

## 47th World Service Conference

The 47th Annual World Service Conference was held April 22-26, 2007 in Virginia Beach, Virginia. The Theme of this years Conference was "New Thinking-New Energy-Abundant Outlook". I will focus on the details of this theme later in this report in great detail.

As I did last year, I want to start this report by presenting you some general information so we, as an Area know what the Conference is, some of the history, its purpose, and its Annual meeting. The World Service Conference (WSC) is defined as "Al-Anon's annual meeting attended by all World Service Delegates from the United States, Canada and their territorial areas; representatives from overseas countries, members of the Board of Trustees, and Executive Committee, Chair people of elected committees, and the WSO administrative staff and other office personnel. The Conference provides guidance to the WSO in service matters brought to its attention.

Historical Background- "From 1951, when Al-anon began until 1961, when the Conference was born, the world services for Al-Anon were conducted from the Clearing House office in New York City and all the work was done by a group of volunteers and a few paid workers. All of them lived in the New York area. In 1954 other services were incorporated as Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc. solely for business purposes. There was a Board of Directors that took care of the business and policy matters with the help of an Advisory Board. When our fellowship was small this service arrangement worked well and did much to unify Al-Anon and spread its message around the world. Eventually this no longer worked because Al-Anon Services were not linked to the growth of the groups throughout the world and without these links new troubles could eventually come about. As a result, and with me skipping over a great deal of detail, Lois in looking at the AA structure, and how well it served its fellowship, decided, in working with Bill W, to put forth a sample inexpensive plan in 1961 on a three year trial basis. The first Conference was very small and its delegates were chosen by dividing the United States and Canada's continent into four quadrants by lines drawn through its approximate center from east to west and north to south coinciding with state and province boundaries. "Three delegates were chosen in the first year from each of the four quadrants. These came from the states and provinces with the greatest number of Al-anon groups. In each of the second and third years twelve more delegates were chosen from those states and provinces with the next greatest number of Al-anon groups. Following this formula all states and provinces have had the opportunity to join the Conference. In 1963; because of the success it had shown, the trial Conference became permanent. The Conference is now 47 years old and because I joined the Conference last year I am a delegate of Panel 46. When a delegate stands at Conference he/she should always introduce themselves by name, state or province, panel, and district. Therefore I would say, "My name is Bob Conway from New York North, Panel 46, and District 39.

Purpose of the Conference- Al-Anon's Tradition Two states: for our group purposes there is but one authority-a loving God as He may express Himself in our Group Conscience. Our leaders are but Trusted Servants; They do not govern". The World Service Conference makes the group conscience available and effective for all Al-Anon. It is the practical means by which the group conscience can speak; it is the voice of World Al-Anon and the guarantor that our world services shall continue to carry on under all conditions. The Conference protects Al-Anon and Alateen against a service breakdown; it makes for unity and enables our fellowship to act as a whole upon important matters. This makes it the principal guarantor of Al-Anon and Alateen's harmony and survival.

Annual Meeting- "The WSC is an annual meeting of the elected delegates from each Area of the World Service Conference Structure. The Board of Trustees, the Executive Committee, and the World Service Office Conference staff, through the discussions and deliberations at the WSC, the active voice and effective group conscience of Al-Anon is heard on World Service matters. Delegate members attending the WSC are chosen by the groups through a series of elections and in this truly democratic manner are entrusted by the group conscience in accordance with Concept Three to make decisions for the fellowship world wide."

Conference preparation changed somewhat this year in that the number of manila envelopes was drastically reduced and replaced by an e-mail system called the File Exchange. I still received a pre-Conference Communication kit by mail with all the details about preparing for Conference including dates, times, deadlines, travel info, forms to register for hotel and final dinner, summary of Conference procedures, a copy of the World Service Charter, information about organizing pre-sent documents for insertion in Conference Notebook, a general information list, etc. Still one other letter in the packet assigned me to be a sponsor for a new Panel 47 Delegate. I volunteered for this a few weeks before and I felt that because I had such a wonderfully helpful sponsor last year that I would try to do the same for someone else this year. My sponsee

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was a wonderful guy from Colorado named Tom Blake and we hit it off right away and became fast friends. He has a great sense of humor and was extremely caring and bright. It really was special providing him with his delegate pin at the opening dinner and my mind flashed to the wonderful feeling I had when I received mine last year. As I mentioned earlier, much of the pre-conference information we received this year was through the File Exchange. This is a file that we have passwords to that provides us regular updates of information from World Service in the form of e-mails and attachments. Each is accompanied by a cover letter so off limits in terms of discussion. This out of the box or, as someone said, "out of the triangle" thinking greatly enhanced the second part of our Theme which was "New Energy". Members were really enthused and energized to make this Conference one of vision and creativity and even more importantly to bring this new thinking and new energy back to our areas, districts, and groups because if all these new ideas are going to be successful they have to start at the group level of our links of service.

As a result of this New Thinking and New Energy we have come away with a truly "Abundant Outlook" regarding our fellowship and this outlook convinces us that as much as we'd like to have more members, more resources, more funding techniques, etc that if we think and act innovatively with the resources we already have and use them in new and exciting ways we'll realize that we really should have an abundant outlook because we do have the resources to do all the innovative and exciting things we need to in order to move forward. The talent is among us now. Let's go use it smartly and innovatively.

#### Insert Conference Goals Power Point Presentation

The Conference goals for the this year were the same ones used last year because the Conference planning people felt confident that they worked well for us and would continue to do so. These goals are stated as follows:

- The spiritual tone of the WSC will prevail by the demonstration of mutual respect and acceptable conduct by its members.
- Conference members will understand the purpose of the Conference, relationships within the structure, and be able to articulate Conference decisions.

In order to carry out the business of the AI-Anon Family Groups in a professional and efficient manner the Conference members were asked to follow some simple rules that helped us attain our desired goals. These rules were cleverly but strategically presented and reiterated daily and entertaining daily reminders kept these rules in the forefront of all our members' minds. The rules were as follows:

- No applause regarding opinion or point of view in respect for others point of view.
- Start and Stop Meetings on time.
- Two minutes at the Microphone
- Cell phones off
- Be courteous to others
- Stay on Topic
- No side conversations
- If someone says what you were going to say, sit down and don't say it

Again this year I have decided not to walk you through a day by day summary of happenings but rather attempt to paint an overall picture with priorities given to the "Hot Topics" as designated by the Board of Trustees. These topics were considered of primary importance to convey back through the links of service in our own areas including districts and groups. I will attempt to cover the "Hot Topics" in great detail but will also try to touch on other topics of the Conference in bullet style with less detail. Once again, as I indicated to you last year, a document called the "Conference Summary" is provided every year following the WSC and it is a very well done summary of all aspects of the Annual Conference. This document is provided for DR's, Officers, and Coordinators from our Area and is available to anyone else for a minimal charge of three dollars. I would highly recommend that you all purchase this document as it will be very informative and you can take your time reviewing it at your own pace. You will learn a great deal about the workings of AI-Anon through this document.

