

## Delegate's Report to the Spring Assembly 2010

This year's conference theme: "Celebrate! Embrace the Group Conscience to expand the circle of hope." What a fitting theme for the celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> World Service Conference. What an honor and a privilege to be in attendance with other delegates, trustees, staff and special guests at the opening dinner on this momentous occasion, which included a birthday cake to mark the celebration. This would be a fun night as we prepared to begin the work of the 50<sup>th</sup> World Service Conference on Monday morning.

Having arrived on Saturday, I had ample time to get checked in and settled into my hotel room before beginning the work that lay ahead. I had time to check into the Conference and get my Conference notebook and the other materials that needed to be added to the notebook. My boxes from home had arrived and could be unpacked and there was time to visit with friends. Sunday would be spent attending committee meetings of the two Thought Forces I was participating in and prior to the dinner all delegates would participate in sharing highlights of their area.

The mood was festive and the opening dinner was a fun event which included a birthday cake for dessert. The panel #50 delegates would receive their conference pins from their sponsors and there would be many flashing cameras catching those special moments. The evening would be complete after we heard the sharing's of Claire R. Associate Director of Public Outreach – Professionals. Claire had attended the 25<sup>th</sup> WSC and as a staff member has been at a number conferences.

Bright and early Monday morning conference participants would gather for the opening of the conference. The first order of business would be the seating of the non-voting participants in attendance at the conference. With voice but no vote: David Z. Director of Business Services, Peter A.-New Zealand & Maria Del Carmen Torres G.- Mexico; Center for Culturally Competency-John Colon; no voice: Nicolette S. & El N., Southeast Regional Trustee for A.A. Next we looked at our conference theme "Celebrate! Embrace the Group Conscience to expand our circle of Hope". Then we examined the purpose of the conference. A look at page 125 in the service manual clearly spells out the purpose of the conference. The Conference protects Al-Anon and Alateen against a 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.

Mary Ann R. Chairperson, Board of Trustees would ask us to think about the future of Al-Anon as we considered the matters that would come before us in the days ahead. She would explain the roles each of us would play in the presentations, discussions, and decisions we would make over the course of the next several days. We would review the KBDM process as this would be the process that we would use in our decision making process. There would be open communication between all parties; there would be dialogue before deliberation; all would have common access to full information and we

would exist in a culture of trust. And lastly, the conference rules would be reviewed. This process was evident in all the presentations, discussions and workshops. It would prevail through out the entire Conference.

Following orientation, we greeted John Colon, an Academic Lecturer from Stony Brook University in New York, as our speaker on Cultural Diversity. Mr. Colon, a student of Dr. Frances Brisbane, was kind enough to substitute for her. He talked about learning our culture from our families and the need to adapt to our common language. While many of us learn our cultural home language, we need to adopt and use our common language. He stated while we may relate to people of our cultural background we must learn to communicate in the host culture. The “host” culture is interpreted to mean the country where a person is living.

Mr. Colon discussed the possible verbal and non-verbal sources of miscommunication between cultural groups. When reaching out to others, he suggested that we look for people with cultural groups. He suggested that we look for people with resilience, meaning those who can stay connected to others. He expressed a belief: “that people need to have spirituality in order to be reached.” He reminded us to “remember how we got where we are today”.

This topic of diversity, I feel we will continue to discuss and expand upon as we move forward, particularly if we are going to expand our circle of hope. When we look at what the statistics tell us about the average Al-Anon member – she is white and 56 years of age – one can easily see that there is room to reach out to lots of different groups of people who might benefit from our program. What do you see that you might do in your district?

The next topic I would like to address are money matters. I will begin by reporting on the Annual Audit which was done by Goodman & Company of Norfolk, Virginia and dated February 26, 2010. The financial statements are the responsibility of the management of Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc. The auditor’s responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on the audit. Using auditing standards generally accepted in the U.S. the firm believes that their audit provides a reasonable basis for their opinion. We express an unqualified opinion on those financial statements. Please note that an “unqualified” opinion is a good report.

