

New Beginnings! There is No Standing Still!

As Delegate I've pondered what to include in my first report to the AWSC. I have my role as an officer of the NYN Area AWSC, as the Current WSC Member representing our NYN Area to the World Service Conference and other duties as they present themselves. So that's how I'll format my report.

New York North:

The Delegate gets the AFG Connects emails for all the coordinator positions, I am not going to repeat their reports of happenings in those branches of service. As I read them if I find something I think is big or important I have sent the coordinator an email expressing my position.

I have been notified of two new and one vacancy of District Representatives in the NYN AWSC. I have composed welcome letters for the new DRs - Mary Jane O District 2 and Kathleen D District 12. And I notified the Group Representatives in District 6 of the DR vacancy with information about the link to the NYN web site and WSO website to keep their groups informed. There are currently 5 districts without a DR: 4 5 6 11 and 20. Any ideas on what we might do?

One of my goals as Delegate isto have more communications at and between all levels of service. We have an wonderful ongoing New GR orientation. How about developing one for New DR's?

An item for consideration by the NYN Area is from an email I received just March 21st. A discussion we'll begin at Conference this year concerns an article appearing in the August 2016 issue of *The Forum*, and the numerous requests received by the fellowship to use it as the basis for a new bookmark. There are documents outlining the background information and the KBDM format for the discussion. I would like to review this with the AWSC and with the spring assembly so that I can get feedback from members in NYN.

The 2018 International Convention is looking for volunteers. See the "Getting Hands On" email from WSO dated 3/14/18. You just click on a survey to volunteer.

The WSC:

I participated in a WSO Conference Call for New Members on January 18th. It covered conference etiquette, reviewed the KBDM process, and answered any questions the new delegates had.

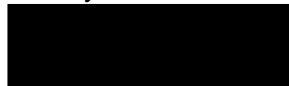
The World Service Conference is the annual business meeting of AI-Anon Family Groups. The Conference provides guidance to the WSO in service matters brought to its attention. It is the practical means by which the group conscience can speak; it is the

voice of world AI-Anon and the guarantee that our world services shall continue to carry on under all conditions

The World Service Conference Members has 67 Delegates, 19 Trustees, 7 Executive Committee Members and WSO Staff members. 2/3 of the WSC is made of the Delegates representing the AI-Anon Family Groups. The WSC will be held in a few weeks April 15-21, 2018 in Westchester, NY.

If anyone wants the address of the hotel location, please include **(Hold for WSC 4/16-4/20, 2018)** in the address and to put the delegate's name and address in the return address section of the envelope or box in the event that mail delivery is delayed. Please plan to have mail arrive after April 13th.

Return address: Molly C.



Hotel address: (Hold for WSC 4/16-4/20, 2018)
Renaissance Westchester Hotel
80 W. Red Oak Ln.
West Harrison, NY 10604

I started getting conference materials via emails in AFG Connects:

Documents for review before WSC including a Preliminary Budget 2017 Audit Reports, Operating Expenses, Finances.

Information for the area:

How Can My Area Participate at a TEAM (Together Empowering AI-Anon Members) Event? A TEAM event is a partnership between an Area(s) and the World Service Office (WSO), with the aim of providing an opportunity for AI-Anon and Alateen members to learn more about service and the AI-Anon program. The Area and WSO Task Force work together to plan an agenda of workshops and presentations that address the Area's specific needs and expand members' understanding of our worldwide fellowship. TEAM Events are sponsored by the Area(s) and the WSO. TEAM events will begin again in 2019 after the International this year. Is this something NYN Area would like to do? Information and application will be posted on the web site.

2017 Area 39 NYN Group Donations to WSO Total \$1,297.00. I have a breakout of group donations.

Chosen Agenda Items Submitting Chosen Agenda Item (CAI) topics for discussion has been an important tradition of the Conference for many years. The purpose of the CAIs is to give Conference members an opportunity to select ideas and issues of concern that affect AI-Anon groups and members worldwide.

The 2018 Conference Leadership Team (CLT) has scheduled time on the Conference agenda for Conference members to discuss **four** Chosen Agenda Items. Two CAIs will be discussed in the General Session on the Conference floor. In addition, Conference members will discuss two of three other topics in small group breakout sessions during Conference week.

This year's conference agenda selected items follow. I'd appreciate any feedback you can offer.

#3 Chosen Agenda Item

CAI: When does group autonomy end and an issue begins affecting another group or Al-Anon or A.A. as a whole?

Al-Anon as a whole is being affected by several group practices especially sponsorship that involves dominance, intimidation (even physical), telling people how to live their lives, and following them. Some mental health professionals have complained that their clients are getting sicker after attending such groups. Does Al-Anon want to continue allowing these groups to be registered? Do we need to change this in order to go forward?

CAI: Where does group autonomy end when an issue is affecting another group or Al-Anon or A.A. as a whole?

Al- Al-Anon as a whole is being affected by group practices that involve dominance, physical intimidation, direct advice and stalking members. Some mental health professionals have complained that clients are getting sicker after attending such groups. Al-Anon portrays itself as a safe haven for families affected by alcoholism. When repeated attempts to educate these groups via Do Not List policies have been circumvented, should Al-Anon continue allowing these groups to be registered?