I will however, deviate from my practice of not providing daily summaries of the Conference events by discussing Day One of the Conference. Unlike last year, when I nervously awaited meeting my sponsor and putting together my notebook with her, this year I was the sponsor as I mentioned earlier and as a result felt a strong responsibility in welcoming and making my sponsee comfortable on day one. I prepared for this at home

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by having my notebook information in good order and easily transferable to my notebook. I also mentally reviewed the hospitality room process for getting mail and putting out "love gifts" from New York North as well as gathering these gifts from everywhere else. I also reviewed my last years delegate orientation notes to prepare my sponsee as to what to expect at his orientation later that day. Things went very well with both the Notebook and orientation and I felt very comfortable with him from the time we met. We actually had dinner together the night before with about 30 other delegates. Later that night was the opening dinner where all new delegates get their pins from their sponsor and that is always a very touching experience.

Finally, after dinner we had our Area Highlights session. This is not an official part of the Conference activities but one held by the delegates for the delegates to share with each other what's been happening in their Areas during the past year. Each year there are questions posed and each area answers as many questions as they choose to. This is a very helpful information session that provides a great deal of wonderful ideas that are working throughout parts of the United States and Canada and that might work in our Area as well. This year there were four questions relating to New Thinking-New Energy-Abundant Outlook and KBDM. They were as follows:

- How has your Area changed its thinking this last year? What successes or failures have you had?
- How has your Area gained New Energy?
- How has your Area used ~the Abundant Resources that the WSO offers?
- Has you're Area used the KBDM process. If so, how has it affected, hindered, or helped your Area?

This was a two hour session and a great deal was shared and learned. WSO staff and Board of Trustees were invited to sit in the meeting with no voice just as the delegates are allowed to sit in on a Board of Trustees Meeting without voice.

A long but productive and satisfying day had come to an end and I looked forward with great anticipation to the next days opening session of the World Service Conference.

The Conference was opened by the Conference Chairperson, New York North's own Mary Gregory on Sunday, April 22nd at 8:30A.M. I was ever so proud to have one of our own Areas members rise to such a great honor of service level in this wonderful fellowship. Mary delivered a very effective opening message and showed very strong leadership and a true sense of humor from the very first gavel. There was no doubt in anyone's mind that Mary would oversee the forward moving and thinking of this Conference and she did just that!!

As was true last year, this years Conference used a daily CAL quote that were printed as part of the daily agenda for all to see and ponder. They always provided me with some very positive spiritual thinking as I approached each days work. The following are a few of the quotes:

"I ask myself: Am I ready for new growth? Am I ready to make a difference"? When I Get Busy, I Get Better, page 20-2 1

"My vision can be so limited. I often think that the only possible outcomes are those that I can imagine. Fortunately, my Higher Power is not restricted by such logic." Courage to Change, page 48

"Each and every member of AI-Anon has the potential to become a leader." Paths to Recovery, page 301

On the *first* morning of the Conference, Chairperson of the Board of Trustees Judith Philson did an Orientation as a prelude to our efforts fore the next four days. She started with the Goals as follows:

First Goal: Conference members will understand

- The purpose of the Conference
- Relationships within the structure And
- Be Able to Articulate Conference Decisions

Our purpose is to come together to take care of the business of AI-Anon. We are the voice of World-Wide AI-Anon and the principal guarantor of AI-Anon and Alateens harmony and survival

**Roles of Conference Participants** They interact as the Group Conscience of World Wide AI-Anon

**Delegates-** Link between **WSO** and Area

- Familiar with Service Manual
- Understands Conference Rules
- Forward Looking
- Trusted Servants of World Wide AI-Anon

**Executive Committee-** Absorb all the different prospective Responsible for daily oversight of WSO

**Staff-** The implementers of Conference actions Resources for Conference members

**Board of Trustees-** Responsible for a vision, a mission, a strategic plan-Elect successors-Approve final

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agenda-Link between the Spiritual and AFG Inc.-Provides resources necessary for Conference to carry out directives.

**Being able to articulate Conference Decisions** One of the primary tasks of the delegates is to bring to the links of service an accurate understanding and articulation of Conference decisions and deliberations.

Second Goal: The spiritual tone of the WSC will prevail by the demonstration of mutual respect and acceptable conduct by its members.

- Agree to disagree but people are always respectful of one another.
- Vary opinions and still love each other.
- All equal and all leaders-mutual respect

**Knowledge Based Decision Making-** Was introduced to the Conference last year and we continued the use of it this year. Not everything was presented in that mode but good judgment was used by the Conference planners and something as new and different as KBDM needs to be implemented in a thoughtful easily understood manner so people can feel less threatened and have more confidence in the process.

Our Chairperson of the Board of Trustees this past three years, Judy Philson, wrote to us delegates and indicated that the title of Knowledge Based Decision Making was lengthened by the words "Process to reach an informed group conscience. She indicated that in talking with some of our members they thought we were abandoning the concept of group conscience by using the new KBDM process and they had a great deal of trouble with that. Hopefully this will clarify that thinking.

#### Four Elements of KBDM

- **Open communication between leadership and membership**
- **Dialog before Deliberation**
- **All decision makers will have common access to full information.**
- **We exist in a culture of trust.**

One of the important things to believe and ponder upon participation in a conference or meeting within our fellowship is to: **PRESUME GOODWILL!** I told myself to do that at this, the beginning of our WSC.

Chairperson Philson then ended her full conference orientation y reiterating something I had heard from our Executive Director, Ric Buchannan, last year. She said "Following the full discussion we have here at Conference and when a decision has been made, it is important that we all recognize and support the group conscience, whatever it is, whether we agree with it or not, It is the collected voice of at least two thirds of those present. How we vote as individuals is autonomous and should remain in this room. We all must remember, that our Higher Power is here at Conference and present in all of the final decisions; whether we agree with them or not. "OUR HIGHER POWER IS AN INTRICATE PART OF GROUP CONSCENCE"!!

At this point I would like to introduce and review with you the Primary "**HOT TOPICS**" from the 2007 World Service Conference." At the Annual Board Of Trustees Meeting (held on Friday immediately following the WSC in order to make the Conference's traditional actions legal) the Board listed their top five items they thought delegates would want to include in their Area reports. In other words, the Board of Trustees has given the following "Hot Topics" a priority and therefore is telling the delegates that they believe that these "Hot Topics" are the most important ones to convey through our links of service at the Area, District, and Group level. I have decided to add a few more into the "Hot Topics" category because I felt these also are topics worthy of a little more coverage. As I did last year, I will try to cover each of these topics in depth and then provide more general information on a number of other topics that I feel are important for you to be aware of. Those I will present in bulteted format. Once again, let me remind you that all topics are covered in the Conference Summary that is usually made available by the World Service Office in August following the May Conference. They are available to all members for a three dollar charge and are very much worth reading. I will be distributing copies to the area Officers and Coordinators at the fall conference assuming I have received them by then.