As of December 31, 2009, our WSO had total assets of \$9,290,189 and liabilities of \$1,512,021 leaving net assets of \$7,778,168 among three funds – General, Reserve and Building. The Reserve Fund had a balance of \$3,705,269 at year- end after recording investments at fair value and estimating the cost of postretirement health benefits. The Building Fund shows the cost of the land, building, and building improvements after depreciation at \$2,031,190. Income from operations totaled \$4,760,272 in 2009 and expenses for the year were \$4,781,827. As a result the General Fund was decreased by \$21,555. A gross profit of \$3,007,728 was realized on literature sales and contributions were \$1,248,194. Forum subscription income totaled \$275,568. There was a transfer of funds from the Reserve to the General Fund.

As regards the depth of the details in these money matters, I would like to assure the assembly that all of the materials are provided to the conference members well in advance of the conference for their consideration. We are able to submit our questions and every effort is made to answer these questions. A copy of all the questions and their answers are provided to us at conference. I also have a copy of the Auditor's Report if you would like to look at it.

Each of you should have a copy of the 2010 Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc. Budget. The 2010 Budget shows that we expect expenses to be \$8,000 more than revenue for the year. We are estimating expenses to be \$5,004,000 and revenues to be \$4,996,000. This year we adjusted the preliminary Schedule 2 for those costs that have been recorded. We also removed one of the planned trips from Travel and Meetings.

Overall expense is budgeted to increase by \$222,000 from last year's actual. Labor costs are expected to increase \$15,000 due to more staff becoming eligible for the retirement plan and an increase in state unemployment taxes. We expect Salaries to be \$14,000 less since we did not budget any salary increases for 2010 and we do not plan to fill vacancies created when two staff resigned last year. On the Outreach Activities line, we have included funds for projects that may be proposed during the year.

We are estimating income from literature sales to be about the same as last year and Forum subscription income to be more. We are budgeting contributions to be \$1,500,000 which is about \$250,000 more than last year's actual. Beginning in 2008, we agreed to transfer up to 4% of the fair value of the Reserve Fund to the General Fund. Since the average value dropped for the 36 months ended December 31, 2009, we are budgeting investment income about \$8,000 less than last year.

How did we in New York North help support our World Service Office? A look at Contributions: U.S.A. & Canada. New York North with 57.8% of the groups participating gave an average of \$69.26 with an increase of \$1,244 over our giving in 2008. In the blue block on the lower right hand side of the page you will find the average cost per group \$240.60 I have given each DR a printout of the contributions for the groups in their respective districts for their information to be shared with the GRs. What is factored into that average cost per group?

Every service provided by the WSO benefits the groups. That is our purpose. Lois established us as the clearinghouse to provide the connection between the groups and to provide unity. I'm not sure how one puts a price on that.

It is not what the group gets but what the group is part of and what it costs for the group to be a full participant in these efforts that is important. Not every group does its share but we still provide full support to them. On behalf of WSO, we thank the groups who give tirelessly of their resources so that the Al-Anon/Alateen hand of hope and help is there when anyone, anywhere reaches out. For the complete answer to this question go to our NYN website under Assembly & AWSC Minutes, policies & guidelines, to Question regarding Contributions.

One final note on contributions, we were reminded that the goal for this year is \$1,500,000 and that we can attain that goal if each member gives \$1.80 more than they did last year. How wonderful that would be?

The Annual Report was given by Ric B. the Executive Director of Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc. He is responsible for the overall supervision of the WSO staff and for the administration of the organization's policies. The Board of Trustees, along with the Executive Committee, direct business operations of the WSO, observing the By-Laws of Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc. The Board acts as the chief service arm of the WSO; they guard the legal rights and control the finances and serve as guardian of our Twelve Traditions, our Twelve Concepts and the Conference Charter.

