

OPENING [00-2018WSCPster](#)

Off I went for a whirlwind week at the WSC – World Service Conference in West Harrison, NY. I drove and had a nervous tummy all the way. What if I don't know enough? Or make a mistake? Or I can't keep up? I have performance anxiety. So I suffer from this disease of being "terminally unique" and everyone will find out. Stop – a moment of silence. Say a prayer – the Serenity Prayer. Enjoy where I am, what I'm doing. I love to drive. It is a beautiful day. I park in the lot. There, pulling in next to me – the New Panel 58 Delegate from Delaware – Kim who I met at NERD. HP answers and gives me what I need. Amazing! Why am I still surprised? I don't know but I am.

WSO provided everything I needed. They posted all required documents to the AFG Connects site, a what to bring, what to pack what may be useful items list, a schedule of events, a app to download to use at the conference with schedules, room assignments, facility maps, messaging, and we found out on day 5 - voting capabilities. What was I worried about?

And yes I made mistakes, had moments where I couldn't keep up, felt like I didn't know enough. But I had a Mentor – Norma F from Alberta and Northwest Canada. An Al-Anon gift – a loving fellow member, human just like me. There is no standing still and I am never alone – I'm blessed.

Following registration and receiving a packet of detailed information of everything you need to know about conference and a Monday morning orientation for new delegates we jumped right in to conference.

Breakfast was at 7 AM. All business during the day from 8 am to at least 7:30 PM, we had breaks for some fabulous food. The last agenda item Monday through Thursday was **Unanswered Questions/Reflections** for 45 minutes. Anyone could get up at the microphone and ask questions about anything that was covered at conference so far or give a personal reflection. It was my personal part of the day.

Each new Panel comes up with a personal saying or slogan that aligns with the principles of the Al-Anon program. Tuesday night Panel 58 – the NEWBEES – Panel 58 met and came up with 'PANEL 58 – WE PARTICIPATE!' Truly – There is no standing still

CONFERENCE GOALS [01a-BOT Goals for the Conference.pptx](#)

The Conference, Al-Anon's largest group conscience, will act in the spirit of unity and goodwill to assure that Al-Anon's world services are continually available to the Al-Anon fellowship.

Goal One: The spiritual tone of the Conference will prevail by the demonstration of Al-Anon's core principles in action.

Goal Two: The Conference will provide guidance to Al-Anon's Board of Trustees and the World Service Office (WSO) on services to the fellowship and guardianship of Al-Anon's Twelve Traditions.

Goal Three: Conference members will understand the purpose of the Conference, relationships within the Structure, and be able to articulate Conference discussions and decisions.

Throughout the conference attendees cited specific Al-Anon Tradition and Concept of Service used as the guiding principle of their experiences, comments, strengths or ideas. It was amazing.

CONFERENCE THEME **02a-Conference Theme Slide**

The Conference theme lays the foundation for the tone of the WSC. It encourages members to use the Legacies of the Al-Anon program to empower members to success in service. Many of the breakouts, discussions and items in the agenda build from this. Even the three-minute talks by the outgoing panel of Delegates may build from this. So, it "sets the stage." The Conference theme keeps us all moving in the same direction.

This year's theme is an excerpt from a statement made by our Co-founder Lois W., "Al-Anon—there is no standing still!" This is saying to me "we are always changing, continuing to grow," and we need to reach the millions who need Al-Anon's help but are not aware of us yet. It is a reminder and a call to action for every member.

Our Board's Mission Statement speaks to this: "Anticipate the future and Al-Anon's place in it and ensure that the necessary resources are available."

The Strategic Plan Priorities state, "Al-Anon's spiritual principles permeate our policies and practices; we apply emerging technology and communication options:

- To increase the visibility of Al-Anon so that it is recognized as the number one resource through out the world for helping friends and families of alcoholics.
- To empower the Al-Anon fellowship to be vibrant, inclusive and flexible.
- To achieve a viable future for Al-Anon Family Groups, the Board will be adaptive and strategic in its use of talents, skills and abilities."