#### "THE FOLLOWING ARE THIS YEARS "HOT TOPICS"

1. **The Three Big Thinking Sessions**
2. **The Implementation of the Regional Committee on Trustees Plan**

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3. The Alateen Traditions
4. The Changes to the AI-Anon/Alateen Service Manual (P.24/ 27)
5. The new CAL publication "Opening Our Hearts, Transforming our Losses"(B-29)
6. Changes to Descriptive Text of Concepts 8,9,10,12, and the Warranties
7. 2008 International Conference and 2013 International Conference

## 1.The Three Big Thinking Sessions

At this year's Conference the members were asked to follow the theme of this year's World Service Conference "**NEW THINKING-NEW ENERGY-ABUNDANT OUTLOOK**" in approaching the development of three "BIG THINKING" questions. These questions were arrived at by the Conference consultant taking us through exercises that involved the thinking and actions of all the members of the WSC. If I had to describe them in general terms I think I would call them participatory skits/presentations that were done with members as characters in the skits or narrating the skits/presentations. Let's look at them one at a time.

## BIG THINKING QUESTIONS PART 1

## (FRAME 1)AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS IN THE WORLD TODAY

This is a skit involving three reporters and a roving reporter who in our case was the Conference consultant. (FRAME 2): They indicate up front that the Purpose of the exercise is: To stimulate members to identify the need for new thinking and to be more effective, efficient, and responsive to our diverse needs.

Reporter #3: (A-L-O-N is the stations call letters the 1st.t and last two letters of AI-Anon)

Now we go to A-L-O-N for the morning news. \*

## PHONES

Reporter # 1: (FRAME 3: Picture of the Crank Phone in a box. 50 years ago outside the box on PP)

Good morning! 50 years ago the crank phone was the communication devise of the day. Just two shorts and a long crank would ring the neighbor and 1 long would get the operator. There was virtually no mobility to move around as this thing hung on the wall and you had to speak right into the speaker. Short people would have to stand on a chair.\*

(FRAME 4: picture of the desk phone with a rotary dial in a box. 25 Years Ago outside the box on P1')

25 years ago a wonderful new devise came about called the desk phone which had a rotary dial. I remember my grandmothers number Dickens 83373 (D183373) and the neighbors number was Frontier 43443 (FR43443). This phone was a marvelous contraption if installed with a long enough cord you could move around the living room or kitchen.\*

(Frame 5: picture of the Cordless phone and a Cell phone in a box. World Today 2007 outside the box on PP)

Today in our world we've come a long way with the advent of the cordless touchtone phone, conference calls, and the cell phone. You no longer have to remember numbers, just key them into the phone and when you want to make a call, one just has to scroll down the directory and select the person you want to call. You've got freedom to move anywhere in the home with the cordless. The phone used for conference calls looks like a space ship in the center of the table. With the cell phone you can go anywhere, at home, to the store, out of town, out of state, depending on what plan you select. One has to wonder WHAT NEXT!

Now we go to our correspondent — Reporter #2

## LITERATURE

Reporter #2: (Frame 6: picture of AI-Anon's earliest literature (mimeographed) around 50 years ago inside a box. 50 years ago outside the box on PP)

Soon after the first AI-Anon groups were registered, Lois W. and Anne B. recognized the need for printed materials and began writing what was to become our first pamphlet - *Purposes and Suggestions for AI-Anon Family Groups*.

Lois then went on to highlight her personal experiences in a one-sheet "pamphlet" aptly titled *One Wife 's Story*. If you look closely at the document you will see that Lois taped several sections of a

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document together when preparing it to be mimeographed- we can safely say that Lois was also an AI-Anon pioneer in what is referred to today as cutting and pasting.

Lois expressed regret at not being able to squeeze time in at home to write more literature and instead began to rely on publications created by various AI-Anon groups- Members of a group in Kentucky developed the pamphlet- *The AI-Anon Family Groups- A Guide for the Families of Problem Drinkers* (**Frame 7:** picture of AI-Anon's books and literature used 25 years ago inside a box. 25 years ago outside the box on PP)

The 1980's was a time of significant growth for AI-Anon. Members were requesting literature faster than it could be written and printed. Several new books were published including AI-Anon's *Twelve Steps and Traditions* and the first daily reader for Alateens - the red book - *Alateen one day at a time*.

The second edition of *AI-Anon Faces Alcoholism* was printed with sharings reflecting a much wider diversity than ever before! (**Frame 8:** picture of AI-Anon's books, CD Rom, e-Cal, and literature available to the World today inside a box. World Today 2007 outside the box on PP) li~ 20q~ AI-Anon literature took a giant leap forward when the daily reader **Courage to Change** was offered on CD Rom!

Excerpts from Conference Approved Literature are also available on the Web site with translations in Spanish and French

Newsletters, including Area Highlights, the Conference Summary, and the Service Manual are all available on the Members Web site!

Since early 2007 members have the opportunity to submit sharings in a wide range of formats due to the introduction of E-Cal! News flash!!! A regional news source has reported rumors that the Alateen Advisory Committee is planning the ultimate E-Cal entry!

Now we return to our correspondent — Reporter #3

## TECHNOLOGY

**Reporter #3:** (**Frame 9:** picture of Manual Typewriter, index cards, pens and ink used 50 years ago inside a box. 50 years ago outside the box on PP)

Over 50 years ago when Lois first started to correspond with the family groups of alcoholics she used a manual typewriter, pen and writing paper. If a mistake was made it was either start all over or scratch it out. Hours were spent writing to groups sharing experience, strength and hope with them.

Telephones were very expensive. Bulk letters and printing was done on mimeograph. Letters were mailed and could take many days before reaching the destination. (**Frame 10:** picture of an Electric Typewriter, fax machine, Computer, cassette tapes used 25 years ago inside a box. 25 years ago outside the box on PP) Twenty five years ago electric typewriters were the in thing — these were very modem — with the carriage automatically turning for you. White-out was the in thing making getting the mistakes out faster and no hassle, although if one forgot to put something in they had to start all over again!! Telephones are very reasonable in price so phoning people is more of an option — most phones were now private. Fax machine are in a lot of homes — making communication faster.