Since the written report is quite lengthy, I am simply going to highlight in bullet format some of this report:

- Board of Trustees:
  - Set the equalized expense for the WSO
  - Approve Ecuador as a trial General Service Office
  - Have RT candidates for informal dinner prior to selection
  - Have the Finance Comm. assume responsibility of Investment Committee for a three- year trial basis.
- Strategic Plan: This is a four part plan of the Board of Trustees which helps the Board carryout its mission. These activities have become an integral part of the WSO's activities and belong under the Board's portion of the Annual Report. Each part has a definition followed by goals, objectives, and progress. I am going to give you a sampling of the plan.
  - I. Everyone, Everywhere: all people, all over the globe will recognize the AFG name.
    - a. Goal: increase Al-Anon membership worldwide
    - b. Objective: increase participation of young adults 25 to 40 years old
    - c. Progress: an on-line survey was conducted; results are being reviewed
  - II. Universal Understanding of Recovery: the meaning of recovery will be understood by everyone – both in and out of Al-Anon.
    - a. Goal: Everyone-both in and out of AFG will have the same universal understanding
    - b. Objective: By April 2011, develop a clear & concise definition of family recovery
    - c. Progress: an on-line survey of members was conducted & results are being studied to create a follow-up survey that will narrow the definition.
  - III. Unlimited Abundant Resources: tapping into the vast resources within & outside the fellowship
    - a. Goal: Discover and use universal resources
    - b. Objective: Create a database of membership resources

- c. Progress: Member questionnaire on website; data now being collected & studied
- IV. Support and Strengthen our Structure: Improving communication & educating members regarding the principles & the Legacies.
  - a. Goal: to have a full Board of highly competent members
  - b. Objective: Develop a process to attract competent, able members to fulfill current needs of the Board
  - c. Progress: A list of skills, experience & time commitments has been developed
- Administration:
  - Was responsible for “Using the Traditions in Our Personal Lives” blog on the member website
  - A task force was appointed to standardize the style for the next printing of the Service Manual
  - Expansion of e-Communities to include LDCs & GSOs; IAGSM Delegates & AIS communities
- Communication Services:
  - There is an increase in the general public’s awareness & understanding of the Al-Anon Family Group name Nielsen Media Research has ranked Al-Anon PSAs broadcast in the U.S. in the top 10% of campaigns that generate the most airplay in the U.S. & Canada
  - Evident in the number of total airplays per calendar year; Going from 22,746 in ’06 to 44,374 in ’09 almost double Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism ’09 our biggest year 266,700
  - Other projects:
    - ABC – Super Nanny & General Hospital
    - Dear Abby
    - Hallmark Hall of Fame – Lois’ Story
    - Outreach to Professionals – White Bison Project and our NYN & NYS work with NYS Alcohol & Substance Abuse
- Public Outreach Committee:
  - Meet quarterly via conference calls and conducted audio/visual reviews of Public Outreach materials.
  - They also reviewed materials via the Internet.
  - They recommended that the WSO focus efforts on a more diverse membership.
  - They recommended that (P-90) The Best of Public Outreach to an electronic format so as to provide a quick, accurate source of “how to do it” information.
  - The Forum has seen a steady increase since the low of June ’09 to a 15% increase by December ’09. Needed are more readers, more visibility at meetings, & more members who send in their sharing’s.
  - Tracing Our Growth the working title of our new book is scheduled for publication in 2011; our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary year
- Member Services:

- A Beginners Thought Force has been formed to identify how Beginners' Meetings meet the needs of newcomers & how those meetings are supported by groups that meet at the same time & place.
- The Alateen Advisory Committee meetings were in the second year of a three-year trial and will continue in that mode for 2010.
- The delegates were given access to e-Communities.
- In the second year of restructuring the Conference Committee to form the Conference Leadership Team, it was agreed that the new structure was efficient & working well.
- Discovering Choices has been translated into Spanish & French
- The Alateen chat meeting has been tested & offered to Areas.
- The four Alateen power point modules are now complete.
- About 10% of new group registrations didn't meet WSO criteria;
- Total number of groups is: 25,161
  - Worldwide; 13,114
  - U.S.; 1,023
  - Alateen; 78
  - Electronic meetings 48
  - Internet & 30 telephone.
- July 1-4 Al-Anon will participate at the 75<sup>th</sup> A.A. Convention in San Antonio, Texas
- Plans for the 2013 Al-Anon International Convention, British Columbia, Canada, July 5-7, 2013 are being firmed up.

