

## **Delegate's Report to the AWSC**

**Ruth S., Panel 52**

**March 24, 2012**

This year's World Service Conference will be held April 15<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>. The theme is "Our Spiritual Journey-we get as we give". The WSC will be held at the Stamford Marriott Hotel & Spa in Stamford, Connecticut. I will be traveling on Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup> and be returning on Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup>. During the past few months I have received a lot of information and materials to prepare for the conference.

Since the beginning of the year I have been notified that there have been 2 new Al-Anon meetings formed in NYN and 1 Alateen meeting. During this same time period 1 Al-Anon meeting has closed.

On February 25<sup>th</sup> I took part in a conference call for new Delegates. The call also included Suzanne M. from the WSO and 2 Trustees. I also received a phone call from a Trustee, Roger C. from Canada. This call was a follow up to the letter sent by the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees after the January Trustees meeting. Both calls were very helpful in preparing for the Conference.

I have been assigned a mentor for the Conference. She is Maddie P., Panel 51 from Spencer, IA. We have emailed each other and spoken by phone. As we are both arriving on Saturday we have our plans set to meeting in the Hospitality room when we register. She will help me get my notebook ready for the Conference.

Delegates were given a list of possible service opportunities at the Conference. These included Committees, Thought Forces and Task Forces. We were to rank them in order of interest. I am very happy to say that I was assigned my first choice. I have been assigned to the Literature Committee. I am really excited with this assignment.

We have had one conference call so far, I was not able to take part in this call. Part of the call was a discussion of possible new pieces of literature to recommend to the 2012 WSC. At this time I don't know the results of this conversation.

The committee is working on the draft of the "legacies Workbook" (working title). This workbook is planned to be introduced at the Al-Anon International Convention, in Vancouver, in 2013. The committee has completed its first assignment of reviewing the draft of the 12 Steps. We are now in the process of completing our second assignment, a review of the draft of the 12 Traditions.

Delegates are given a choice of Skill Building Leadership sessions to take part in. This year's sessions all involve communication. My two choices were 1. Communication – How to deal with difficult situations and 2. Communication – How to engage audiences using multiple strategies and techniques.

During the Conference members are given an opportunity to discuss items that shape Al-Anon as a whole. This discussion takes place in 2, 1 hour sessions. The topics are chosen from those submitted

by Delegates prior to the Conference. Like ideas may be combined into one topic for discussion. These items are referred to as Chosen Agenda Items (CAI).

At the end of last year a letter was sent out from the chairperson of the Board of Trustees. There had been a number of comments at last year's Conference from member wanting Conference Approved Literature available in various electronic formats. This would require a lot of discussion including the impact on AIS/LDC, on WSO and on English, French and Spanish structures outside of WSC structure. To enable enough time for this discussion the Board of Trustees as agreed to give up time that was slated for a Big Question. Since this discussion would need a large block of time Delegates were asked if they were willing to give up the time slots for either one or both CAI. Depending on other agenda items there still might be time to add back one or both Chosen Agenda items.

At this time there will be a block of 3 hours for a discussion on CAL being available in electronic format. There will also be time for 2 Chosen Agenda Items. They are 1) How do we empower the average Al-Anon member to speak up at meetings when someone else's sharing is not al-Anon? Tradition 5 states the "Each Al-Anon Family Group has but one purpose: to help families of alcoholics." However, many newcomers to Al-Anon have family members with multiple addictions and/or mental disorders. This is not a new issue; however, the percentage of multiple addictions seems to be increasing each year. How do we ensure the Al-Anon message remains clear as we continue to expand our membership both within our Conference structure and within other service structures as well? How do we lovingly encourage members to only use our Al-Anon language when sharing their Al-Anon spiritual journey? 2) How does WSO see social networks, such as Facebook and YouTube, as a way to attract and retain new members to our fellowship? After 60 years of Al-Anon, we are still not well known. How can we get Al-Anon and Alateen "out of the closet"?

I am contacting LDC coordinators within NYN to ask for their input on CAL being available in various electronic forms. I am hoping their input will help me in my participation in this discussion.

On Sunday afternoon Delegates will be sharing Area Highlights. This will be a one minute presentation. We were asked for one success and one challenge to our Area. I have identified our experience in choosing a new location for this year's NYNAC as our success and our challenge will be to provide meaningful, exciting alternatives to Action Committees at our Assemblies.

During 2012 there are a number of opportunities for service volunteers at the WSO level. These include Trustee at Large, Regional Trustee (this year's regions are Northeast, North Central and Southeast) and the Executive Committee for Real Property Management (ECRPM). For all 3 resumes are due at WSO on or before August 15, 2012. Selections will be made at the January 2013 Board of Trustees meeting.

There are also opportunities for service on committees, task forces and thought forces. These include Alateen Work Group, Forum Editorial Advisory committee, Public Outreach Committee and Literature committee. Resumes are due by the time of the Conference.

I do have further information if anyone has an interest. Please contact me with any questions you have.

I have received copies of the 2011 Audit Report, the 2012 Preliminary Budget and the 2011 Annual Report. I have been reviewing all in preparation for the Conference. I will be sending in my questions to the WSO. There is a lot to read!

As in the past I will have an opportunity to attend open Board of Trustees meeting and open Policy Meeting. We will also be taking a trip to Stepping Stones. I am excited to revisit Stepping Stones. I was able to visit when the RSS was held in White Plains a few years ago. We will also be given an update on the 2013 International Convention in Vancouver, BC.

The Conference ends Thursday, April 19<sup>th</sup>. I will be staying an extra day. NYN has been scheduled to present our bid for the 2018 International Convention to the Convention Site Committee on Friday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM. Gina Mintzer from the Albany County Convention and Visitors Bureau will be joining me in the presentation. We are 1 of 12 Areas that will be presenting.

During the past few weeks I have also received some pieces of literature that were talked about at last year's WSC. They are now available to members. "Parents of Alcoholics" Timely Reprint (R-18) and "Conflict Resolution" Wallet Card (S-71) are each \$1.00. I also received a copy of "en Accion" Vol. 45 No. 1 as a Delegate with Spanish-speaking meetings in my Area. I have all 3 with me today if anyone wants to look at them.

Finally I had hoped to be able to share with you my first experience at NERD this year. I was not able to attend but look forward to next year and sharing on NERD then.

Are there any questions or comments?