(**Frame 11:** picture of lap top computer, instant messenger, text messages, and blackberry's available in our World Today inside a box. World Today 2007 outside the box on PP)

**Reporter #3:** (Frame 14: picture of the World Today, Women in the work force, Cell phones, Computers, lap tops, internet on PP)

The World Today has seen an increase of women in the work force. Technology has moved rapidly with the advent of cell phones we have instant access to people and information. Computers lap tops, internet, text messaging and instant messenger have turned the world into a smaller faster place. People are willing to make short term commitments. There are many styles and types of work structures. \*

(Frame 15: End with a large question mark through the boxed frame with 2010 above and the big question written out below the blank box)

## ?? NOW THE BIG QUESTION ??

How do we create a future that's more responsive to the diverse needs of AI-Anon Family Groups? \*

**Reporter #3:** We will now hear from our Roving Reporter

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From this point on the Roving Reporter (Consultant) Broke the membership down into workable groups and asked them to think outside the box and be wide open to new and creative ideas using the Conference Theme of New Thinking-New Energy-Abundant Outlook (See more detailed specifics of the members and consultants roles below)

Additional Notes:10 minutes- Judy Philson's Introduction- Including Conference Theme Explanation

10 minutes to Frame: Reporters: Marge, Barbara, and Zelda

PP and script on phones, literature, technology, and thinking 50 years ago,

25 years ago, and World Today 2007. The Big Question is the last frame which is "How do we create a future that's more responsive to the diverse needs of AI-Anon Family Groups?"

5 minutes: Nancy (Consultant) will explain the process and the division of the Conference members into smaller groups for brainstorming

20 minutes Brainstorming

5 minutes to prioritize

20 minutes: Nancy as a Roving Reporter will interview a Selected person in each group to share the Groups verbal ideas (2 minutes per group)

## NEW THINKING-NEW ENERGY-ABUNDANT OUTLOOK BIG THINKING PART TWO

## Move to Future Generations

This is **part two of the three Big Thinking** Question Development Exercises and this primarily deals with AI-Anon membership information. There is another power point presentation given as a part of this exercise and in it we take a look through the ages at some of the things that people of different generations have experienced. We then show this power point called "Through The Ages" which gives two pages of visuals from the 50's, 60's, 70's, 80's, 90's, and 2000's that depicts things that people have experienced and enjoyed through various ages. When we've completed the aforementioned power point generation information we ask the second Big Question but I'll hold that off until I present the purpose and background information related to this second Big Question.

**PURPOSE:** To engage the World Service Conference in new thinking, new energy, and abundant outlook on an issue important to AI-Anon.

**BACKGROUND:** Who are we, the current membership?\*

The results of the September 2006 membership survey indicate that we are a fellowship of people averaging 55 years of age. We are not attracting younger members.

If you were to consult recent studies on generational issues you would note that our membership strength is in the Traditionalist generation, people now, between the ages of 62 and 82, and Baby Boomers, people now between the ages of 43 and 61. \*

Our membership weakness is in attracting Generation Xers, generally the adult children of Baby Boomers, now between the ages of 27 and 42; and Millennials, the grandchildren of Baby Boomers, between the ages of 6 and 26.

All generations are influenced by vents and conditions experienced in their lifetime shaping who we are and how we view our environment. No group fits one person exactly and studies indicate that our overall values and behaviors are similar. Nevertheless, each generation does share some common background that changes its approach to the world, and makes it different from other generations.

It's important to recognize these differences in order to improve communications and build a strong bond between the generations. Acknowledging our diversity is a way to build greater unity. \*

The **TRADITIONALISTS** are accustomed to communication with limited technology and generally possesses strong human relationship skills. They are cautious and quietly assertive, slow to accept change and not always open to new ideas. Raised in an era where they were taught to accept authority, they were inclined to "do what was asked", keeping in mind the good of the community. Traditionalists are likely to be content spending hours in committee meetings and taking on long term commitments. They may suffer from "Tunnel Vision" and judge and judge the younger generation by their own values. \*

The **BABY BOOMERS** represent the largest single sustained period of population growth, shaping the 1960's and 1970's. They are credited at being the most influential generation and enjoyed educational and employment opportunities not available to previous generations. As a group they value creativity and evaluate

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achievement in terms of personal fulfillment. They tend to be career minded, work efficiently, and are optimistic. They are the first generation to recognize that lifetime employment no longer exists. The “Boomers” tend to be more permissive and more inclusive than prior generations. They communicate by direct mail, face to face conversations, the internet, and e-mail. \*

Who are our potential members?

**Generation Xers** account for 16% of our membership. The origin of the name came about because they were originally seen as a generation undefined and searching for identity. This is the first generation of the “latch key” kids. They are also known as the MW generation and raised in a culture of high technology with constant connection to others via text messaging, cell phones, e-mail, etc. This generation tends to feel that life is uncertain so they live for today. They are interested in self development and professional improvement. They are natural entrepreneurs, innovative and pragmatic and care about the here and now. They are not intimidated by authority; are goal oriented, and demand flexibility. They want to make a difference in the world but want short term commitments.

The **MILLENNIALS** are potential and current Alateen members with perhaps a small population of those who have transitioned to AI-Anon. This generation is the workforce of tomorrow and expects to change jobs frequently so the concept of change is not as threatening. It is the first generation to grow up with the Internet and is very technologically and media savvy. Millennials communicate by e-mail, text messaging, web based communities, multimedia, peer gatherings, or social events. They are goal oriented team players and believe that titles do not equate with respect that respect must be earned. \*

Traditionalists, Baby Boomers, Gen Xers, and Millennials have different lifestyles, work processes, and expectations yet we affirm shared values. \* We support the Vision statement: “That all people affected by someone else’s drinking will find help and recovery in every community”. If we are to attract new members, we need to recognize that while we may have different approaches we can achieve the same goals.

The second Big Question based on the aforementioned information is:

“How can AI-Anon, formed by Traditionalists and re-energized by Baby Boomers, apply new thinking, new energy, and abundant outlook so that Gen Xers and Millennials will feel welcomed by us and will want to join AI-Anon in greater numbers and engage as full partners with the current generations in all aspects of the program?”

Again, this exercise should be facilitated by a member who will break the membership into smaller groups to formulate answers to the Big Thinking Question by brainstorming sessions. Again, really try and think out of the box.

### **BIG THINKING QUESTIONS PART THREE: Tapping the Abundant Resources of AI-Anon Family Groups**

The set up to help develop our third and last Big Thinking Question involved looking at a number of scenarios regarding some members with circumstances that might make it difficult for them to be involved in meetings and/or service. Once again we used a power point presentation with introductions done by an exercise facilitator and some characters played by various members from the Conference Planning Committee.\*

Purpose: To stimulate conference members to evaluate our current methods of operations and seek more effective, efficient, and responsive ways to meet the needs of the fellowship involving a more diverse membership by using technology or other inventive means.