Each year delegates are given an opportunity to present topics which are of interest to them and to their areas for consideration for discussion at the Conference. Following a prescribed format, delegates submitted their ideas to the Conference Leadership Team. The ideas are reviewed and like topics are combined into a single idea; then a copy of the ideas are returned to the delegates for them to select the two topics they would most like to have discussed. A tally of the topics will determine the top two and then delegates will be selected to present these two topics on the Conference floor. Following the presentation of each of these topics known as Chosen Agenda Items there is Discussion from the floor.

It was fitting that one of the Chosen Agenda Items this year was about diversity. "How can the members of the World Service Conference develop a strategy that would bring Al-Anon Family Groups into the communities and culture of specific minorities in the U.S. and Canada?" We began by looking at what the Service Manual had to say on pg.9 "Al-anon is a unique fellowship that unites members of different backgrounds, races, and walks of life in an inspiring endeavor: helping themselves and others to lead purposeful, useful lives by overcoming the frustration and helplessness caused by close association with an alcoholic." The second piece of background information is found on pgs. 32-33 of the 2006 Conference Summary the Spanish/French Presentation. In 2002, the "gorilla of change visited the WSC. He warned that change is necessary to be open to new possibilities. Members agreed that the method of carrying the message could change, provided the core values of Al-Anon did not change. The fact that a member speaks one

language does not limit the ability to perform outreach activities to members who speak other languages.

We need to develop a plan with key alliances with diverse groups. We need to keep them coming back; by looking at what keeps us coming back. We may need to have a translator at the service level. We need to have a definite strategy; correct imbalances; post guidelines in other languages; have a buddy system. We need to be accepting of others with differences from us, have an AWARENESS.

At district and area level we need to examine our communities for where these people are. We need to take responsibility for reaching out as our Al-Anon declaration so aptly puts it. The WSO has a great deal of materials which are printed in both Spanish and French that are available to us for distribution. Perhaps when ordering Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism we might order a small quantity of them in Spanish. The book Discovering Choices in Spanish for the local library. I hope you will consider some of these ideas as you move into to your Action Committees this morning.

The second Chosen Agenda Item was: What do we do when members holding service positions are unable to effectively do the task of the position, and these deficits are negatively impacting the Area and potentially Al-Anon as a whole? Look at the possible reasons: lack of skills, knowledge, and/or time. Try to get people willing to do service positions such as GR & DR. Active districts spread enthusiasm; visit groups and committees to spread enthusiasm; have criteria and pre-requisites for coordinator positions; hold a transitional orientation for new coordinators; consider having alternate coordinators as helpers; have technical experts available to help coordinators as needed; be an example; have a sheet to tell me your skills and don't be afraid to say, I can't do it right now.

We need to have a conversation about our positions; let people know the talents we see in them; let people know you're willing to help; we want you to succeed; we need to watch for people looking to be at assembly- but unwilling to do the job; model new behavior and ask successful coordinators to share; look at what's feeding the problem and keep principles above personalities. If you are considering a position ask to look-over. The shoulder of the person now doing the job. Have a process in-place to remove someone. Solution – talk about it; model it; create a pool of possible candidates and start early looking for candidates.

We spent a considerable amount of time on policy motions; fortunately these were interspersed thru out the week and when there was an opening to cover another segment; we would take the opportunity and move forward. This entire process was a wonderful example of an informed group conscience in action. Since we can expect to see all these changes and updates in the new Service Manual due out this fall; I am only going to spend time on the Alateen portion of them today. A new Alateen section will be included in the "Policy Digest Section" bring together all policies relevant to Alateen into one place. The Manual will also have tab dividers breaking it into the four books that it is composed of.

