

Delegate's Report to the AWSC

Ruth S., Panel 52

April 5, 2014

This year's NERD was held March 7, 8 & 9 in Fort Washington, PA, just outside of Philadelphia. I traveled this year with Elaine R., Connie D., and Anne F. All three make great traveling companions and roommates. We went a day early and visited Longwood Gardens. There is a 4 acre conservatory there. We spent a couple hours walking around, it was just like spring!

There were 45 current and past Delegate's in attendance. Each area was able to share what is happening in their Area, both the good and the not so good. There were a couple presentations that were aimed at preparing this year's new Delegates for their first Conference.

The 54th World Service Conference: Our Spiritual Principles in Action will be held from April 26th – April 29th. I will be arriving on Thursday, April 24th. On Friday April 25th there will be an orientation session for the new, Panel 54 Delegates. In the afternoon there will be a short General Session followed by Committee and Thought and Task Force meetings.

Also on Sunday in the late afternoon will be the Sharing Area Highlights session. Each Delegate will have 1 minute at the mic to share both a challenge and a success in their Area. It is amazing how many like challenges we face from Area to Area. It is a great way to find out possible solutions to common problems. Each Delegate will have also submitted a long version of their 1 minute presentation. These will be compiled and distributed to each Delegate.

Last year I was able to share with you what committee I had been assigned to. As of this point I have not heard from the Conference Leadership what committee, Thought Force or Task Force I have been assigned to.

Also last year I was able to share with you which two Chosen Agenda Items would be discussed at the Conference. As of yet I have not heard which items were chosen. As in the past each one will be allowed 60 minutes for presentation and discussion.

The Policy Committee will be presenting a number of items to this year's Conference. There will be discussion on the Universal Understanding of Recovery (UUR). This would be a readily understood definition of family recovery through the Al-Anon Family Groups program. It is hoped that this definition could be useful to professionals, could encourage additional research and could assist members in public outreach.

At the 2013 there was a presentation by the Memorial Contributions Thought Force. During the discussion there were some items that people requested clarification of including some definitions and safeguards to ensure no undue influence or ear-marking. The Policy

committee has been working on this and will be presenting at Conference for further discussion.

The Policy Committee has completed language for the section on "Dual Membership in Al-Anon/Alateen and AA" on pg.82 of the "Digest of Al-Anon and Alateen Policies". There will be discussion at the Conference.

As in past years I have received copies of the 2013 Audit Report, the 2014 Preliminary Budget and the 2013 Annual Report. I have been reviewing all and have submitted my questions to the WSO.

There will be open Board of Trustee and Policy Committee meetings during the Conference. I made sure that my flight home on Wednesday, April 30th was late enough in the day so that I could attend the final Board of Trustees meeting on Wednesday morning.

This year we will be visiting the World Service Office. This will take place on Tuesday, April 29th. I am really looking forward to this as we did not visit last year.

The Board of Trustees is inviting qualified Al-Anon members to send in their resumes for the position of at-large members of the Audit Committee. The resume is due by April 26th.

The Audit Committee is a committee of the Board of Trustees. The committee consists of 3 Trustees of the Board, one of whom is Chair. There are 2 at-large members. The at-large members need to have financial expertise as pertains to auditing. They need to be active Al-Anon members and live in the World Service Conference area. (USA and Canada, including Bermuda, Hawaii and Puerto Rico) The term is for one year and is renewable for up to six years.

The requirements as regards to time and travel are:

1. One face-to-face half-day meeting in Virginia Beach on a Saturday in late February with the full committee, the Director of Business Services and the auditors to review the Audit. This implies arriving the evening before and leaving Saturday afternoon. All reasonable expenses for flight, hotel room and meals will be reimbursed.
2. One conference call meeting of several hours in late October with the full committee and the auditors to plan the up-coming audit. May be on a week day.
3. During the year, there will be email exchanges and there can be one or two conference calls arranged to fit everyone's schedule.
4. At-large committee members are expected to help the committee with their experience and expertise and may be called upon to provide training to other members of the committee.

This information is in my article for the April Hi Lights. Again the deadline to submit your resume is April 26th. I do have some resumes with me or I can email you a copy. Please see me or contact me if you have any interest.

I have received a breakdown by District of donations made to the World Service Office during 2013. Copies of each Districts contributions have been placed in the DR's mail slot.

In a few short weeks I will be on my way to my final World Service Conference. I can't believe how the time has flown. It has been a gift and an honor to be the NYN Delegate. I look forward to sharing this final Conference with you at the Spring Assembly/Convention in May.

Are there any questions or comments?