#### **SCRIPT Meet Some Members**

Notice: None of the people in the photos are actual AI-Anon members. Images are from BigStockPhoto.com

Julie: Francine is a 5 year member. She has been doing service work in her district. She has experience in journalism and is a lover of the FORUM. She would love to share her knowledge and serve at the WSO but the trip from Vancouver would take her away from her job and family. \*



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How could members like Francine serve? \*

David: Joe is from the Midwest and has been active in Area service for 15 years. His new job included a promotion which has a complicated work schedule and he can no longer get away for business meetings. He also has an elderly Mom who he helps care for. He really misses service and wants to help AFG in technology related projects. \*

How could members like Joe serve? \*

Mary: Dolores, from Puerto Rico is a member who transitioned from Alateen. She is now married, the mother of twins and has a successful work life. She wants to give back for all the fellowship has given her but she can't commit to any long term service job. \*

How could members like Dolores serve? \*

David: Ken is a young successful business man from California. He believes he owes his success to the program and wants to grow in service beyond the group level. He loves short-term focused projects. He is not the type to sit in long fellowship business meetings and he's not about to give up his active weekend outdoor lifestyle but he has great ideas the program could use. \*

How could members like Ken serve? \*

Julie: Three Alateens from Toronto; Julie, Charlie, and Mardi are willing to serve on a **WSO** Committee but the complication of travel to Virginia Beach with sponsors is complicated. They know people who go to Area events and could get to them easily. \*

Is there a way they could serve? \*

Julie: History and surveying have shown us what our members want...

- An opportunity to serve
- A way to share their expertise and love of the program through service
- A way to serve that meets their lifestyle and decreases the demands on their families and personal lives.
- To make a difference in the lives of those who suffer
- To grow in service\*

David: What the fellowship wants at every service level...

- More people involved in service
- Diverse, grass roots input
- Specific skills or knowledge on occasion
- To be responsive to the changing needs of its members
- To attract younger members (our future) to service
- To be more efficient and cost effective

Mary: The Big Question that comes about as a result of reviewing and giving thought to the scenarios we have just reviewed is:

How can we maximize our resources throughout the AI-Anon Family Group's structure allowing for flexibility in meeting the needs of the fellowship at every level?

## 2. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REGIONAL TRUSTEE PLAN

Since first coming to the forefront at the 2005 World Service Conference, the Regional Trustee nominating process has been a concern of the delegates in the past recent years. As a result of the delegates voicing their concern at the 2005 Conference the Board of Trustees appointed an ad hoc committee to review the current process, consider the ideas submitted, and formulate a proposal for presentation at the 2006 WSC.. A great deal of archival research was done in order to better understand the rationale for the then current process. \* With this information gathered and a number of suggestions made the ad hoc committee

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put forth a proposal plan for change that included the creation of Regional Committees on Trustees (RCT). This was presented in a KBDM format. "The History of the Regions included three regions being formed in 1969 in order to seek broader representation on the Board. In 1977 six regions were created to get yet a broader representation and prospective. Expansion again took place in 1986 when more regions were created; six in the United States and three in Canada".

The purpose of expanding the Board was to have AI-Anon Family Groups, Inc. represented by a diverse membership. AI-Anon members living in various geographical areas of the U.S. and Canada provide a wide range of thoughts, ideas, attitudes, and life styles giving the Board the all-embracing diverse impact necessary for making competent, inclusive, group conscience decisions for AI-Anon Family Groups, Inc. \*

"We know that the corporation's responsibilities are executed by members of the Board of Trustees, which include the oversight of the World Service Office. These members of the corporation must be skilled, competent, dependable, committed, team players and communicators that can articulate the vision, mission, and goals of the corporation for the benefit of worldwide AI-Anon". \*

**THE GOALS OF THIS PLAN TO SELECT NOMINEES ARE:**

- Restore the original intention of broad representation as the purpose Regional Trustees were added to the Board. \*
- Present a fair playing field for all candidates interested in serving the Board
  - of Trustees by eliminating or reducing the issues of personalities and politicking. \*
- Free up valuable time during the Conference week for in depth discussions of forward thinking, strategic planning, and to do the business of AI-Anon Family Groups of helping families and friends of alcoholics. \*
- Bring back to the Conference the spirit of democracy as stated in Warranty Five in that all Conference actions will be democratic in thought and action.

Provide the Board with skilled, competent, dependable, committed, team players and communicators that can articulate the vision, mission, and goals of the corporation for the benefit of worldwide AI-Anon. \*

The Regional Committee on Trustees (RCT) Proposal Plan is presented as follows: **(SEE ATTACHED PLAN)**

**Regional Committee on Trustees (RCT) Proposed Plan**

1. Areas within the Region submit candidate résumés to the WSO by August 15 of the year preceding selection.
2. The résumés will be scored independently by the Regional Committee on Trustees (RCT) and the Nominating Committee by using tally sheets. RCT Composition:
  - i. All Delegates from the Areas within the Region
  - ii. Pre-selected Delegates from outside the Regions (Out of Region Delegates are chosen by lot the previous WSC)
3. At the World Service Conference prior to a Region becoming eligible for submitting resumes, the RCT will appoint a Chairperson who will be responsible to tally the scores. An alternate will be chosen in the event the Chairperson is unable to fulfill this responsibility during the year.
4. Voting members of the RCT will review and score candidate résumés and submit tally sheet by September 30 to the RCT Chairperson. The Board of Trustees will retain the option of submitting an incumbent résumé for scoring if the incumbent was not submitted by the area.
5. The RCT Chairperson will combine the tally sheets and then forward the combined scores to the Executive Director prior to the deadline of the October Board meeting.
6. In October, the Nominating Committee, with the input from the RCT will select two candidates from the Region.
7. The Nominating Committee will forward the names of the two candidates to the RCT Chairperson. The Chairperson will then send names of the two candidates to the delegate members of the RCT. Any member of the RCT may file an objection by December 15. All objections will be considered by the Nominating Committee in collaboration with the RCT Chairperson.
8. In January the Board of Trustees, in consideration of the Board's needs, will select one of the two candidates as the Regional nominee.
9. The selected nominee name will be presented to the World Service Conference for traditional approval.
10. Regional Trustee nominees will be elected at the Annual Board meeting following the Conference.
11. The proposed plan is for a three-year trial period.

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In order to enhance the Delegates understanding of the Regional Trustee Plan each delegate was provided with a Regional Trustee Training Packet at the World Service Conference. Each training packet included the following:

- Resume Scoring Sheets
- Scoring Tip Sheet
- Copy of the Training Power Point
- Roles and Responsibilities of Regional Committee on Trustees (RCT) Chairperson and Alternate
- Goals of the Nominee Selection Plan \*

Suggestions from the Secretary of the Nominating Committee (Executive Director of WSO):

- Does your Area have a method in place for selecting a Regional Trustee Candidate?
- Has the member actually read the information regarding qualifications on the application?
- Does the member understand the work involved and the time commitment? \*

### 3. THE ALATEEN TRADITIONS

In researching the history of Alateen, as part of AI-Anon, it was discovered that the World Service Conference (WSC) had never approved the Alateen Traditions. Prior to last year's Conference 2006 information about this issue were sent to all Conference members and at the Conference the Chairperson, Judy Philson opened the floor for discussion on this topic. It was pointed out that the archives at the World Service Office really had no paper trail to follow on this matter and therefore it would be difficult to be conclusive about the subject. The World Service (WSO) was able to create a timeline that they believe to be reasonably accurate regarding this topic. (See attached)

At the end of the discussion at the 2006 Conference, the Conference members were urged to discuss this in their Areas and also to see if anyone could produce any other archival evidence of the Alateen Traditions being passed by the WSC. It was thought by using the KBDM process we would continue the discussion at future World Service Conferences \*

After considerable floor discussion on the topic the 2007 World Service Conference passed Motion # 11. giving Conference approval to the Alateen Traditions as they appear in 2004-2006 AI-Anon/Alateen Service Manual(P24/27) with the exception of Tradition Eleven being changed to "films and TV to conform with the AI-Anon Traditions. \*

I have enclosed an updated Alateen Tradition Timeline in my report and also a memo from Executive Director, Ric Buchanan regarding Alateen Traditions.

