

Delegates Report Fall Assembly September 19, 2015

It's hard to believe that one year ago many of us were sitting in this room asking our Higher Power to Guide us as we stepped forward to be voted in to our current Trusted Service positions.

Although I knew many of the things that would be expected of me. I did not know the many experiences I would have over the year. I also did not expect the amount of e-mail communications I would receive each day, and how necessary it is to carry on the communication in the Links of Service. I would like to share some of this with you today; and then ask for your help with a few things to continue to help the WSO. and to keep our AREA informed about the World Wide Fellowship of Al-Anon.

- I requested District Representatives to ask qualified members to send me their Resumes for consideration for the Northeast Regional Trustee position on the Board of Trustees. I did not receive any so NYN will not be submitting any candidates' names for these positions, I will however be reviewing candidates' resumes from other Areas and will be responsible for assigning them a numeric designation for consideration. When I receive more information about the process I will let you know (probably in Northern Highlights).
- I also shared an inquiry from WSO asking **Free Lance Writers/Editors** who are Al-Anon members to submit proposals to work on two new pieces of literature which are in development. I am happy to say that two members of NYN have asked about this and I forwarded them the information they need to submit their proposals.
- I continue to work with other members of our **Task Force on Types of Meetings**. At our Spring Assembly I was not totally clear as to how we would carry out our charge. We have defined it as ways to either attract new members, or members who have Special Needs that would keep them from attending a regular meetings that are suggested in our Service Manual on pages 43-45. We have been encouraged to think about the needs of new mothers or mothers with small children; members or newcomers with non-English as their native tongue and Long timers who are unable attend anymore due to health issues or cannot drive anymore. (Our membership is getting older and we do not want to lose this ESH). We are thinking of people who Hearing Impaired, or live in rural areas with no transportation. We are looking at meetings with Limited Assess such as Women Shelters or Juvenile Detention Centers. We are thinking about how to attract members of the Business Communities who have limited time to go to meetings on their Lunch Hour. Maybe we could meet at the Local Coffee shop while they are getting their morning coffee. (We would call it a Stand-Up Meeting.) We have submitted our ideas to the Board of Trustees and have gotten feedback and will continue to define our ideas. We are working on a Workshop / Skit and a handout that will be presented at the 2016 World Service Conference. This is a work in progress.

- At our August AWSC Meeting I explained that Areas were encouraged to submit a Bid for the October 2016 **“Meet the Board”** For those of you who do not remember what this is let me explain. The Board of Trustees meets Quarterly. Three years ago the Board decided that many of our Fellowship have never met anyone from WSO and are not familiar with what they do for us. They thought it might be a good thing to take one of their Quarterly of Virginia Beach. This was originally a cost saving measure because of the tourism in VB in the summer and would be a way for a high amount of people to gather in one place to learn about how WSO and the Board works. The Board would meet from Monday to do their work thru Friday. Then on the Saturday they would meet with local Area members. Areas were asked to submit two possible cities that could accommodate such an event. WSO then will review all submissions and those that met all the qualifications were placed in a hat (literally) and a name would be drawn to see what city that would be the Host City. Previous places were at St. John’s Newfoundland in July 2014 and in Edmonton, Alberta in July 2015. (It was moved to October 2016 to account for the fact that the July board Meeting would have too many new Board Members and they would be learning their jobs). I submitted Buffalo and Syracuse as possible cities where we could hold such event. (Please do not panic as this will be an Area Event and the Host Committee will not have to be from that those Districts). Our only commitment would be to publicize the event, collect the Registration Money and to provide transportation for the Trustee to the Hotel (all suggested Hotel HAVE complementary Airport Shuttles). The Board would plan their meeting and all sessions on Saturday, The Host City will be announced in December 2015. (See page 25 of Conference Summary if you have any more questions (available on WSO Website.)

ALATEEN

- “The Board of Trustee continues its discussions on the Current Alateen Model and whether this is meeting the needs of the teens. There is concern that many of us misunderstood this discussion during the Open Board meeting at Conference and discussions on e-communities. **The focus was on finding ways to encourage more attendance and participation by teen to insure the future of Alateen. However the Board does not want to make assumption and has asked for feedback from teens, Sponsors and AMIIAS as to where to go with this. “ (July Board of Trustee letter)** Delegates were contacted and asked to submit questions that we thought could be put in a Survey to help us answer some of these questions and at a future date this survey would be sent out to Alateen Groups, AMIIAS and possible to the general membership. I have been communicating with the Alateen Coordinator regarding possible Survey Questions that we might have and discovered many of the questions we had expressed were also some that the teens have share with us and that many Delegate express on the e-communities. This subject will continue to be discussed by the Delegates and the Board of Trustees. I will keep you posted.