CONFERENCE MAKEUP – 92 voting members

World Service Conference (WSC) members include one elected Delegate (69) from each Assembly Area representing the Al-Anon/Alateen Family Groups in 3 regions of Canada and the 6 regions in the United States and it's Territories. – Bermuda and Puerto Rico,. plus the

Executive Committee and Board of Trustees who handle legal and financial issues, and the voting members of the World Service Office administrative staff. (The 1985 WSC voted to make the Conference member ratio two-thirds Delegates to one-third staff and volunteers).

The WSC also includes non-voting participants: the Director of Finance, International Representatives from other structures and select staff members (non voting, who deal with everyone – members and the public and thus are aware of the current concerns and issues.) who attend as observers. Seating of these individuals is recommended to the Board of Trustees by the Conference Leadership Team.

All GSOs –General Service Office of International Structures are invited to send a representative to observe the WSC at their own expense. This year from members from Denmark and Mexico accepted.

All Conference participants have assigned seats in the General Session room. This purposeful arrangement accommodates any special needs and duties of members, also serves as a way to confirm that all participants are present. –

MOTION #1 – (92 YES, 0 no, 0 abstentions, 0 void) – CARRIED

That the following persons be seated at the 2018 World Service Conference.

With voice, but no vote:

Niketa B. Director of Finance and Operations Associate Director, Non-Al--Anon Member

Scot P. Associate Director—Digital Strategy , Non-Al--Anon Member

Ann W. International Representative—Denmark , Al-Anon Member

Gabriela Patricia O. G. International Representative—Mexico, Al-Anon Member

With voice limited to Executive Committee for Real Property Management (ECRPM) business, but no vote:

Jeffrey K. Chairperson, ECRPM Al--Anon Member

INTRODUCTION OF NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – VALI F

I have a document of Vali’s address in full if you’d like to read it. ([04-2018 Conference Introduction—Vali](#)). She is serving a ten year term comes from a retail background. I think the quote below summarizes her vision of her role as Executive director.

“Just as in the retail environment, those who successfully **navigate this delicate balance between existing and future members can be seen to do so not only because they are adaptive and strategic in their use of resources but also because they maintain their underlying values, which for us, of course, means our spiritual principles.** And so it is, that I have come to Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc. to **support and guide** the Staff in transforming the vision and priorities of the Board of Trustees into tangible solutions and plans while

maintaining focus on our underlying spiritual principles, honoring our past while embracing our future. ...

That's what is so wonderful about being a part of AFG, Inc. at this point in history. Staff, Board, and Executive Committee are participating in both embracing the new and respecting the old. Isn't that an inspiring message for us as Conference Members who are only a day away from visiting Stepping Stones where so many of our foundations were formed. It was Lois who said "There is No Standing Still" -- the theme of our Conference. She was a visionary as are all Conference Members here this week.

We can all expect more "new" to come. As Staff, we are committed to exploring all **new opportunities to reach and attract potential members**, from reaching out to unregistered Facebook groups to begin conversations and seek understanding, to enabling monitored comments on social media posts. We are committed to learning, so we can make our "thoughtful estimates" and share information with the Board of Trustees in its legal and visionary role. Our previous surveys provided data that showed our membership was aging and preliminary results of this most recent Membership Survey suggest the same. We cannot deny this reality nor as Bill-W. said in Concept Nine, "cast the job of planning for tomorrow onto the fatuous idea of Providence." Within the context of our Legacies as protected through conversation with the Board and Conference, we will continue to explore new avenues to reach those who have not yet found us.."

TASK FORCE: Celebrating Our Differences and Our Common Purpose a Three Act Play **05a-Celebrating Our Differences.pptx**

A **task force** is a temporary unit of people established to work on a single deFined task or activity. It uses available resources such as perspective of members of the task force and staff knowledge. ... A task force may fulfill the recommendations made by a thought force. Task forces are the "doers."

For many years, the World Service Conference (WSC) has been discussing topics via a spiritually based approach to more effectively communicate information to the membership. At the 2016 World Service Conference, there was a Presentation Task Force: Acceptance of Communities, Cultures, and Beliefs. As a result, Conference members requested additional ways in which to identify the spiritual principles that can be applied when looking at how our own biases limit our ability to accept and welcome all potential and current members, families and friends of alcoholics. The Power Point presentation – Celebrating Our Differences and Our Common Purpose a Three act Play

Individual Inventory Handout and Exercise [05b-Celebrating our Differences Handout](#)

Our Task Force determined that we wanted to share some type of tool with the membership that would utilize our spiritual principles, help each member assess their own personal biases and identify opportunities to “celebrate our differences and our common purpose.” The handout was developed for that reason.