Because I feel these Alateen policy changes are of the up most importance; I am going to read them and I have asked Kathi, our Homepage Coordinator to post them on our website for your convenience. I would ask that we all become familiar with them even if you have no plans to be directly involved in Alateen; we all need to be knowledgeable so that our teens are protected. [[WSO Alateen Policies](#)]

The two other areas which we discussed regarding policy were Financial Matters and Use of Materials at Al-Anon meetings; and as I said at the beginning of this; we will discuss these two areas in more detail in the fall. I would however like to note that all three of these policy motions were passed with unanimity by the 93 voting members present. There was one area, Rhode Island that was not represented.

If you are following the outline of my report from the Area Website, you will note that the next item up are the two workshops that I attended. Because this outline was done first; I have made a change here; I will speak about the Diversity workshop and the one Embracing the Group Conscience will be at the end of my report this morning or as part of the question and answer session this afternoon depending on our time frame.

Celebrate Diversity – Understanding Ourselves and Others Workshop. We began by looking at the definition of diversity: the condition of being diverse, differing from one another; the inclusion of diverse people (people of different races or cultures) in a group or organization.

Al-Anon's membership consists of people of all walks of life. The disease of alcoholism is not confined to any profession, race, culture, or economic, or social status.

According to the 2009 Membership Survey:

- 84% of all Al-Anon members are female, 16% are male
- Average age of members is 56 in the U.S., 58 in Canada
- 93% are white, 3% Latino, 4% other
- 31% of members identify their spouse or life partner as the problem drinker
- 15% of members identify their child as the problem drinker
- 5% of members identify their parents as the problem drinker
- The average Al-Anon member is a 58-year-old, white, middle-class female

With this background information the group broke into four smaller groups and chose a leader, a recorder, and a report back person. Now we were ready to consider Step 12; Traditions 1, 5, & 10; Concept 1 as well as our thoughts and actions, others – their beliefs & actions; cultural & social differences; how are we different?; how are we alike?; communication, and information from the Cultural Competency presentation and finally a list of Al-Anon resources (books & pamphlets). Next we choose a group that we felt is under-represented in Al-Anon. Then we brainstormed specific strategies and actions that an Area, district or group could take to attract this group. Then we picked the top five ideas from our list. Returning to the large group, we had a report-back session to share our thoughts and ideas. This is a workshop that we might consider doing to see how we can reach out to those in your district or community who would be helped by Al-Anon.



Who remembers what T E A M stands for? Has anyone been to a TEAM Event? Do you think you would like to be part of a TEAM Event? If you recall from last year's report; a TEAM Event was the replacement for the RSSs or what was known as a Regional Service Seminar and they were held three a year and rotated in the nine regions of Canada and the U.S. and were held cooperatively by an Area and staff from the WSO. A TEAM Event is a partnership between an Area(s) and the World Service Office, with the aim of providing an opportunity for Al-Anon and Alateen members to learn more about service and the Al-Anon program. The Area and WSO Task Force work together to plan an agenda of workshops and presentations that address the Area's specific needs and expand members' understanding of our worldwide fellowship. TEAM Events are sponsored by the Area(s) and the WSO.

To date five TEAM Events have been planned with six Areas involved. One has already been held in New Mexico; with rave reviews. One is a single day event and the other are two days or a weekend. They can be held alongside an Area event such as an assembly. I have an answer sheet for many of the questions that have come up and some samples of agendas for the various lengths of the Event; from a full weekend to a single day Event. I have also begun to collect the flyers and other pieces of information on the upcoming Events. I believe the next one is the Utah – Arizona Event set for June 25 – 27. One is planned in Kansas and another in Connecticut Oct. 2 & 3, & one in Minnesota-North.

Do you think you would like to be part of a TEAM Event? If your answer is YES then we need to begin to have a conversation about the possibilities.

