegate members shall not be less than the number of voting members on the Nominating Committee.

Annual Vacancies:

- Trustee at Large resumes—**due August 15**
- RT resumes for US North Central, US Northeast, US Southeast—**due August 15, 2009**
- ECRPM resumes—**due August 15**

Chairman of the Board letter:

Dear Conference Members,

As part of the twice yearly solicitation for service volunteers at the WSO level, I am writing to remind you of the process for submitting candidates and to inform you of any vacancies. Electronic copies of the Trustee at Large/Regional Trustee and Executive Committee for Real Property Management (ECRPM) résumés and a timeline indicating when each is due. Please remind all applicants: Résumés must be typed or printed legibly. No alteration to the spacing on the form is permitted. You are encouraged to forward copies to interested members and especially those members you believe exhibit leadership qualities and meet the criteria to serve at the WSO level.

Annual Vacancies

Trustee at Large*: Potential candidates' résumés must be postmarked, faxed, or e-mailed to the WSO on or before August 15th. Up to six candidates are selected from the résumés by the Nominating Committee in consultation with the Conference Committee on Trustees in October. The three nominees are selected by the Board in January. Please note the change in length of continuous AI-Anon membership and the requirement that a Delegate must wait until two WSCs have passed after their term ends before they can be considered. Also please review requirements regarding stamina, the willingness to share a room, and the need to be available 28 – 60 days a year.

Regional Trustee*: At the 2008 World Service Conference, Regional Trustee nominees were affirmed using the trial Regional Trustee nomination process for the first time. We are now in our third year of the trial. The regions up for election in 2010 are US North Central, US Northeast, and ***US Southeast***. Areas within those regions should submit candidate résumés to the WSO by August 15, 2009. At the Conference, a Regional Committee on Trustees (RCT) will form for each region nominating candidates. RCTs are composed of all Delegates from the Areas within the region and Delegates from outside the regions that are chosen by lot at the WSC. Résumés will be scored independently by the RCT and the Nominating Committee by using score sheets. A RCT Chairperson (one for each region) will be elected by RCT members at the 2009 Conference. The primary responsibility of the RCT Chair is to tally the scores from all of the voting members. Alternate RCT Chairs (one for each region) will be elected in the event that the RCT Chairs are unable to fulfill their duties. Voting members of the RCTs will review and score candidate résumés and submit tally sheets by **September 30** to the RCT Chair. The RCT Chairperson will combine the tally sheets and then forward the combined scores to the Executive Director prior to the October Board meeting deadline. In October, the Nominating Committee, with the input from the RCT will select up to two candidates from the Region. The Nominating Committee will forward the names of the selected candidates to the RCT Chairperson. The Chairperson will then send the names of the selected candidates to the Delegate members of the RCT. Any member of the RCT may file an objection to any of the selected candidates by **December 15**. In January the Board of Trustees, in consideration of the Board's needs, may select one candidate as the regional nominee. The selected nominee's name will be presented to the World Service Conference for traditional approval.

We are aware that the second page of the Trustee résumé reflects the deadlines for the previous Regional Trustee process. **Please observe the deadlines stated in this letter and the Regional Trustee Trial Plan process as adopted in 2007 and amended in 2008.** If the Conference votes to adopt the Regional Trustee Plan on a

long-term basis after the trial ends, the résumé will be changed then. If you have any questions, please contact the Area Delegate.

*In July 2007 the Board of Trustees voted to give all Trustee candidates an additional question to answer in writing for a three-year trial period. Candidates will receive the question after the August 15 deadline and have a short timeframe to return the answer. The Nominating Committee and the Regional Committees on Trustees will evaluate the answers as part of the scoring and ranking process.

Committees: Since 2006, the Board of Trustees has been reviewing and revising selected Committee structures to determine if each of the Committees is meeting the needs of the fellowship. Some Committees have been disbanded on a trial basis and others have had their membership or meeting times restructured to allow members to serve without spending time on airplanes or in cars to travel to the World Service Office. The Alateen Advisory Committee is traveling to three Areas within separate regions on a rotating basis. Those Committees will be made up of Alateen members and Alateen Sponsors in those Areas. The Forum Editorial Advisory Committee, the Public Outreach Committee, and the Literature Committee have five at Large members each. Due to the restructuring, these members can come from anywhere in the World Service Conference structure. The e-CAL Committee also has at Large members that vary in accordance with the number of Delegate members serving. Other task force and thought force groups will be developed and members with specific skills related to the purpose of the thought/task force will be recruited to accomplish the goal for which it was formed. Time commitments will be spelled out when the task or thought force is formed, whenever possible. The Advisory and other selected Committees discussed above are one year time commitments and run from May to April each year. Résumés are sought by the Conference and applicants are notified in May or June as the Committees are formed. As task forces and thought forces can be formed at any time, notices for those groups will go to the Delegates.