#### Updated Alateen Tradition Timeline

- 1951 AI-Anon adapted Alcoholics Anonymous' Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions.
- 1957 Alateen Traditions are adopted by Alateen groups in California.
- 1961 World Service Conference approved the Steps and Traditions.
- 1967 World Service Conference (WSC) passed the Charter. The Steps, Traditions, and General Warranties could not be changed without the **3/4** of AI-Anon groups worldwide.
- 1968 WSC accepts Alateens request to change their Fifth Tradition.
- 1971 The World Service Conference Charter was changed by the WSC to include Alateen in the Handbook section 6b. A note was added to the bottom of the page stating: "The term AI-Anon includes it junior segment, Alateen. Therefore, the above Charter applies to all registered groups, including Alateen".
- 1973 Alateen Committee changed the Alateen Sixth Tradition to "Although a separate entity..."
- 2007 World Service Conference passed Motion # 11 giving Conference approval to the Alateen Traditions as they appear in <sup>2004,2006</sup>AI-Anon/Alateen Service Manual (P24/27) with Tradition Eleven changed to "films and TV" to conform with the AI-Anon Tradition.

#### Memorandum

To: Conference Members  
 From: Ric Buchanan, Executive Director  
 Re: Alateen Traditions

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Date: May 4, 2007

In reviewing the text of the various Conference motions and documents, it appears that the “teen-agers” in Tradition Five with a hyphen was there in 1968 but was changed in 1972 in the next printing of Operation Alateen. There are subsequent handwritten notes to remove the hyphen on other texts. Accordingly, the final version that will be attached to this memo will have the hyphen removed which is the way it has been since 1972. I assume that was the goal of the Conference when it passed the text. I would assume the hyphen in Groups at Work was a typo as it was not shown that way in the 2000-2002 or 2002-2004 versions of Groups at Work. At last, we can finalize this text and then leave it alone.

**Twelve Traditions of Alateen**

Our group experience suggests that the unity of the Alateen Groups depends upon our adherence to these Traditions:

1. Our common welfare should come first; personal progress for the greatest number depends upon unity.
2. For our group purpose there is but one authority—a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.
3. The only requirement for membership is that there be a problem of alcoholism in a relative or friend. The teenage relatives of alcoholics, when gathered together for mutual aid, may call themselves an Alateen Group provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation.
4. Each group should be autonomous, except in matters affecting other Alateen and Al-Anon Family Groups or AA as a whole.
5. Each Alateen Group has but one purpose: to help other teenagers of alcoholics. We do this by practicing the Twelve Steps of AA *ourselves* and by encouraging and understanding the members of our immediate families.
6. Alateens, being part of Al-Anon Family Groups, ought never endorse, finance or lend our name to any outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property and prestige divert us from our primary spiritual aim. Although a separate entity, we should always cooperate with Alcoholics Anonymous.
7. Every group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.
8. Alateen Twelfth Step work should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers.
9. Our groups, as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.
10. The Alateen Groups have no opinion on outside issues; hence our name ought never be drawn into public controversy.
11. Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, films, and TV. We need guard with special care the anonymity of all AA members.
12. Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles above personalities.

**4. THE CHANGES TO THE AL-ANON/ALATEEN SERVICE MANUAL (P24/27)**

This year the World Service Conference Policy Committee and Admissions Handbook Committee both put forth motions which were acted favorably upon by the Conference. The Policy Committee motions were as follows.

**Motion #8** of the 2007 World Service Conference reads:

Motion to amend the text on pages 75 and 76 of the 2004-2006 Al-Anon /Alateen Service Manual, Digest of Al-Anon and Alateen Policies, Finances, Contributions to WSO- Individual, Quarterly Appeal, Direct Contributions, Birthday Plan, and Memorial Contributions. (New Text is underlined and bold, strike through text indicates deletion).

Background- An ad hoc work group studied the language of this section to determine if it is

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appropriate for the Policy Digest. There was consensus at the July 24, 2006 Policy Committee meeting that this text should remain in the Policy Digest and that it includes a broad policy statement with reference to the Seventh Traditions. The Committee agreed that the sentence "Members of the Area Assembly stimulate interest in this plan" should be deleted since the statement is not a financial policy, but a general statement of permission to announce and encourage this plan.

**Motion #9** of the 2007 World Service Conference reads:

To amend the text on page 77 of the 2004-2006 AI-Anon/Alateen Service Manual, Digest of AI-Anon/Alateen Policies, Finances, Reserve Fund. (New text underlined and bold, strikethrough text indicates deletion.)

The Policy Committee work group considered whether this paragraph should be deleted from the Policy Digest because of possibly duplication of material in the AI-Anons Twelve Concepts of Service" section of the Service Manual. The work group concluded that the material should remain in the Policy Digest, which states the policy, while the Concepts of Service provides background and explanation.

The Policy Committee at its meeting on January 21, 2007 agreed that this information should be stated as a policy in the Policy Digest because the material in the Concepts of Service provides background, but does not specifically address a policy on the Reserve fund. This material was included in the original Policy Digest as a means of letting the fellowship know that the Reserve Fund was part

To amend the descriptive text on page 126 of the 2004-2006 AI-Anon/Alateen Service Manual, World Service Handbook, "Conference Procedures" section, Finance sub-section, "At the District Level", Finances to Read (new is bold and underlined, strikethrough text indicates deletion).

Background: When the proposed text revisions to the World Service Handbook were sent to Conference members for questions and review prior to the 2005 WSC a number of suggestions for wording preferences were received along with the questions and comments. It was agreed that these wordy preferences would be considered by the Committee before the next printing of the Service Manual. The motion is a result of this review and is the recommendation of the Admissions/Handbook Committee.

Page 126, "Finances section, last sentence: 'the Coordinators expense may also be covered from a portion of any surplus funds accumulated by the District and sent to the Area'~

In Committee discussion the Committee felt that the current wording is misleading. Since the wording is in the "Conference Procedures At The District Level" sections the Committee pointed out that the section is talking about the District Representative finances and the statement is confusing. The Committee also suggested that the term "Assembly Treasurer" be changed to "Area Treasurer" as the Treasurer acts on direction from the Assembly.

