

BOARD MISSION STATEMENT

Anticipate the future and Al-Anon's place in it and ensure that the necessary resources are available.

July 2015

Dear Al-Anon and Alateen Members,

I'm feeling so much gratitude and love. In July the Board of Trustees and Executive Committee members, volunteers, traveled to Nisku, Alberta for a Board meeting and the second "Meet the Board" event. During the Meet the Board event, the interaction was heart-warming and the smiles contagious. By the end of the day, the hugs and camaraderie were palpable. We got to know each other. The volunteers got to hear from Alberta/Northwest Territory members on topics that are relevant to worldwide Al-Anon. These conversations are similar to "big questions" that are discussed at the World Service Conference in that we think beyond our group, district and Area. The Alberta/Northwest Territory members got to hear about the work of the Board, Executive and Policy Committees, other committees, and work groups of the Board. The deadline for submitting an Area request to host the 2016 Meet the Board event is due at the World Service Office by **September 15, 2015**.

The Board week began with discussions on our legal and fiduciary responsibilities as contained in our Bylaws, Conference Charter, and Concepts Six, Seven, and Eight as well as our role as Board members. This conversation provided enhanced clarity and leadership to the work of the Board. We discussed our individual communication and work styles in order to integrate the variety of styles to do the work of Al-Anon.

During the Strategic Planning session, the Board approved our goal:

The AFG Inc. Board of Trustees will raise the fellowship's awareness of the Trustees' relationship to the Al-Anon groups and WSC, while articulating and expressing the "why" of the Board's work.

We are in the process of identifying many ways to achieve this goal. One way is starting with this letter which provides updates from the quarterly Board, Policy and Finance

Committee meetings. As you may have noted, this letter is addressed to all Al-Anon and Alateen members – not just Conference members. In following the links of service, this letter is distributed first to Conference members. We hope that Delegates will forward this letter to your Area officers and

District Representatives. Accordingly, we hope the District Representative will forward to the Group Representative. Finally, we hope the Group Representatives share this letter with the members of the groups. Please note that the Chairperson of the Board letter is posted to the Member's Web site once translated in Spanish and French.

The Conference Leadership Team reported that evaluations from the 2015 World Service Conference (WSC) were very positive. The new language/process for floor motions worked well; the policy on the use of electronic devices for note-taking was properly applied; and the extended lunch time, breakout sessions, and Finance Committee Presentation were appreciated. Sharing Area Highlights is a Delegate facilitated session and proposed changes are being determined by the Delegates. The Board excitedly approved next year's Conference theme;

World Service Conference 2016—Realizing our Spiritual Potential

In response to the Delegate question “What topic would you like to see on the 2016 agenda?” proposed in the May Chairperson of the Board letter, the Conference Leadership Team received an abundance of ideas – significantly more suggestions than ever submitted for Chosen Agenda Items! The Conference Leadership Team and Board are reviewing these topics for possible additional sessions at the 2016 WSC. Finally, Delegates, whose term ends in 2015 and are participating on Board task forces, may continue to do so up to the 2016 World Service Conference.

The 2016 International Al-Anon General Service Meeting will be held in Rome, Italy in 2016.

The Board approved the theme:

Sharing Worldwide Diversity – Strengthening Our Growth

The Board reviewed the proposed descriptive text for Concept 11. This text will be sent to Conference members in 2016. Delegates will have an opportunity to review the proposed text, discuss with their Area, answer Area member's questions/concerns, and forward only those they are unable to answer to the Board for consideration. The 2016 WSC will resume review of proposed text from where discussion ended at the 2015 WSC.

The Board is continuing to review and draft clarification to the World Service Handbook based on feedback from Delegates received following the November 2014 Chairperson of the Board letter. As extensive suggestions were proposed, this will be on-going project of the Board.

The Board adopted the Search Committee Process and Procedure for Director of Business Services as presented by a task force.

The Board discussed feedback from the "Board Big Question" and breakout sessions at Conference. The following notable ideas were considered:

- Use webinars to assist in orientation of new Delegates to the role and responsibilities of being a Conference member
 - Modify the orientation held on the first day of Conference to better prepare new Delegates while enhancing understanding of worldwide Al-Anon and how decisions made at Conference affect the fellowship
 - Use contemporary language to engage younger members
 - Clarify the purpose of the Delegate calls and sharing the information with the Area
 - Provide publicity on the Alateen chat rooms
- Please see the World Service Conference Summary pages 38 – 42 for more details on the conversation. We hope your Area has held discussions on the six topics.

The Board continued the discussion on the Alateen model and whether this is meeting the needs of the teens. Concern was expressed that some members have misunderstood this discussion from the Open Board Meeting at Conference and discussions on e-Communities.

The focus was on finding ways to encourage more attendance and participation by teens to ensure the future of Alateen. This may mean adaptations in technology, literature, etc. However, the Board did not want to make assumptions and provide direction to the World Service Office without consulting broadly. Hence, the conversation began at Conference and continues at each Board meeting until we figure out the right questions to ask and receive specific guidance from the teens.

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 did your Area identify as a way to close the deficit budget?

We would like to gather those ideas and share them with all World Service Delegates. This Delegate/Trustee call is an opportunity to answer questions about the content of this letter and gather information from the Area's perspective. If you prefer not to have the Trustee phone you, please let him/her know when the initial contact is made. In order for Delegate comments to be reviewed by the Board of Trustees at the quarterly Board meeting in October, we need to receive your response to the above question before **September 30, 2015**.

I hope you are saving up for Al-Anon's Sixth International Convention to be held in Baltimore, Maryland July 6 – 8, 2018. It is an exciting time to meet friends and family from around the world as we share stories of courage and wisdom related to living with and loving an alcoholic on this journey in recovery.

Yours in Al-Anon service,

Paula Burleson
Chairperson, Board of Trustees
Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc.

2016 World Service Conference Theme: Realizing Our Spiritual Potential

Reconociendo nuestro potencial espiritual Reconnaître notre potentiel spirituel

Judy Kirby, Chairperson, Policy Committee

The purpose of the Policy update, sent each quarter by the Chair of the Policy Committee, is to report progress and provide information regarding the following:

- Topics discussed by the Policy Committee that are generated by the fellowship and need clarification or interpretation in light of the Tradition and Concepts
- Pending policy motions presented to the World Service Conference (WSC)
- Policy motions passed by the WSC

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. The Policy Committee also continues to review sections in the Service Manual on finance 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

July 2015

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.