CAI: Disruptive members/newcomers, mentally ill members who prey on newcomers as well.

A member who is very interested and dedicated to recovery was approached by a gentleman who had more than a casual interest in fellowship when she was very new. She is afraid to attend any functions other than a regular closed meeting.

CAI: Welcoming and giving comfort to families of alcoholics.

Our primary purpose guides us in retaining newcomers and regular members. Specific examples would help share experience, strength and hope. What can we do as a fellowship to keep the "middle" members'

attendance strong?

#1 Chosen Agenda Item

CAI: How do we instill enthusiasm and positivity for leadership positions in our program?

This is important to me because without leadership, Al-Anon will stand still. Who will be there to "Carry the Message"?

CAI: What kind of new and ongoing training does your Area have for District Representatives?

Currently we have transition weekends for the AWSC at the beginning of a new panel to "pass the torch" as well as DR sharing meetings at Assemblies for ongoing training. Some DRs utilize Service Sponsors. Does your Area have a structured training session? Is DR training/sharing included during Assemblies? If so, what does that include, when do you hold those meetings, etc.?

CAI: How are non-English-speaking members encouraged to be involved in District and Area Meetings?

Districts include both non-English-speaking and English-speaking members. Translators and/or translating equipment is not always available at District and Area meetings. Experience is needed on handling translation needs, if English-speaking and non-English-speaking groups are combined within the District/Area. What are the disadvantages/advantages of separate non-English-speaking Districts within the Area? Currently, non-English-speaking members in our Area are primarily Spanish-speaking.

CAI: Service beyond the group level.

Members who are incoming GRs, (*Service Manual* 2018-2021, page 150) who stand for the position of DR with scarcity of experience above the group level. It would seem that this policy as it stands could encourage by eligibility members to stand as an Officer and possibly Delegate with very little experience. For example, an Alternate DR who was DR for two Assemblies could stand for Officer/Delegate. Is this a disservice to allow members who have no experience to serve?

CAI: What are the Links of Service, and are they working?

If members, groups and Districts are not being represented, are the Links of Service working? How can we strengthen the Links of Service?

CAI: Complacency and accountability above the group level.

Our Area would like to do inventory of Officers, AWSC, Assembly and Action Committees. It was posted on AFG Connects and received no responses. We can only change ourselves, so letting it begin with me seems to start with an inventory. We have members in recovery who are new or do not follow policy/procedures. How we can look at ourselves and go forward and not stand still by looking at our past?

CAI: How are we addressing the issue of our membership aging and younger members not wanting to be in service?

What plans does our leadership have for making our program attractive to the younger members who cannot or will not serve above the group level? Such as daycare issues, work schedules, time constraints.

I have been assigned to the Workshop—**How to Chair a Dynamic Breakout Session**during the conference. This could benefit NYN!

The mentor assigned to me is Norma F from Alberta And Northwest Territories in Canada. I can't wait to meet her during registration.

NERD

The North East Regional Delegates conference was held March 9-11, 2018. I got to meet some of the new, current and past Delegates from the areas in the Northeastern USA and Canada and to hear the NERT – North Eastern Regional Trustee report. I heard tips for new delegates regarding travel, packing, attitudes, and taking care of myself during conference.

Discussion included using technology to enhance area service at all levels. Tools mentioned were

Eventbrite – for registration, confirmation, rosters, name tags and other tasks for assemblies.

Web ex – for conference calls, virtual meetings use of committees awsc thought forces, etc.

SLACK – Searchable Log of All Conversations and Knowledge- a cloud based proprietary team tools like instant messaging

Survey Monkey- to gather information for events or select options from a list. We have already used this with the AWSC Revisioning Committee.

Mail Chimp- a mass email tool maybe for use for Groups without a district representative.

Paypal or Square – for ease in payments for assemblies or donations to the area.

NERT (North East Regional Delegate) Report

Joan S, our North East Regional Trustee urged members to sign up for the Day of Connecting on July 5th the day prior to the start of the 2018 International in Baltimore. There are only 1500 spots open. There will be panels, speakers and round table discussions.

She spoke of the emerging technology in use by WSO. The new member web site, still updating, is no longer password protected, They are using technology in new ways. No longer printing paper and filling binders for WSC attendees, they are using a new e doc platform.

It's time to start applying to host TEAM events for 2019. I have the application process to post on the web site.

There are annual vacancies at WSO to be filled. The NERT position needs to be filled for 2018. The résumé for Trustees at Large and Regional Trustee candidates is available electronically to Conference members on AFG Connects/WSC Members/Forms, Do we have the next NERT in our midst? Area applicants have to file by August 15, 2018.

The 2023 International Al-Anon Convention is being held in Albuquerque, New Mexico

Thoughts:

So far so good. My experience? Al-Anon runs the same at every level. The members are welcoming, helpful and willing to listen and help.

Peace...
Molly C
NYN Delegate
Panel 58