

## Delegate's Report Fall Assembly 9-26-09

At the 2008 World Service Conference conceptual approval was given for a new book "Al-Anon first 60 years. When I was at Conference this spring the outline for this book "Tracing Our Growth" this is the working title of the book, had been developed. Now sharing's are needed; two pieces are provided to help get you started: 1. Your sharing's are needed and 2. a Sharing sheet. Please note that the deadline for submitting your sharing's is October 31 of this; the end of next month.

The book will be personal recovery from the effects of alcoholism as told by different generations of people engaged in a common spiritual quest. People 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 cover an approximately five year period, dividing into 12 segments.

I would encourage each of you to consider looking at your time in the program: what was Al-Anon like when you came in 5, 10, 20 or more years ago and consider sharing how it was for you and how you were helped. Long time members, your experience, strength and hope are needed. Need more information: contact Jean W our Literature Coordinator, myself or the staff at WSO.

The FORUM as noted in the spring has been experiencing a steady decline in the subscriptions to this magazine and it is no longer self-supporting. At the AWSC meeting I reported that overall there had been an increase in the number of subscriptions since the spring; the combined numbers for New York State were down in the report which I Just received. Because WSO combines NYN and NYS into one statistic we are unable to know NYN exact status. What we need to do is to continue to do the things we can to promote the use of the FORUM at our meetings. A power point presentation on Forum subscriptions has just been made available to Forum Coordinators for use in their areas.

The FORUM staff is in the process of forming a Thought Force to address some of the issues surrounding this decline. The group will come up with ideas and recommendations which will hopefully strengthen the use of the FORUM as a program tool. If you are interested in this Thought Force, you need to be in touch with the Forum staff for a resume. It is hoped that this group will be up and running by October and will complete their assignment by years end.

The committee to which I have been assigned, the Thought Force on Strengthening AISs has been in the process of regrouping and reworking the information that we had developed thus far. We had hoped to put out a survey to the existing AISs for additional information; this will not occur at this point and instead we will move ahead with our report of what we see as the problems and our strategies to deal with the problems. This has been an interesting experience of how we can work from our many locations across

the map and have a great exchange of ideas using modern technology. More will be revealed with time.

In July I traveled to Albany with Sherry S., our Public Outreach Coordinator and there we joined with Marcia B. NYS delegate and Michele R. NYS chairperson where we came together for a meeting with the New York State Commissioner of Alcohol and Substance Abuse (OASAS) Karen Carpenter-Palumbo and a number of her staff for the purpose of reconnecting with this agency in our common interests. Our meeting had been brought about thru the efforts of Claire R., Associate Director of Communication-Professionals at the World Service Office and a member of the Commissioner's staff.

Over the last number of years there has been a steady decline in the number of people referred to Al-Anon by professionals for a number of reasons. The reasons are not important but getting the people there is. We want these people to reach the rooms of Al-Anon so that they may come to know the recovery you and I have had the opportunity to know and appreciate.

There are a number of ways in which we can re-connect with the help of OASAS to these family members. I have put together a proposal to form a committee to assist Sherry and myself in our efforts to move this forward. Later today I will share the proposal and hopefully by spring we can begin to put this plan into effect and see where we can take it.

At the spring assembly, Anne Farrell was accepted as the New York North candidate for Regional Trustee. Her resume which we reviewed at that time was submitted to the World Service Office and her resume along with the resumes of the other candidates from the North East Region were sent to the delegates from the region and the three out-of-region delegates who were selected at the WSC in April. The task for these delegates was to score each of these candidates on six questions and then to rank them or disapprove of their candidacy. Upon completion of this process each delegate returned their score sheet to the chair of the Regional Committee on Trustees, this person's job will be to tally all of the scores and rankings and send them on to WSO, where the Nominating Committee from the Board of Trustees will review the results and make a selection of two candidates. The names of the two candidates will be returned to the chair of the Regional Committee on Trustees, who will in turn notify the area committee of delegates. The delegates will have until December 15 to file any objections to either of the candidates. At the January board meeting of the Trustees the final selection will be made based on the current needs of the Board, and at next years WSC the selected candidate will receive the traditional affirmation of the Conference and the legal approval at the Board meeting following the Conference.

This process for selecting our Regional Trustees is currently in the third year of a three year trial period. We will be reviewing this process at conference and making a decision on the need for any changes or are we ready to adopt this new process; for this reason I have felt it important to walk you thru the process.