STEPPING STONES VISIT - Wednesday morning. [Stepping Stones05/18/18 - photos](#)

Stepping Stones is the Wilsons' cozy Dutch Colonial, three-bedroom home built in 1920 as a summer cottage. It sits in the middle of rolling, wooded country, with its barn-like gambrel roof and cinder-block studio. The air is sweet with blooming forsythia, almost as if bread is baking inside, but no one has lived here since Lois died at age 97 in 1988.

The six buildings on the eight-acre Stepping Stones homestead are intact and unified.

Among the highlights:

- A large living room dominated by a stone fireplace and wall-length French doors.
- A collection of antiques, glassware, china, photographs, printed materials and musical instruments of the Wilsons, including Bill's cello and Lois's piano, which visitors were encouraged to play, but now are off limits for the sake of preservation.
- A porcelain-topped table in the kitchen where Bill W. first discussed with a newly sober friend the importance of trusting the God of one's own understanding.
- A winding stair leading to the second-floor library, which has been preserved as Lois Wilson left it when she died in 1988. Lois's desk in the home's upstairs library is where, in 1951, Lois Wilson organized the first Al-Anon groups.

The house is as Lois left it: wall lengths of books stacked five shelves high, scores of grandmotherly collections, a gallery's worth of photos and framed proclamations by dignitaries ranging from Pope Paul VI to President Eisenhower.

Outside:

- The garden and its surroundings include antique roses and fruit trees. Bushes and trees grace the hillside.
- Bill Wilson's homemade backyard studio named *Wit's End* has a picture window and the desk where he wrote four books about the A.A. experience.
- The two-car garage is now turned into a Welcome Center, which has an orientation display, restrooms, and a gift shop. Much of the archival material previously stored in a small hallway is now on display, and the Center is a place to more appropriately welcome visitors.

- The Annual Lois's Family Group Picnic is held on the grounds every year in June (this year will be its 67th).

Stepping Stones is managed by a foundation that Lois Wilson formed in 1979, eight years after Bill's death. Stepping Stones is an important historic site for Al-Anon and is designated as a State and National Historic Place.

The personal reflections this evening were very emotional. Many attendees mentioned a feeling of being home. They shared how it felt to sit at Lois's piano and play music, to sit at the kitchen table where so many meetings were held – the first one's, to walk in the yard where they still hold picnics, to or sit at Bill W's desk where he wrote his books. There were no mugs, but there must have been 200 cups of all sizes and patterns in Lois's kitchen. The people who volunteer at Stepping Stones are well versed in the history of the property and it's occupants and are eager to share it with everyone.

GROUP RECORDS

By eliminating the password on the member web site and redirecting member information to AFG Connects 4-6 weeks time is saved to Find A Meeting online group registrations and updates.

Meetings are the most important outreach tool. It must be accurate to work. As Barney Pfife says "Knip it! Knip it in the bud!" Please take the time and check the information for your home group for accuracy.

There is an increase in registered Alateen Groups for the first time in 5 years!

LITERATURE & TRANSLATION

Al-Anon is a trilingual – English, French and Spanish. Translation continues for existing pieces of literature. Any new Conference approved literature is to be released when translations are completed.

Hope & Understanding for Parents & Grandparents (P-94)

Translation of this new pamphlet has been completed in time for it to be introduced this week at the Conference in English, French and Spanish. The pamphlet will be available to the fellowship in May for \$.75. We were all given a copy.

The translation timeline has been set for the Spanish and French versions of the new book ***Intimacy in Alcoholic Relationships—A collection of Al-Anon personal stories (B-33)*** 144 pages for \$11.00. : Shipments to members will begin in February 2019.