**Motion #5** of the 2007 World Service Conference reads as follows:

To amend the descriptive text on page 148 of the 2004-2006 AI-Anon/Alateen Service Manual, World Service Handbook, "Area Committee Structure" to read ( New is bold and underlined, strikethrough is deletion)

The Area World Service Committee may also include Coordinators of special services such as Alateen Archives, Public Outreach(PICPC, and Institutions), Newsletter Editors, The Forum, etc. and liaison members( from local Information Service Centers or Intergroups)

Background: The Committee was asked to review for clarity the second paragraph of the text that accompanies the "Area Committee Structure" chart on page 148 of the Handbook section of the Service Manual. The Committee believes that the intent of the paragraph is to clarify that when a District Representative is also a Group Representative the group allocates funds for the GR to attend of the Area Assembly as GR's. The Committee found this information more clearly stated on page 126 "At The District Level" section, "Finances, sub-section, second sentence. \*

## 5. THE NEW CAL PUBLICATION: "OPENING OUR HEARTS, TRANSFORMING OUR LOSSES (B-29)

This latest AI-Anon book will prove useful for thought provoking reading as well as stimulating group

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discussions. Once again the fellowship creates another wonderful publication that will provide hope and serenity for many in need.

## NEW PUBLICATION RELATED TOPICS:

- Exploring the topic of Alcoholism and loss by using the new book
- How Al-Anon tools can help with the losses that accompany alcoholism
- How a workshop or series of workshops on this topic can be initiated Using one of the books nine chapters as a starting point of discussion \*
- Complete Workshop format handout available for distribution
- Shares the experiences of hundreds of members as we explore how Al-Anon principles have helped us to acknowledge, understand, and accept the losses we have experienced as a result of someone else's alcoholism
- Book covers a wide range of topics including
 

Death	Abandoned Dreams
Financial Ruin	Vanished Self Esteem *

The following are two, what I feel to be special, quotes from this wonderful new CAL publication:

“We can find hope from those who have walked this path before us. As we begin to heal from our losses we, in turn, offer the same hope to others. Through our willingness to face our loss openly and honestly we discover our strength and resilience-not despite it, but because of it.” \*From The Introduction to: Opening our Hearts, Transforming our Losses.”

“This book helps us to acknowledge the painful reality of loss and grief. It encourages us to acknowledge sometimes hidden thoughts and fears, to recognize the truth of our feelings, and to seek solutions that ease our pain and lead us to much peace.” \* From: “Opening Our Hearts, Transforming our Losses” page 1.

## 6. CHANGES TO DESCRIPTIVE TEXT OF CONCEPTS 8, 9, 10, 12, AND THE WARRANTIES \*

The Board of Trustees has been working on updating the descriptive text to the Concepts for almost five years. The 2005 Conference approved the changes to the descriptive text for Concept Eleven and the 2006 Conference passed the descriptive text rewording for the Introduction to the Concepts and Concepts One through Seven.

This year the Conference passed the final descriptive text changes for Concepts Eight, Nine, Ten, Twelve, and the General Warranties by Conference Motion # 7 which read:

To approve rewording of the descriptive text of Concepts Eight, Nine, Ten, and Twelve, which include the Warranties on pages 169-180 and 188-200 in the 2004-2006 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual, Al-Anon's Twelve Concepts of Service section as amended.

The way we received the document this time was by receiving it ahead of time and formulating any questions we might have and sending them to WSO by 3/9/07. Then, at the Conference, we started at the beginning of Concept Eight and Chairperson Philson asked if there were any questions on page one.

If there were none we'd move to page two and so on until we got all the way through the Warranties. At the end she asked for a vote to accept the entire document. The process went very well and only one thing was changed by the Conference that the Board of Trustees had made a change on. In Warranty One there was a change made from using the word God to Higher Power and by unanimous vote we changed it back.

This was a major undertaking in terms of time and effort by many but especially by the Board of Trustees members. IT WAS A JOB WELL DONE!! \*

## 7. 2008 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AND 2013 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

The 2008, 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference will be held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania from July 4<sup>th</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup>. Updates will be given on the Member Web Site beginning in the fall of 2007 but you are urged to start saving for this fabulous event.

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It is important to the success of the Convention that all members wait to register and get their housing through the registration form that will be available later this fall. Circumventing the process damages Al-Anon's credibility with the City of Pittsburgh and costs the fellowship financially.

Registration fees will be as follows:

- Early Bird - \$105.00
- Post Early Bird - \$125.00
- Walk Up - \$150.00

Registration Forms and Housing Forms will be available on-line as well as hard copy. \*

2013 Al-Anon International Convention Bids:

On Friday and Saturday following this year's 2007 World Service Conference the 2013 Convention Site Committee listened to bid proposals from 14 Areas. Some of the sites in contention were: Minnesota, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Maryland, North Carolina, Oregon, California South, Utah, and Vancouver B.C., Colorado, and Florida. (I'm sorry for not remembering all of them).

It was a very difficult decision to narrow the sites down to the following three cities: Denver, Colorado, Anaheim, California, • Vancouver, B.C.

A site selection committee will visit the three sites this summer and then recommend one site to the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees will vote on the recommendation at its October Board Meeting. The Chairperson of the Board will then announce the site selection. \*

## 8, OTHER IMPORTANT TOPICS FROM THE 2007 WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE

The following is a list of informational items from this year's Conference. For the purpose of time and possible duplication I am simply listing these with a very short and simple explanation because a more detailed explanation will appear in the "Conference Summary" publication which, as I indicated earlier, will be available late this summer.

- The new Al-Anon Family Groups 2007-2008 PSA DVD is out. Its title is: "Sketches" and its available in English, Spanish, and French. I have a copy for our Area PI/PO Coordinator for showings in the Area. In May, the WSO will send Radio/TV distribution lists to PI/PO Coordinators and delegates with "how to" information.
- Chosen Agenda Item # 1— A one hour long presentation and discussion
  1. The Topic was: Al-Anon's Future:
  2. Where do we see Al-Anon in Five Years?
  3. What changes could Al-Anon make in the way it is structured which might attract younger members who are our future?
  4. Are the places where we meet attractive to a diverse audience?
  5. What language barriers do we create with terms like "fellowship", "sponsor", etc?
  6. How are new members being greeted? Are we getting to the meeting early and setting up so we are ready and the meeting looks welcoming?
- Marylou Mahlman, long time WSO staff member has accepted the position of Associate Director-Alateen and Special Service beginning May 7, 2002.
- Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism 2008 — A special outreach magazine to energize Public Outreach activities is now available. Last year's first edition of this magazine had over 168,000 copies purchased. Share the benefits of Al-Anon by giving copies of Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism 2008 to professional offices, hospitals, business waiting rooms, etc. The order must be received by Tuesday, July 10th 2007. No exceptions can be made. Orders will be delivered on time for September Recovery Month (USA). I have Order Forms.
- The Trustees at Large, Regional Trustees, ECRPM and Executive Committee members that were affirmed by the 2007 WSC and elected by the Board of Trustees have been notified. The Northeast Regional Delegate is Frank Reed and Mary Gregory from New York North was re-elected to the Board of Trustees at Large for a second three year term. The North Central Region elected Carol Vanderling while the Southeast Region did not elect a candidate.
- Visits to Web Sites Goals and Results- The Goal for the increase to the Member Web Site this past year April 2006 thru March 2007 was 100%. We achieved a 57.3% increase and even though the goal wasn't reached it was a sizeable increase. The Goal for the Public Outreach Site was 10% and we increased by 14.9% (Goal Attained) The total WSO Site Visitors Goal was 10% and as of March 1st there has been a