For the last year or more topics of interest to the delegates and the other members of the World Service Conference have been addressed thru what are known as Thought Forces and Task Forces. This year's Conference had presentations by four Thought Forces: 1. Integrating Alateen into Al-Anon where no Alateen exists; 2. Strengthening the Links between AISs and Districts, Areas; 3. Strengthen Relationships between the Delegates and the AWSC and 4. The Current Conference Structure. Because these are Thought Forces I am going to collectively report that the suggestions that came from these committees all had similar recommendations: Educate, educate, educate and Communicate, communicate, communicate. Several suggested presentations for TEAM Events and moving the information on to a TASK Force. Next year we may well see one or more of these forming into a Task Force.

This year there were two TASK FORCES which gave presentations. !. A Conflict Resolution Presentation for use in an Area. This presentation includes a 28 slide power point presentation accompanied by an outline for a workshop. The workshop has been designed to use one of the three Legacies as a guide to conflict resolution. Unity through the Traditions can provide "harmony and growth" not only in our Al-Anon groups and the worldwide fellowship as a whole, but also in our personal lives. The Traditions help us relate to each other in the group setting and with other groups. When people come together often, there is difference of opinion and conflict. The Traditions can be used as tools to guide us to act appropriately in working through conflict. By seeking our Higher Power's guidance, we are often led to solutions that were not apparent to us.

The workshop is based on (B-24) Paths to Recovery: Al-Anon's Steps, Traditions, and Concepts. It also uses the Traditions Blog from the Members' Website, (B-4) Dilemma of the Alcoholic Marriage and (B-30) Discovering Choices. This is a workshop which we might consider doing at some point.

The second Task Force presentation was Utilizing Technology at Area Meetings for Non Tech People. Since there was so much material contained in this presentation I am going to wait until the Fall Assembly to go into more depth on this presentation. The last item I want to mention here is the new Thought Force which I am a member of and that we began working on prior to the Conference; it is the Thought Force to Look at Ways to Include Dual Members in Service While Maintaining Our Policies. I am sure it will be interesting and it will hopefully show us ways of including these dual members in service.

During the past three years we have been using a trial plan for the selection of Regional Trustees. Our NYN Area was a part of this process this past year as a part of the Northeast Regional Trustee Selection. At last year's Spring Assembly we received the resume of Anne F., one of our past delegates to be considered for the position. We reviewed her resume and vote to accept her as our candidate for the position. The resume was submitted to the WSO by August 15, 2009; in early September current delegates of the region plus two out of region delegates received copies of all the resumes for the region and the scoring sheets. Following completion of the scoring/tally sheet the delegates returned them to the RCT chair by September 30. The RCT chair combined the scoring sheets of the delegates on a master tally and returned it to the Executive Director in time for the October Board meeting.

The BOT Nominating Committee selected two candidates as nominees. These two names are sent back to the delegates of the RCT of the selected candidates for any objections. Any objection must be made by December 15. At the January Board of Trustees meeting the Board elects a nominee following an informal conversation with the two candidates. Following the January Board meeting the nominee and the delegates are notified. At the WSC the conference members gave traditional approval to the nominee and at the Board of Trustees meeting on Friday morning, legal approval was given. At the Conference a motion was made to make this new plan permanent. It was approved and now the selection of all Trustees is on a more level plane. Once one becomes a Trustee this is no difference between a Regional Trustee and a Trustee-at-Large; the difference is in the selection process.

Four Regional Trustees were approved at this year's Conference; three Trustees-at-Large were approved; two members of the ECRPM and the chairperson of this committee were approved and three members of the Executive Committee including NYN's Mary G. who is just completing two three year terms as a Trustee-at-Large were approved as members of the Executive Committee. Congratulations to both Anne and Mary – NYN is proud of its past delegates!!!!

Also we voted on two motions for the Literature Committee. The first one is for a major revision of the pamphlet Why Anonymity in Al-Anon? (P-33) Anonymity is “the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions” and an essential factor in Al-Anon’s vitality and growth. The need to explain Al-Anon’s position on this matter is not exclusive to newcomers or long timers. The three Legacies are sometimes misunderstood and misused as a barrier to our fellowship’s growth; particularly Traditions Eleven and Twelve. The proliferation of Internet, e-mail, and social networking Web sites is complicating the matter of anonymity in ways that could not have been anticipated when the current literature on anonymity was being developed. Anonymity is still a major issue today, as it was in the early days. Revision would give members current information using current wording and it would help members adapt the application of our principles to changes in our contemporary environment, especially regarding electronic media and the Internet.