A commemorative edition of One Day At A Time in Al-Anon (ODAT) (B6-50) including

a bookmark, front cover indicating 50th Anniversary, a limited print will first be available at the 2018 International Al-Anon Convention. A bookplate to be offered only at the 2018 International

There will be corrections posted on the WSO website for any updates and corrections to the new service manual for print and pasting into sold copies with omissions or errors. Any new copies will have a version Number assigned.

2019 Calendar Quotations

For the last six years, the WSO has provided CAL quotations that could be used by service arms in fundraising calendars without seeking written permission. In March the WSO posted 20 quotations for use in 2019 calendars on the Announcements community of AFG Connects. If service arms submit reprint permission requests for use in calendars, they will be asked to select from the 20 quotations instead.

MOTION #6 – (71 YES, 17 no, 2 abstentions, 2 void) – CARRIED

That the 2018 World Service Conference give conceptual approval to develop a bookmark based on an August 2016 *Forum* article titled “Just for Tonight” using inclusive language.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

A WSO 2017 PSA won the TOPS 5% Award for 2017. There will be 3 released in 2019. Check with the NYN Public Outreach Coordinator Connie D on how to have a PSA send to your local station by WSO for free.

Membership Surveys completed increased from 8,500 in 2017 to over 13,000 in 2018.
Way to go!

ROAD TRIP – [09b-2018RoadTrip_Invitation](#)

Road Trip is a unique opportunity to meet all the current Board and Executive Committee members in one place, at one time. This event is an opportunity for your Trustees and Executive Committee members to share their personal recovery and their current service roles in an intimate setting with you.

In looking ahead for 2019, today you will receive the invitation and request form designed by our WSO Graphic Designer.

We are happy to tell you...this is the Road Trip location for 2018—you do not want to miss this event. East Texas will be hosting on October 20th, and is inviting each of you to attend. Mark your calendars!

In looking ahead for 2019, today you will receive the invitation and request form designed by our WSO Graphic Designer. The invitation includes everything you need to know and everything you could possibly want to know about how to host Road Trip 2019 in your Area. Please remember, the Board will provide an agenda and content.

FINANCE UPDATE [08a-2018 Budget](#)

I have copies of the 2017 audit report and the 2018 Budget if anyone wants to review them. Generally the highlights are as follows.

CONTRIBUTIONS[08b-Contributions & Grp Expenses 2017 2016 copy](#)

Our Area -39NYN contributed \$18,922 in 2017 to WSO compared to \$20,703 in 2016. 60.5% of NY North groups contributed an average of \$108.75. This is lower than the \$283.00 WSO expenses per Al-Anon/Alateen Groups for 2017. These expenses include digital services, ie the internet is not free, interactive service manual, Paypal/ credit card costs for web site store, groups at work, find a meeting updates, translation services of literature. Forum and literature costs and sales are not part of group services expenses.

The following update is based on the audited financial statements for the period ended December 31, 2017: [08c-Al-Anon Financial Statements for 2018 WSC \(AUDIT\)](#)

The General Fund recorded a loss of \$66,499 for this period, compared to a gain of \$78,821 this period last year. That represents a net negative of \$145,320 over this period last year. Revenue from literature sales was \$53,583 ahead that of 2016, and beat budgeted expectations by \$68,460. The General Fund investment income totaled about \$49,000. We have transferred \$189,600 from the Reserve Fund to the General Fund, as budgeted.

Income:

Literature sales were \$3,523,843 for this period, compared to \$3,408,377 at this time last year, Gross profit on literature sales was \$2,770,868 (81% of sales), compared to \$2,785,602 for 2016. Contributions are at \$1,972,931 for 2017, compared to \$2,098,098 last year—a decrease of 6% and falling short of budgeted projections by \$127,000 for the

year. *Forum* subscriptions exceeded budgeted projections by an impressive \$14,000 in 2017, an increase of 5% over last year.

Expenses:

Actual operating expenses were \$5,278,530 for the year, compared to \$5,142,217 last year and slightly over budget. There were no surprises in any of the expense categories. Intense scrutiny of the expenditures throughout the year ensured that we would end the year close to budget.

Reserve Fund:

The fair value of investments in the Reserve Fund totaled \$6,556,475 at December 31, 2017, an increase in value of almost \$780,000 for this year reflecting the overall increased value found in the equities market.