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- 23.4% increase (Goal Achieved) Keep up the great work and spread the word about the sites.
- The Quarterly Appeal Letter to Individual Members in your Group were sent out in May 2007. Please do whatever you can to support the fellowship because it's from Literature sales and members contributions that we raise the dollars needed to support our great work.
  - o Motion # 13 of the World Service Conference read as follows: To approve a major change to the book "How AI-Anon Works for Families and Friends of Alcoholics" (B-22) as follows: To move the Concepts of Service to a prominent position placed following the Traditions, adding a brief text similar to the current text for the "Twelve Steps and Traditions, as well as brief descriptions of the personal application of each of the Traditions and Concepts.
  - At this year's Conference there was a General Session instead of a Regional Service Seminar Breakout. The purpose was to hold a Knowledge Based discussion regarding some questions that were sent to Conference members before the Conference. The discussion centered around what's good and not good about RSS and should they continue in the current format. In addition to some statistical information provided us on a number of topics affecting Members, Areas, WSO, and Groups. We also received the history of RSS attendance since the first one in October 1980.
  - The WSO Literature Committee can still use more members stories for "Our Recovery in Relationships"(working title) of a new publication. How have you used Step Eleven in your relationships? How have the Traditions and Concepts of Service helped your personal and work relationships? Submit your personal recovery stories on line or e-mail, fax, or mail sharing's to WSO as soon as possible.
  - The CD ROM version of "Courage to Change" (B-16CD-ROM) is available for your PC. It has a read feature to look up specific words, but you won't be able to make copies, download it, or use it in a MAC or CD player.
  - I have enclosed copies of all World Service Committee Reports and the Annual Report of the Executive Director in the hard copy of my Delegate Report. Many of the items I have already presented were included in these reports. They will also appear in their entirety in the "Conference Summary" publication available later this summer. It should also be noted that the Annual Report confirms the status, progress, and activities for each goal for the WSO set by the Board of Trustees.
  - A complimentary copy of the Forum will continue to be sent to all registered English speaking groups in the World Service Conference. The WSO will mail the groups copy of the Forum to the group current mailing address (CMA). The date through which this promotion will continue has not been determined.
  - The following is some general information about the audit report from last year and the projected Budget for this year.
    1. The Audit Report — As we did last year, we once again received an "Unqualified Opinion" by the auditors of Goodman and Company LTD which under general accounting practices is the best opinion that a corporation can receive. We lost \$73,011 in the General Fund while the Reserve Fund showed a positive \$491,334 giving us an overall increase of \$418,331. Our net assets at the end of the year were \$8,273,826 compared to \$7,855,495 in 2005.
    2. The Budget Projection at this time is that the Budget income will be equal to budget expenses. Total expenses are estimated at \$4,836,000.
    3. In general, we're doing well but our contributions need to be increased. The sale of Literature is good (approx. 2.7million) while our Contributions were (1.2 million). We are not self supporting by contributions but rather depend on interest from the Reserve Fund. We are using the Reserve Fund to operate but we are projecting improvement in this area.
  - Chosen Agenda Item # 2— Topic Was: What does "Abundant Outlook" as expressed in this year's Conference Theme mean in terms of our individual programs, our groups, districts, areas, and for the fellowship as a whole? How could Thinking Abundantly influence the way we approach our service responsibilities?
 

Conflict Resolution — We held an in-depth session on conflict resolution to give delegates skills or improve on their current skills regarding conflict resolution. A great deal of information was provided regarding Philosophy of Conflict, tactics, listening skills, and dialogue to resolution. It was a very informative and provided a few very helpful summary sheets. I believe it is something worth our Area looking into in more detail possibly in a workshop format.
  - F-CAL — The e-CAL Committee of which I am a member met on April 22nd from 12:00 Noon until 4:00P.M. chaired by Mary Ann Reid from the Board of Trustees. A substantial agenda was experienced and there was a great deal of discussion and ideas regarding the possibilities of e-CAL. We reviewed the criteria for scoring e-CAL submissions and clarified a few things about that and we also discussed how we individually approached scoring the submissions. In addition we reviewed the first multi-media submission to e-CAL



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and talked about ways we could encourage members, partners, groups, or Areas to submit e-CAL productions especially multimedia ones. We all left the meeting very excited about what could be and this reinforced our enthusiasm for the Conference Theme of "New Thinking, New Energy, Abundant Outlook". I encourage all of you to consider submitting personal stories, graphics, poetry, and as I indicated earlier, multi media.

- The 2008 World Service Conference will be held in Connecticut with a trip to Stepping Stones as one of the highlights. The Conference will be held a little earlier next year.
- Pyramid Sponsorship — There was the beginning or continuance of a KBDM discussion of the so called pyramid sponsorship with many people expressing they have observed or experienced terrible things related to this topic which many people felt were not Al-Anon in nature or substance but were being presented as Al-Anon by some groups. Some people expressed some of the following in regard to this pyramid sponsorship role:
  - √ Anti-Therapy Philosophy
  - √ Resources of persuasion being used
  - √ If you don't do what I say I can't sponsor you and you can't come to the meeting
  - √ Attacking the World Service Office
  - √ Cult-like sponsorship
  - √ Family cliques of sponsees
  - √ Using the "Big Book" and other outside Literature 'K Dictating what one must wear to meetings
  - √ Encouraging dependence
  - √ Not following the Traditions
  - √ Giving advice
  - √ Putting people (sponsors) on a pedestal

We decided that the Board should discuss this topic more and share their thoughts with other Conference members in the form of an ongoing KBDM process. It was also stated that protecting our principles from distortion and deletion is of primary importance.

- U.S. Northwest Regional Service Seminar will be held September 14<sup>th</sup>16<sup>th</sup> in Minot, North Dakota
- HBO did a film series on addiction that I hope you got to see. It was a 14 show series and I encourage all of you to write or call HBO and encourage them to repeat this wonderful presentation. I believe they were making it available for pod cast, DVD, etc. but I'm not sure.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Bob Conway  
Delegate, New York North  
Panel 46-District 39