The second Literature Motion was for conceptual approval to develop a Legacies workbook, using sharing’s from the Legacy blogs. There have been frequent inquiries as to whether we have workbooks for any of the other Legacies besides Step Four. Several suggestions were made to have one for Paths to Recovery (B-24) this was not a practical suggestion. This new idea for a Legacy workbook, however, would be made up entirely of material never before in print. The suggestion was that five or ten sharing’s from members on each Legacy, with a number of pertinent questions following each sharing, as well as space to complete a response.

Two years ago, we began the blogs on the WSO website with the Concepts Blog, followed by the Traditions Blog, and now the Steps Blog. These sharing’s have wonderful insights about our three Legacies. However, because they are not CAL, they cannot be used in meetings. Including material from these blogs that will go through the process for developing CAL could extend the understanding and the help members find in our Legacies. We already have 450 sharing’s from which to draw; additional sharing’s submitted through the blogs could increase interest in the blogs, and give all members an opportunity to read all the sharing’s submitted. An electronic version possibly on a subscription basis could be available and we could continue to explore electronic media as originally intended by the e-CAL motion in 2006. Both of these Literature motions were passed unanimously.

On Wednesday afternoon, we had a enjoyable break as we boarded a bus for our visit to the World Service Office. As we arrived at the WSO, Trustees and WSO staff were there to greet us and welcome us to our Al-Anon home. As you enter the building Ric B. the Executive Director was there to greet us and give us a little of the background of the building and the portraits of Lois and Anne our co-founders. This year we had the option of going on a guided tour of the building or going to some of the exhibits and demonstrations that had been set-up for us. Having been on the tour last year, I opted to visit the exhibits and demonstrations. Of special interest was the results of the 2009 Member Survey. The information from this survey has been used to form two presentations of the material; one for presentation to the Fellowship and a second one for presentation to Professionals. My hope is to find a way to begin to share these presentations with you; perhaps beginning in the Fall. This will be a great way for us to

reach out to the professionals. I invite you to visit the narrative of the WSO. It is a beautiful place to visit and I hope you will consider visiting next Spring for our 60<sup>th</sup> year when we will celebrate with a special event.

Al-Anon/Alateen – Internationally, Yes, our fellowship is an international fellowship and we not only share experience, strength and hope; we also support one another by sharing the abundance we have with those that still need our support to expand our circle of hope. Each year, two international representatives are seat at Conference with us; they have voice but no vote. This year Peter A. of New Zealand and Maria Del Carmen Torres G. of Mexico were with us. Each shared a little of their own story and also about the service structure in their respective countries. Many of the things that we struggle with in this country; they also struggle with in their respective countries.

The Executive Director, Ric B. and Trustee, Penny R. participated in the Ibero-American meeting hosted by the General Service Office in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The main goal of this meeting was “ Sharing service experiences and encouraging those Spanish and Portuguese-speaking countries that do not have a structure to overcome the fear of creating one.” Each country discussed its structure and there were eight countries represented. The WSO participated as a resource.

The WSO also participated as a resource during the third European Zonal Meeting hosted by the German General Service Office in Essen, Germany. This was a three-day meeting with general sessions and workshops. All European countries with an Al-Anon presence were invited to attend; Sixteen Service Structures attended: it is interesting to note that some countries such as Belgium is represented twice, the Flemish-speaking and the French-speaking.

On this same trip to Essen, Germany, the Chairperson of the International Coordination Committee and the Associate Director of Member Services also traveled to Istanbul, Turkey where they were able to advise the members that the Al-Anon CAL currently produced in Turkey was not authorized by the WSO and the process to obtain reprint permission was explained.