At this point I would like to take some time to respond to a few of the questions which were raised at the Spring Assembly:

- a. Group Contributions – all contributions sent to WSO from a group should be identified as such giving the group name and group number; especially when using a personal check for the donation.
- b. New Thought Force – Current Conference Structure we currently have some areas such as Florida & California which are already divided into two areas, who are reaching a point where a third Area might be formed because of group numbers. But there are many implications to this possibility.
- c. New Task Force – How we bring Agenda Items to Conference. These are what is known as Chosen Agenda Items – these are the issues which originate with the Conference members and are selected by the members for discussion. They are also presented by the members.
- d. The 2010 WSC will be April 11-15, in Virginia Beach at the Wyndham Virginia Beach Oceanfront and the theme will be “Celebrate! Embrace the group conscience to expand our circle of hope. – 50 years of the World Service Conference
- e. AA International, San Antonio, Texas July 1-4, 2010 its not too soon to make plans
- f. Why WSO gives health care benefits to retirees. In the context of what companies provide in this day and age: WSO does not pay pension benefits after retirement to any employee. It puts a set amount into the employee’s 401 K and whatever they have at the time of leaving is all they receive from Al-Anon. Al-Anon provides no annuity or other long-term support. Once they retire, there is no other obligation other than to their Medicare Part D and supplemental health insurance.
- g. At the July Board meeting the Policy Committee unanimously approved the following motion: To amend the text on pages 92-95 beginning with the section “Use of Materials” and ending with the section “The Forum” and on page 96 and 97 the section “Reprints Authorization” in the Policy Digest section of the 2006-2009 Al-Anon Service Manual. This motion has been sent to the Board of Trustees and will be considered by the 2010 WSC. The changes bring clarity and emphasis to the Al-Anon philosophy.

Information is continually being added to the member site of the World Service website and I would like to encourage all who can to make use of the materials found on this site. Right now the '09 Member Survey is up and I hope you will take a few minutes to participate in the survey. For more information about the survey consult the “Inside Al-Anon” section of the September issue of the FORUM. The Abundance Resource Survey is also still on the website and I would encourage you to complete this survey if you have not already done so. Under the Member Services you can gain access to two of the Power Point presentations which I reported on. There is the one on Responsibility and the one on Anonymity, along with the skit on Anonymity. Any and all of the '09 Conference Summary is available. The background material on Property Ownership which we will be discussing today can be found on the site.

At the August AWSC meeting I announced the passing of our NYN panel #31 delegate Arlene M..... At that time I proposed that at this assembly we would take a collection to make a memorial donation to WSO in Arlene’s memory. I have a brown

envelop which will be passed for anyone who would care to make a donation. You may place cash or a personal check made out to: AFG.Inc. and we will send this to WSO. No NYN funds will be used for this purpose. Thanks for your participation.

We will have the Chosen Agenda Items at the 2010 WSC. As I explained earlier these are the topics for discussion that are brought forward by the Conference members and are selected by those members. I would like to give you a chance to give me some input for possible topics to be discussed. Keep in mind that these items are for discussion, they are not action items. It is an opportunity to discuss new ideas, concepts, and issues that affect AI-Anon groups and members worldwide. Current Thought and Task Forces have come about as a result of some of these Chosen Agenda Item discussions.

Task and Thought Forces currently being work on include:

1. Develop a Conflict Resolution Presentation for Areas Task Force
2. Thought Force to Strengthen the Links between the AIS, District and Area
3. How would you create a strong relationship between the Delegate and the AWSC Thought Force
4. Integrating Alateen into AI-Anon where no Alateen meeting exist Thought Force
5. Utilizing technology at Area meetings for nontechnical people Task Force
6. Thought Force on the Current Conference Structure

I will have the opportunity to present one topic for discussion. Using the paper provided on the table you have a chance to give me your ideas. At the break we will collect your ideas.

Big Question: Ownership of Property following the 15year trial period? To discuss this topic I asked for volunteers at the AWSC meeting to help me with this topic. In my outline of my report I provided the location of all this background material on the Member site of the WSO website so anyone who had computer access could look at the materials ahead of time.

There are four parts to this discussion:

1. The study of property ownership Bob C.
2. Motion#12-1994 and Motion #5- 1995 Marion W.
3. Charts
4. The ECRPM Reports for 2000, '03, '06, & '09 LaVaughn R.

Following the presentation we will open it up for any discussion. The option for consideration are:

1. End the trial and keep the building
2. End the trial and sell the building
3. Extend the trial for another period of years

Bob C. did a bullet presentation on The Study of Property Ownership

Marion W. who was a Trustee during the time period when this discussion was on at the World Service Conference shared her memories of this discussion and in particular the voting on the two motions #12 and #5 which moved this process forward.

Because LaVaughn was unable to attend the Assembly, I reviewed the questions of the four Triennial Reviews: Has ownership of property been financially feasible? Are we complying with the spirit and letter of the resolution? Has there been any negative impact on the fellowship as a whole? The responses to each of these questions over the four reviews has been positive.

Discussion followed the presentation.

I remind you that following this assembly a copy of my complete report will be posted to our NYN website; it will replace my outline.

Any questions regarding any of the materials covered in this report?

Please put your suggestion for CHOSEN AGENDA TOPIC on the paper found on the tables