Outlook:

Although we fell short of our budgeted amount for Contributions, literature sales were unexpectedly strong and allowed us to end with a relatively small deficit. We are encouraged that members understand the need and will continue to support the efforts of the World Service Office.

Highlights of the 2017 Audit [08c-AI-Anon Financial Statements for 2018 WSC.pdf](#)

At December 31, 2017, our World Service Office had total assets of \$10,513,794 and liabilities of \$1,866,960 leaving net assets of \$8,646,834 among three funds – General, Reserve, and Building. (Page 3)

In the General Fund, income from operations totaled \$5,212,031 in 2017 and expenses for the year were \$5,278,530. As a result, the General Fund Net Assets decreased by \$66,499. (Page 4)

A gross profit of \$2,770,868 was realized on literature sales and contributions for the year were \$1,972,931. *Forum* subscription income totaled \$264,461. (Page 4)

In October 2007 the Board of Trustees approved annual transfers of up to 4% of the average fair value of the Reserve Fund for the 36 months ended on December 31 of the prior year to the General Fund. For 2017 this equaled \$191,600. (Page 4)

A net increase of \$1,168,772 was recorded in the Reserve Fund Net Assets. The Reserve Fund income included realized and unrealized gains totaling \$568,902. Included in the increase is \$599,870 from estimated postretirement health benefits liability. (Page 4)

Building Fund expenses are charged to the General Fund as occupancy costs. A transfer of \$104,532 represents the occupancy costs for 2017. (Page 4)

MOTION #2 – (90 YES, 0 no, 0 abstentions, 1 void) – CARRIED

To end the three-year trial authorizing the use of electronic devices for note-taking starting at the 2015 World Service Conference and adopt the use of electronic devices at this and future World Service Conferences.

MOTION #3 – (91 YES, 0 no, 0 abstentions, 0 void) – CARRIED

To approve the 2017 Annual Report.

MOTION #4 – (91 YES, 0 no, 0 abstentions, 0 void) – CARRIED

To approve the 2017 Audited Financial Report.

MOTION #5 – (88 YES, 0 no, 0 abstentions, 3 void) – CARRIED

To approve the 2018 Finance Committee Report.

AREA RESERVE FUND WORKSHOP 11-Area Reserve Fund Presentation

Introduction: The World Service Office (WSO) has received questions from members related to the establishment, use, balance and investing of Area reserve funds. Even with existing resources (*Reserve Fund Guideline* (G-41), *Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual* (P-24/27), the Legacies) questions remain about an appropriate amount, use and management of finances. There are also concerns about whether an Area’s reserve fund is in keeping with the spiritual principles found in the Legacies.

The goal of this workshop is to start a conversation about the need, purpose, use and management of Area *reserve funds

Discussion Questions:

- In what ways is our money essentially held in reserve? E.g. savings account, checking account balance, CD, etc.?
- When does a *reserve fund become excessive?
- Why is having an ample *reserve fund considered a prudent financial principle?

VIRTUAL MEETINGS WORK GROUP 12-Policy Thought Force--Virtual Meetings

A thought force is a temporary unit of people established to brainstorm ideas and to develop strategies on a single defined task or activity. It uses the resources available such as perspective of members of the thought force and staff knowledge. For example,

a problem identified could be a lack of clarity regarding roles. Strategies that are suggested might include writing job descriptions (the idea, not the actual job description); components of a guideline; or adding text to a portion of the *Service Manual* to clarify. The objective is to identify the potential idea not to write the actual text itself. The thought force is not expected to have all the answers or to provide the final solutions. If there are facts that are unknown, they can be flagged in the KBDM question, “Things we don’t know but wish we did.” A thought force may lay the foundation for the work of a task force. Sometimes they offer recommendations resulting from their findings. A thought force presents its information to the originating body to move forward. Thought forces are “thinkers,” not “doers.”

1. From: al-anon.org website – Virtual Meetings

Al-Anon electronic meetings use different online platforms: discussion boards, email, chat, phone and Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP), such as Skype. Each meeting is autonomous in its style, format, and entry procedures and, like all Al-Anon meetings, agrees to abide by the spirit of the Twelve Traditions. Meetings focus on Al-Anon-related topics, and participants are required to maintain their personal anonymity.