They also traveled to Keszket, Hungary where they held discussions surrounding the translation and printing of CAL and the possible registration of an Al-Anon Information Service. They presently have a service board to serve the 26 existing groups, While in Hungary, Two members from Serbia traveled to Hungary to meet with the WSO representatives. They have one English speaking group with four members who met weekly.

The Executive Director was invited to participate in the U.K. and Eire’s National Service Conference where he did workshops on strategic planning and conflict resolution. He also share on the topic of “unlimited abundance.” This was an expense paid trip for the Director and they are considering owning property on a 15-year trial, using the WSO’s model.

The Director also had an expense paid trip to South Africa, where he also conducted workshops. At this meeting members voted to rotate their IAGSM Delegate and to find two Delegates for the 2010 IAGSM in Virginia Beach.

As many of you are aware, we have been having dialogue about the Ownership of Property. Last year at Conference we had a presentation on this topic and at our NYN Fall Assembly. The presentation was done by a past delegate Bob C. and past trustee Marion W. We looked at the material on this topic which was posted on the WSO member website which included all of the discussions at earlier WSC, the motions in 1994 & 1995, the ECRPM reports and the charts of ownership vs. leasing. All of us have had lots of opportunities to raise questions and to have these questions addressed. Again this year, we had a presentation at Conference and additional questions were addressed. During the discussion that took place, several Conference members asked if a vote could be taken this year. Prior to the end of the Conference, a motion was brought forward to end the trial and to retain ownership of the property. More discussion revealed that some Areas were waiting for their Delegates to bring back more information and the Delegates from these Areas were not prepared to vote. The motion was tabled and referred to the Board of Trustees for further development of a motion to be presented in 2011. The informed group conscience prevailed. Our Higher Power was truly with us at Conference.

This was the note on which we completed a long and busy five days of much work for the good of Al-Anon as a whole. Only two events remained, the closing dinner and the Board of Trustees meeting to legalize all of the happenings of the past five days. Thursday evening's dinner would be special as we heard the sharing's of two of the panel #48 Delegates and the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees would accept a letter from the Regional A.A. Trustee, El N. on behalf of A.A. Congratulating Al-Anon on their 50<sup>th</sup> World Service Conference and re-affirming their gratitude as expressed by the 1969 A.A. General Services Conference. I have included a copy of this letter for all to see.

This indeed, was for me a very special Conference, I will long remember how we were able to have discussion and yet not always agree; but by talking it out we were able to reach consensus. The discussion of ownership of our WSO property was a most moving experience with many feeling ready to vote; we were able to respect the voice of those not yet ready to do the same and so, for the greater good of Al-Anon as a whole; we were all able to know that the right thing to do was to wait for those Areas to be ready to make a more informed decision in 2011; the year of our 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday. I think Lois and Anne would be proud of us.

It was partially good for me to get to meet and learn more about the Trustee with whom I had had regular contact over this past year.

I hope you have some help from my report. I encourage you to consider getting your own personal copy of the Conference Summary when they become available this summer. I encourage you to view any of this material on our member website and also to make use of the WSO website. I can also be contacted by going to our NYN website and you can send me an e-mail of your questions.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve NYN as your panel #49 Delegate.

We will have an ASK IT BASKET this afternoon; so be sure your questions get submitted before you break for Action Committees.

**ABBREVIATIONS USED:**

WSC	World Service Conference
WSO	World Service Office
AWSC	Area World Service Committee
LDC	Literature Distribution Center
AIS	Al-Anon Information Service
IAGSM	International Al-Anon General Service Meeting
RSS	Regional Service Seminar
NYN	New York North
BOT	Board of Trustees
RCT	Regional Committee on Trustees
ECRPM	Executive Committee for Real Property Management
CAL	Conference Approved Literature
KBDM	Knowledge Based Decision Making
RT	Regional Trustee
GSO	General Service Office
PSA	Public Service Announcement for radio or T.V.

[HANDOUTS:](#) Conference Flyer  
Letter from A.A.  
2009 Contributions: U.S. & Canada  
2010 AFG Budget  
Group Contributions by District – DRs only