

Delegate's Report Fall Election Assembly 9/27/14

Good morning. Wow, this is my final Delegate's report. I can't believe how quickly these 3 years have gone by. As in the past couple of years most of what I have today comes from the Chairman of the Board of Trustees letter which was sent after the July Board of Trustees meeting.

The July Board of trustees meeting was held in St. Johns, Newfoundland. This was the first "Meet the Board Event". Trustees and Executive Committee members met with members of the Newfoundland/Labrador Area, they shared about the responsibilities and work of the Board and Executive Committee. This included personal sharings and international travel to reach out to our worldwide fellowship. There were sessions where the Board and Executive Committee listened to members share on a variety of concerns affecting the fellowship today and in the future. During the lunch hour there was more informal conversations. By all accounts this was a great success.

There will be another "Meet the Board Event" in 2015. NYN has submitted our bid to the WSO.

The Board has approved the 2015 World Service Conference theme, it is "Living Our Spiritual Principles: Expanding Our Vision". The 2015 World Service Conference will be held April 20-23, 2015. It will be held in Virginia Beach, Virginia. There will be a trip to Stepping Stones on April 25th. This trip is optional for all WSC Delegates.

The equalized expense for the 2015 WSC is \$1,493.00. The full cost for a Delegate to attend is \$2,447.00.

During the 2014 World Service conference there was discussion on the need for defining family recovery. This could be a universal understanding outside of the fellowship that could be used by professionals and when doing public outreach.

The definition that was presented was:

"Family recovery is a process of healing and growth from the effects of living in a family affected by someone's problem drinking. This process helps individuals to make healthier life choices, and to develop relationships that are more positive and supportive."

The discussion resulted in a revised definition that was proposed. This revision had substantial support:

"Family recovery is a process of healing and growth for family members affected by Someone's drinking. This process helps these individuals make healthier life choices and develop relationships that are more positive and supportive."

You can read more about the discussion that took place in the Conference Summary. The Board is asking members to look at both definitions, talk about them and give their thoughts to their Delegate so that they can be prepared for further discussion at the 2015 WSC.

The Forum continues to celebrate its 60th anniversary with articles from its archives each month. The Forum is available on Nook.

Along with the Chairperson's letter there were both financial and policy updates. The financial updated were for the period ending 6/30/14. There was a small loss to the General fund during this period of \$978 compared to a loss of \$140,254 for the same period last year. Literature sales were ahead of last year by \$129,560 and contributions were up by \$73,135. Subscriptions to the Forum were down by \$9,533. In total income was up by \$228,266 compared to the same period last year.

Income: Literature sales at June 30 totaled \$2,069,065 compared to \$1,942,505 June 30, 2013, an increase of 6.5%. Gross profit on literature sales was \$1,639,391 (79% of sales), compared to \$1,504,099 (77% of sales) last year. The increase in gross profit was the result of the price increase effective May 1, 2013. Contributions are \$736,398 so far this year, compared to \$663,263 at the same time last year – an increase of 11%. Forum subscriptions income was \$120,827 this year, compared to \$130,360 last year, a decrease of 7.3%

Expenses: Operating expenses were \$2,603,689 this year, compared to \$2,514,700 last year, an increase of 3.54%.

The fair value of investments in the Reserve Fund totaled \$5,769,166 as of June 30th. This amount includes an unrealized gain of \$1,328,562. In compliance with a Board of trustees' motion, 4% of the average balance of the Reserve Fund over the prior 36 months, an amount estimated to be \$200,000, will be transferred to the General Fund.

The Policy Committee continues to look at a couple of issues.

At the open Policy Committee meeting at the 2014 WSC a discussion was begun about internet providers and whether or not use by Al-Anon service arms was considered commercial or non-commercial. The conclusion was that legal advice was needed. The committee did get a professional opinion on July 9th. This has lead to further consideration of multiple internet issues.

A member wrote to the Policy Committee asking that text about discouraging "Crosstalk" be added to the Policy section of the Service Manual. Since "crosstalk" is a professional term that originated from an outside source, referencing that word in our Policy digest is not appropriate. The Policy Committee acknowledges that dominance and advice-giving are "obstacles to success" and not reflective of a "loving interchange of help among members" in Al-Anon. addressing this issue might better be considered in the "Al-Anon and Alateen Groups at work" section of the Service Manual. The member's request has been forwarded to the WSO Director of Member Services.

Each year Delegates are asked to submit a Chosen Agenda Item that might be discussed at the WSC. These CAIs are "items that shape Al-Anon as a whole that you believe needs to be discussed at the World Service Conference".

As in the past I am asking for your help. If you have any idea or item you think would be something to be discussed at the WSC please send them to me. I will be sending my CAI to the WSO before the end of November.

At the Spring Assembly I forgot to bring the “Love Gifts” that I had accumulated at this year’s World Service Conference. I promised I would bring them this fall, I have done so. Please take some with you. They were all sent to the Conference with love from members of Al-Anon throughout the areas represented at the Conference.

I want to thank you all for the past 3 years. You cannot imagine how important this service has been to me. I have been so blessed. Thank you again.

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth S.