Pictures of Al-Anon members and other pieces of personally identifying information are not posted in the meetings. Some participants may have email addresses specifically for the online Al-Anon meeting use and some use pseudonyms.

Each meeting may have its own entry procedures. Some online meetings have an email contact where a “greeter” will provide the newcomer with specific directions to access the meeting.

Meetings that don’t list a specific meeting time are held 24/7.

2. 2018-2021 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual (P-24/27), p. 27

In 2001, the WSO started registering online meetings, and in 2007, phone and other electronic meetings. Electronic meetings offered Al-Anon members a means of connecting and sharing the Al-Anon program regardless of location.

By 2018 there were over 25,000 groups in 133 countries and 107 electronic (digital, social media and phone) meetings.

To find electronic/virtual (EVM) meetings—go to the Al-Anon website, under the “Find a Meeting” tab/Virtual Meetings—the registered electronic meetings include the following:

- Bulletin Board/Secured Blog
- Email Meetings
- Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP) (Skype)
- Phone Meetings

3. 2018-2021 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual, pp. 88-89 — Electronic Meetings

The internet and other electronic telecommunications media are tools for carrying and sharing the Al-Anon program of hope and recovery around the world. These electronic meetings occur globally as well as locally without geographic restrictions. Consequently, electronic meetings do not have a Group Representative and are not a part of any structure. They do, however, have a meeting contact.

When electronic meetings form, they register with the World Service Office (WSO) in order to use the Al-Anon name. Upon registration, they receive support from and have their voices heard and represented through the WSO. Registered meetings may request a license from the WSO to use in text format the Steps, Traditions, Concepts of Service, Suggested Welcome, Suggested Closing and excerpts from Conference Approved Literature (CAL).

4. Today’s discussion is just a beginning. The electronic/virtual meetings have been registered and holding meetings since 2001.

Our discussion today will include some things we know about the meetings and some we wish we knew.

Looking at this slide you can see:

Face-to-face meetings have a service structure path of member-to-group-to-District-to-Area; and via the Delegate to WSC

Electronic/virtual meetings have a service structure of member-to-meeting-to-WSO; and via WSO Staff to WSC

Do the electronic/virtual meetings consider this adequate? We don’t know?

Face-to-face meetings have fixed geographic boundaries.

Members of electronic/virtual meetings have no geographic boundaries. They can be anywhere in the world. Email may be the only means of contact.

5. Some things to consider in our discussion:

How are they like a face-to-face meeting?

How are they different?

There are active members and “lurkers” (members who join and observe, but do not participate in the discussion) — Is this the same as members attending face-to-face meetings who choose to listen, but not share?

Different: After the meeting is registered, the form for reprint permission is sent to the Current Mailing Address (CMA) of the meeting. Reprint permission forms must be submitted annually. This may be difficult for an electronic, phone or social media meeting to comply with.

Same: The meeting cannot happen when the person with the “key” for the meeting room doesn’t show up. For the electronic/virtual meeting, when the person with the login doesn’t show up, the meeting cannot happen.

Our Work Group members have done some outreach to a few EVM members to allow them share some of their thoughts.

(Note: EVM members will come to the microphones to start the discussion with quotes from the EVM members' comments to the Work Group)

We will now open the floor for discussion.

<END>

EIGHTH TRIENNIAL REPORT ON REAL PROPERTY OWNERSHIP **13-Eighth**
Triennial ECRPM Report.

In 1994, the World Service Conference passed Motion #12, which empowered the Board of Trustees to purchase property for Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc. This purchase of real property was for a trial period of fifteen years and contingent on several conditions. (Further background information available on full report on request)

1. Has ownership of property been financially feasible?

The Board of Trustees reports that ownership of property has been a very good step financially. Al-Anon Family Groups Headquarters, Inc. received tax-exempt financing and thus a lower rate of interest due to non-profit status. A savings of approximately \$446,000 this year has been realized by owning property vs. leasing it in Virginia. *Now that the mortgage is paid in full, the gap between ownership and leasing continues to widen as costs of ownership decrease and costs of leasing increase.

