

Delegate's Report to the AWSC August 22, 2009

At the 2008 WSC conceptual approval for a new book "piece of literature Al-Anon's first 60 years" was made. When I was at Conference the outline for this book Tracing Our Growth this is the working title, had been developed. Now sharing's are needed- two pieces are provided to help you get started-Your sharing's are needed and a Sharing sheet- please note that the deadline date for these sharing's is October 31,'09.

The defining metaphor for the history book will be personal recovery from the effects of alcoholism. The book will tell the story of different generations of people engaged in a common spiritual quest: in search of recovery for themselves, but also working together to develop a structure that would share that recovery with anyone, anywhere. The fourteen chapter structure will begin with Lois's early years of anguish, the beginning of recovery and the AA auxiliary groups. Each of the following chapters covers an approximately five year period, dividing the 60 years into 12 segments.

Archivists have been asked to interview longtime members and provide any Area material relevant to the book's content. I would encourage any of our former archivists to share with Joanne anything that might be relevant.

The FORUM which many of you are aware has been in a subscription decline. To address this a Thought Force is being formed to address some of the issues surrounding this decline. A Thought Force as you may recall is a Thinking group who comes up with ideas and recommendations. This Thought Force should be up and running by October and will hopefully complete their assignment by years end. I have suggested one person; other interested persons should contact the Forum staff for a resume.

Thought Force on Strengthening AISs at the moment have developed a questionnaire which will be sent to AIS Chair people and to Area Chairpersons, it is presently awaiting consideration by the Executive Committee this month. If it receives the green light, our hope is for it to be out this fall so that we can move ahead with our recommendations to the Board of Trustees in January. This has been an interesting experience using computer and conference calling to move this work forward.

Meeting with the New York State Commissioner of the Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS), Karen Carpenter-Palumbo and number of her staff.

Sherry S. our NYN Public Outreach Coordinator, along with Marcia B. NYS Delegate and Michele R. NYS Chairperson were all in attendance. The meeting was coordinated by Claire R., Associate Director of Communication-Professionals from the World Service Office.

Over the last number of years there has been a decline in the number of referrals to Al-Anon by professionals working in the field. It is hoped that this renewal of working relationship with the professionals will help us reach those family members of alcoholics reach the rooms of Al-Anon and improve their chances of recovery from this disease.

We did a considerable amount of work in preparation for this meeting and we know there is a large number of professionals to be reached. We are hopeful that thru our Area and the WSO websites to be able to at least help these professionals access our meeting information for interested members. For this reason, I am excited about the changes to our website by Kathi D. There is also a great deal of information for professionals on both of these websites and a means of being in touch with us for added help and support. I was pleased to see that one of our AISs is planning to reach to the professionals with the Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism for 2010. I hope other individuals, groups and districts will consider doing this and also do some follow up.

How and what we will do in regards to our contact with OASAS is being talked about at this point; if you have ideas or suggestions please contact Sherry or me.

As a follow up to my WSC report in May, a few of you had questions about the District report of Group Contributions – each DR received a copy of all the groups within that district who made either group and /or quarterly appeal donations to WSO during '08. Some questioned the accuracy of these amounts; what I have been able find out is that these amounts reflect donations which where indicated as donations from a specific group. If an amount was sent in using a personal check and was not accompanied by information giving the group name and number then it was credited to the person on the check.

The resume for our Area Regional Trustee candidate Anne F. has been sent to WSO and we have received confirmation that it has been received and Anne is probably in the next phase of the process and that is responding to an additional question which is

sent to all the candidates for the position. During the first week of September the 12 delegates from the Northeast Region plus the 3 out-of-regions delegates selected at Conference will receive the resumes of all the candidates for the position for the purpose of scoring and ranking each of the resumes. Our information will be sent to the chair, who will tally the information and sent it on to the Executive Director who will turn it over to the Nominating Committee of the Board of Trustees. This committee will have also scored and ranked the candidates; their results will be combined with that of the delegates and they in turn will select two candidates for the position. The names of these two candidates will be sent to the delegates for any objections. At the January 2010 Board of Trustee's meeting a nominee will be chosen and in April at the World Service Conference the nominee will receive traditional approval from the Conference and at the Board of Trustee's meeting will be elected to server – the legal approval.

I will continue to talk about this process as we move forward, as you might have noted from my outline this is one of the questions we will be making some kind of a decision on. We are now in the third year of a trial period and this is the first time NYN has been involved in this new process's

The 2009 Conference Summaries “Embrace the Legacies – Our Spiritual Bridges to Expand the Future” are here and there is a copy for all officers, coordinators, district representatives and AIS chair people. I would ask that if you have more than one position at the AWSC that you share it with your alternate or another interested service member. The entire summary is on the WSO member website and it is possible to download most, if not all of the segments. Copies may also be ordered from WSO for a \$3.00 handling & mailing fee.

Questions we are looking at: I have already addressed the one on the Selection of a Regional Trustee. Second – Do we continue ownership of property? Another question for discussion at Conference. What I want to do here is to engage you in the process of this discussion. To do that I am asking for volunteers to address this question using material which is on the member website of the WSO. There are several parts to this discussion – Study of Property Ownership, Motions 5 and 12, and the ECRPM Triennial Reports 2000, 2003, 2006, & 2009. All the material is on the opening page and can be downloaded, except the '09 report which is on pages 19 & 20 of the Conference summary. We will have a discussion on this at the Fall Assembly.

Equalized Expenses – results from a review of the costs by the Finance Committee and the Board of Trustees for the 2010 WSC it will be \$1200.00 this year. The full amount for a delegate to attend is \$1834.00; 36 of the Areas sent in the full amount and 2 sent in more than the full amount. We will be considering this matter today when we look at our Proposed 2010 Budget.

A new Thought Force on Current Conference Structure and a new Task Force on How Conference Members bring Agenda Items to Conference have or are formed. Both of these items are addressed in the '09 Conference Summary. Current Conference Structure is addressed in Division / Consolidation of Areas pg 33 and Chosen Agenda Items Evaluation pg 45 addresses the facts surrounding How Conference Members bring items to the Agenda.

We will continue to have this discussion on these two items as we move forward. I would particularly like your input on the Chosen Agenda Item because at this point I don't know if the format will continue this year but if it does it would be helpful to have your ideas and suggestions. This segment of Conference begins to take place in January and February.

I have provided each of you with a second copy of the flyer Are You One of Al-Anon's Abundant Resources? There is still time to do this member inventory on the WSO member website and offer some of your time and talent for the good of this program. Complete this skills inventory to help with Al-Anon work.

Also on the members website is the '09 Members Survey and it is quite easy to do. Please pass the word along to members in your groups.

Some of you, who have been here a while may remember our panel #31 delegate, Arlene M., from the Rochester area, Arlene passed away on June 16 and I would like to propose that at the Fall Assembly, we pass an envelop for anyone who would like to make a Memorial Donation to WSO in her name. WSO was notified of her passing and I received an acknowledgement of this from the Executive Director, Ric B. No NYN funds will be used for this donation; only individual donations.

Finally, in June I attended two Ad Hoc meetings which we will be addressing in today's agenda: one regarding the Action Committees and the other on Finances.

Much of what I have covered to day can be found in the '09 Conference Summary, so I encourage you to read the Summary and if you have questions I will be happy to try and address them. You may e-mail me or write them out and bring them to me.

One final thing for you to think about :- If an amount of money were to become available to the Area from WSO – How would you propose we might use this money – for the good of Al-Anon as a whole?

Any questions?

Gratefully,
Elaine R., Panel #49