In July I received a letter from the Chairman of the Board of Trustees giving us the following information:

“The Board approved their goal that AFG, Inc. Board of Trustees will raise the fellowship awareness of the Trustees’ relationship to the Al-Anon groups and WSC, while articulating and expressing the “why’ of the Board’s work. The Board will try to do this by providing Quarterly Board, Policy and Finance Committee Meetings. In turn we as Delegates are supposed to forward this on to DR who will pass it on to GR’s and the GR’s to group members. “

However I did not did do this so I have sent it out to you very recently (Sept. 3, 2015). Please accept my apologies Please let me share with you today some of the information in this letter.

Policy Update (from B.O.T. July letter)

Judy Kirby, Chairperson, Policy Committee

“Since the April 2015 World Service Conference (WSC), the Policy Committee continues to work on preparing language requested by the Conference regarding a one-time memorial contribution. This memorial contribution is from a family member of a deceased Al-Anon member when the donor is not a member of Al-Anon. A full discussion on this topic is available in the recently published 2015 World Service Conference Summary, available electronically online or by ordering a hard copy. (Pages54-59) The Policy Committee also continues to review sections in the Service Manual on finances as well as announcing events, including which ones can and cannot be announced at meetings. The goal is to use language that has more clarity and includes Al-Anon’s spiritual principles.”

FINANCE UPDATE

Jennie M., Treasurer

- The following update is based on the unaudited financial statements for the period ended June 30, 2015. The General Fund recorded a loss of \$54,971 for the period, compared to a loss of \$976 for the first six months of last year. Literature sales are lower than last year by \$217,535 and contributions are lower by \$9,108. Forum subscriptions fell behind last year by \$5,508. In total, income is lower by \$188,823 compared to this period last year.

Income:

- Literature sales at June 30 totaled \$1,851,530, compared to \$2,069,065 at June 30, 2014, a decrease of 10.51%. Gross profit on literature sales was \$1,546,665 (84% of sales), compared to \$1,639,391 (79% of sales) last year, a decrease of 5.66%. Contributions are \$727,290 so far this year, compared to \$735,398 at this time last year—a decrease of 1.24%. Forum subscription income is \$115,319 this year, compared to \$120,827 last year—a decrease of 4.56%.

- Income is falling behind projected income for the first six months of the year. A Conference decision supported the idea of working to increase contributions rather than relying on transfers from the Reserve Fund. As of June 30, 2015, contributions are 42.78% of budget, falling below the 50% mark as we are halfway through the year.

Expenses:

- Operating expenses are \$2,469,500 so far this year, compared to \$2,603,688 last year—a decrease of 5.15%.
- Expenses are somewhat below budget, due in large part because some staff positions remain unfilled.

Reserve Fund:

- The fair value of investments in the Reserve Fund totaled \$5,306,436 at June 30, 2015. This amount includes an unrealized gain of \$777,019. 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, may be transferred to the General Fund, however the budgeted transfer amount is \$65,000.

Budget

- The 2015 World Service Conference approved a deficit budget. Conference members believed that there are services needed from the World Service Office (WSO) that require additional personnel, one year's operating expense is necessary in the Reserve Fund, and recognition that the cost of services has increased while the Budget has essentially remained flat for the last ten years (adjusted according to inflation). Conference members discussed the spiritual principles of abundance and trust. There were many suggestions offered to offset the deficit. These included identifying the services groups receive from the WSO, clarifying that the quarterly appeal letter is an appeal to individual members, and making it easier for members to contribute. By now I'm sure you have seen the "Contribute Now" button on the Member's Web site.

Therefore, the question for the quarterly Delegate/Trustee call comes from the Finance Committee.

WHAT STRATEGIES CAN OUR AREA SUGGEST TO IDENTIFY AS A WAYS TO CLOSE THE BUDGET DEFICIT?

PLEASE THINK ABOUT THIS TODAY AND GIVE ME SOME FEEDBACK IN ORDER FOR ME TO GET BACK TO THE Trustees with our ideas (need before September 25th.)

I was fortunate to be one of the Volunteers to man the AFG Public Outreach Booth at the New York State Fair and hope you got a chance to participate to carry the Message in this way. I enjoy being a part of this project any hope we are able to do it again next year. Let it Begin with Me!! (US).

I have brought **paper copies of the 2015 Conference Summary** to those District Representatives who did not pick them up at the August AWSC. GR and others members can read this summary on the WSO Members Web page (it is listed under Service Structures/ District Resources.)

At this time of year many Districts chose new District Representatives If there has been any changes since the Spring Assembly (names of DR, phone numbers addresses, e-mail address or e-buddy information) please contact me today or by Monday of Next week so that I can make my quartly updates with WSO. This is how WSO communicates and it is no longer by snail mail.

And finally (yes you can wake up that sleepyhead next to you) **AFG CONNECT** has been rolled out by WSO to the Board of Trustees and Delegates at this time. This is our new e-communities. They are working out the bugs and soon it will be available to District Representatives. They are hoping that by spring time it will be available to CMA to receive the e-news and possible all members to subscribe (this is a work in progress stay tune and check the Member's Website for more information.

Enjoy the rest of the Day and thank you for your Service!!!!

Diane C.
New York North Area 39 Delegate
Panel 55