2. Are we complying with the spirit and letter of the resolution?

The Board of Trustees concerns itself with ownership of real property to the extent that it insures that the ownership of real property is financially feasible and that the spirit and intent of the Steps, Traditions, and Concepts is maintained. The Board affirms that with the management of the property being the business of the Executive Committee for Real Property Management, and as demonstration of mutual respect, the property management continues to be kept separate from the primary spiritual aim of Al-Anon Family Groups. The Executive Director is able to focus entirely on assisting the groups in the primary spiritual aim of Al-Anon -- helping families and friends of alcoholics. The need for staff to be concerned with the frequent search for office space and to deal with the day-in and day-out maintenance of commercial property has been eliminated.

3. Has there been any negative impact on the fellowship as a whole?

After reviewing the last eighteen years of real property ownership, the Board of Trustees has no negative impact to report. In 2004, a small minority of groups attempted to tie the Alateen requirements established by the Board of Trustees to the ownership of property.

The Board of Trustees clarified that the only assets it was protecting were our name and safety of our children. The ECRPM is a Committee separate from all other committees. It operates separately from the work and business of the World Service Office, allowing the WSO to focus on the primary spiritual aim of the fellowship. This real separation is what allows ownership of property to function as well as it does.

*Please see budget line item "Occupancy" for the actual yearly costs of ownership.

ICC – INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE

Kerri K., Associate Director—International is responsible for communicating with and providing guidance to 36 General Service Offices, 14 Service Boards, and local meeting contacts in 68 other countries where Al-Anon has a presence. I am the Staff liaison to the International Coordination Committee, and I help plan the International Al-Anon General Services Meeting. The ICC and the IAGSM will be reported on later this week. This update is a report of significant international activity since the first of the year and the status of planned international trips.

Updates from International Structures

The General Secretary of the GSO in Brazil wrote to request additional information about copyright enforcement. The idea of copyright is relatively new and the GSO and its Board of Trustees work hard to educate the Al-Anon fellowship in Brazil about the importance of respecting the copyright of Conference Approved Literature. Staff provided suggestions about creating a process for members to request reprint permission and shared the policies and forms the WSO uses.

The Russian Service Board is planning a three-day event in November to celebrate Al-Anon's 30th anniversary in that country. They are exploring the feasibility of TEAM events, building a website, and applying the Traditions and Concepts to solve group problems, provide services on a national scale, and grow their membership. They are planning to print the 50th anniversary edition of One Day at a Time in Russian.

South Korea completed a translation of Hope for Today and is moving on to printing. In January, the UK & Eire GSO notified Staff of a change in leadership. The previous General Secretary, Kim A., resigned and was replaced by Nuala C. Nuala previously served as General Secretary and she is now filling the role on an interim basis. Staff sent a welcome email and scheduled a telephone call for early March. Among the items discussed, Nuala mentioned that the upcoming departure of the UK from the European Union would have an impact on business operations since Eire, which is part of the Structure, would remain in the EU. The WSO committed to providing assistance as needed.

Updates on Planned International Trips

Greece – Staff contacted members of the Greek structure to initiate coordinating a visit in May. Those contacted were extremely enthusiastic in their response and helpful with suggestions related to Conference attendance, transportation, and willingness to coordinate with other members. In the introductory email, Staff conveyed a high-level purpose of the trip, which includes meeting with members of Public Outreach, Literature, and other committees and interested Al-Anon members to talk about how the WSO can

support this evolving Structure. Some possible areas of discussion, based on recent conversation with members in the Structure, include using the Traditions in meetings, understanding the translation process, doing Public Outreach, and learning to use the Service Manual. Other English-speaking structures usually attend this event: An invitation was sent via AFG Connects to invite them to schedule meetings while WSO Staff are there. Norway – The GSO in Norway contacted WSO Staff to announce there has been additional turnover in the office. An interim General Manager is currently overseeing the operations until the General Service Conference in April, at which time they hope to identify a permanent replacement. The Associate Director—International and Director of Programs have been meeting with the interim General Manager using web conferencing to provide guidance and share the WSO’s collective experience on these kinds of transitions. Staff were already planning a trip to this Structure for summer 2018 and it will most likely now include visits with neighboring structures such as Finland and Sweden. These countries are small, work well together, and can learn a lot from each other, just as some Areas do in the US and Canada. Sweden has invited all of the other Scandinavian structures to attend their annual General Service Conference in April.