Executive Committee for Real Property Management (ECRPM): The nominating process is the same as for Trustee at Large. Members serve one three-year term and may not be re-elected. Remember, August 15th is the deadline. Please note the change in length of continuous AI-Anon membership and willingness to share a room. After selection, all Trustees and ECRPM nominees, having received traditional approval by the Conference, are elected at the Annual Meeting of the Board of Trustees immediately following the World Service Conference.

The number of positions available annually is as follows:

- 3 Regional Trustees (rotates depending on region)
- 3 at-large Trustees
- 1 member, Executive Committee for Real Property Management

Each candidate who submits a résumé receives an acknowledgment letter when the résumé is received, a copy of which is also forwarded to the Area Delegate. They also receive a letter thanking them in the event they are not selected. As selection times vary by Committee, notices do not come out in any particular order or timeframe. All candidates will receive a final letter whether they were chosen or not.

TIMEFRAME FOR BOARD RECEIVING RÉSUMÉS AND NOMINATION PROCESS

	By date of the WSC	August 15 Postmark	After August 15 deadline	October Board Meeting	January	Annual Board Meeting
At-large and Advisory Committee résumés are sent to the WSO	X*					
TAL/RT/ECRPM résumés are sent to the WSO		X**				
WSO sends additional question to candidates for response in writing by August 31 (TRIAL PERIOD)			X			
TAL/RT/ECRPM candidate selections are made				X		
TAL/RT/ECRPM nominees are chosen					X*** at January Board mtg.	
TAL/RT/ECRPM elections held at Annual Board Meeting						X

*At-large and advisory committee member résumés are submitted to the Executive Committee in May and June.

**By August 31, Delegates from areas with TAL, ECRPM candidates are notified. Delegate response is to be sent to the WSO by September 15, if necessary.

*** Traditional approval must be obtained at Conference.

Trustees Visits:

Trustee members are more than willing to visit your Area upon request. We are willing to give presentations on Leadership, Knowledge-Based Decision-Making, Conflict Resolution, or other topics that may help to support and strengthen your Areas.

PROCESS FOR INVITING WSO STAFF OR VOLUNTEERS (TRUSTEES/EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE) TO AREA EVENTS

The Board of Trustees has allotted a limited amount of money to supplement or pay for travel of WSO staff and volunteers to attend Area Assemblies or events (excluding conventions). If your area would like such a visitor, the Area must make the following decisions:

- When is the event and what amount of time will be allocated to the visitor for presentations, workshops and/ or personal sharing?
- What particular presentations or workshops are requested?
- What expenses of the trip will your area pay? (Obviously, those areas that can afford to underwrite the trip leave money for those who cannot.)

Please allow a minimum of six months for advance planning in order to ensure that your event can receive a visitor. In order not to create misunderstandings, please do not contact staff or volunteers personally.

After the above decisions have been agreed to by the Area, fax, call, or e-mail the WSO Administration Department with your request, including:

- Whether you are seeking a staff member or volunteer.
- The dates and times when the participation will be scheduled as the staff or volunteer may not be able to attend the entire event.
- What presentation or participation is being requested.

Be specific about what expenses the area will be responsible for so that those expenses can be included in the confirmation letter. You may request a specific trustee or staff member but the final determination will be made by either the Executive Director (staff) or Chairperson of the Board (volunteers).

Once the WSO receives the information, the Executive Director or Chairperson of the Board, will look at the presentations requested or the purpose of the event and assign the person who would best fit the Area's requirements. Attempts are made to spread the travel requirements around so individuals are picked on the basis of travel schedules and abilities.

Once the staff member or volunteer has confirmed, a follow-up letter will be sent to the Area **contact** with a copy to the Area Delegate (Area event) or Chairperson (Area Assembly). The assigned staff member or volunteer will then coordinate all travel plans directly with the area within the cost and time limitations agreed.

Educate, Educate, Educate

Please educate your G.R.'s in your districts about the importance of listening to reports, taking notes, and taking information back to their groups. Having knowledge and understanding regarding the importance of reports and the purpose of the reports helps to lessen confusion, frustration, and possible impatience with the process necessary to get our area business accomplished.

I'm learning a great deal in my new position, both exciting and at times challenging. I look forward to working with all of you on Panel 49 as we "Embrace the Legacies: Our Spiritual Bridges to Enhance the Future"

Love in service,

Terry F.

Delegate

Panel 49