Insights

In my work with the international community, I have seen that entire structures, just like groups and Districts in the US and Canada, can become isolated and out of touch. However, I have also seen that the international community has the capacity to function as a network, as in the case of Sweden fostering supportive relationships with Finland, Denmark, and Norway. Planning international trips that bring members of this network together is part of ensuring that help and recovery will be available in every community. It is part of helping structures to evolve. Being accountable, purposeful, and strategic when planning trips is part of ensuring the necessary resources will be available for Al-Anon’s future.

2018 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

[15a-International Convention Flyer](#)

[15-2018 International Convention Update](#)

THE DAY OF CONNECTING

[14-Day of Connecting.pdf](#)

As you just heard, the 2018 International Al-Anon Convention starts July 6th—but you can get a jump start on the Convention and your own recovery by joining us at **the Day of Connecting on July 5th**! We have exciting plans for all who attend— workshops, panel discussions and speakers. Al-Anon from all parts of our structure will be there. Will you? Look who is going to be there to help us celebrate recovery through service and leadership. All this service excitement for \$40.00 if registration is received by May 31st and \$45 from June 1st until the Go online tonight and register so you can go back to you Day event. **Registration is open and is limited to 1,500.**

of Connecting Task Force | 2018 World Service Conference
Area and help inspire others to get on that train, boat, plane (and maybe bus or van) and head to Baltimore. See you in Baltimore at the Day of Connecting!”

WORL SERVICE CONFERENCE SITE Announcement (2019) [16-2019 WSC Site Announcement](#)

The dates selected for the 2019 World Service Conference are Saturday, April 13 through Wednesday, April 17, 2019. Delegates are scheduled to arrive on Friday, April 12 and depart on Thursday, April 18. The Conference will be held at the Sheraton Virginia Beach Oceanfront Hotel, 3501 Atlantic Ave., Virginia Beach, VA 23451.

In searching for a site to hold the Conference, the availability of adequate meeting space, hotel room costs, meal costs, and dates of religious holidays were factors in the selection of the dates and location.

This information will be included in the *2018 Conference Summary*.

ACTIVITY: All Attendees [Questionnaire - NYN AREA 39 AL](#)

I am carrying out an survey of Al-Anon Members in NY North, to see how or members find out about Al-Anon, what brought them through the doors and how long it took. I am hoping to see if we can improve public outreach and make it more economical

1. How did you first hear about Al-Anon?
2. What brought you through the doors? (please tick all that apply)
3. How long between when you first heard about Al-Anon and you came to a meeting?

CLOSE [00-2018WSCPoster](#)

Am I lucky or what? I learned so many new things. Exhausted for the first 3 days, almost comatose, I woke up excited Wednesday. My brain was lit. I came knowing I would find answers to many things I've wondered about over the years. I did not expect to have a million more questions.

I have no experience with virtual meetIngs. How can we link them to the AFG structure? Can we create an area 99 for virtual meetings? Bulletin Boards and email are dated technology - how will we incorporate the newest? How would they elect a delegate? How do people in Iran communicate with someone in Brazil virtually?

I am the poster child for Al-Anon membership. Age. Sex. Hair color. How do we reach out to people in need? What biases do I have? I heard about Al-Anon from an Ann Landers column in the newspaper. It was at least 20 years before I came in the doors, brought by a friend with a relative in AA. How do people hear about Al-Anon? What brings them in? What's the time lag?. Has anyone sought AlAnon from a poster on a bus? Or an ad in a movie theater? Or was it a business card or bookmark left in a beauty shop?

How many non-English meetings are in my district? I have never attended one. Are they able to get literature in their language. DO they have to buy it in Mexico and bring it back?

So many questions. So many possibilities. I found my voice in Al-Anon. I hope we can help others to find theirs.

Peace ...

Molly C.

Delegate

Panel 58

NYN North Area 39