

I am sorry to miss the 2018 Fall Assembly of the NY North Area and the opportunity to meet with my Family of Choice. For me, these weekends are like plugging in my Recovery Battery Pack! I planned a trip 2 years ago and was unable to change the travel dates. I'll say some prayers for a successful assembly. I know you will work through the agenda with the Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts of Service in mind making decisions for the benefit of our NY North membership.

Please feel free to email me with any questions or concern you have at [delegate@nynafq.com](mailto:delegate@nynafq.com). The issues addressed by the WSC- World Service Conference each year comes from our members.

**Word Service Conference Summary**

The electronic version of the *2018 World Service Conference Summary* is available on the website, [www.al-anon.org](http://www.al-anon.org). Hover over the "Members" tab at the top of the page using the drop down arrow on the right. Then click "World Service Conference (WSC)." You can use the interactive copy, download a copy, and search the archives of previous years WSC Summaries. Printed copies of the *Summary* will be available to ship in late August or early September for \$5.00 shipping and handling.

**Forum Sales Report**

Due to the empty Alternate Delegate position I am receiving the new Forum monthly Sales Report. Please know that it is still a work in progress by WSO. It lists the actual number of copies sent out for that month's issue of *The Forum* and the number of subscriptions. Both are listed by state and province, not by Area. The goal is to list by Area. Listed below are the numbers of subscriptions and copies sent for New York State – ie both NY North and NY South and total sales for the USA and Canada.

**Forum Sales July 2018**

|               |              | GROUP        |              | OTHER         |               | TOTAL         |               |
|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| USA           |              | SUBSCRIPTION | COPIES       | SUBSCRIPTION  | COPIES        | SUBSCRIPTION  | COPIES        |
|               | NY           | 104          | 121          | 695           | 710           | 799           | 831           |
| <b>TOTALS</b> | USA & CANADA | <b>2,447</b> | <b>2,994</b> | <b>17,009</b> | <b>17,980</b> | <b>19,456</b> | <b>20,974</b> |

**New District Rep (DR) Orientation Committee:**

I have not taken any action other than to gather information from the 2018 Service Manual, Guidelines and AFG Connects communities. I hope to get the committee up and running this fall. Are you a current or a former DR? Please consider sharing your experiences, strength and hope. What do you wish you had known as a new

District Representative? What has helped you to fulfill this service position? Please share your thoughts and comments. Email me at [delegate@nynafg.com](mailto:delegate@nynafg.com)

### **Trustee Resume Submission New Deadlines**

A new North East Regional Trustee position is available in 2019. Delegates received a letter from Executive Director Vali F. dated July 2018. "Résumés are now due to the World Service Office (WSO) by January 1<sup>st</sup>. This deadline will allow adequate time for the process of review, recommendation and approval of the candidate to be finalized in April, so they can begin their assignment in May. Resumes sent to WSO for the Trustee positions must be approved by an area's assembly so this new deadline will allow us time to solicit, review and vote to submit candidates from NY North. No one has submitted a resume for the North East Regional Delegate this year. Lets look to the future.

### **2018 International Convention**

Our 2018 International Convention was a resounding success. Members from around the world and their guests arrived by train, car and plane, and a few even arrived by bicycle. Attendance records were broken with **4,044 attendees**. This included **49 Alateens, 271 members of Alcoholics Anonymous (A.A.)** and **40 guests**. The spirit of love, acceptance and unity was on full display. We joined in a celebration of *One Day at A Time* (B-6), filling the city of Baltimore with joy and laughter and demonstrating the inclusiveness, diversity and vibrancy of our fellowship. What better way to increase the visibility of Al-Anon and let people know that our Family Groups are the number one resource throughout the world for helping families and friends of alcoholics? Plans are underway for the 2023 International in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

### **Molly's Personal Experience:**

I have no words to describe the feelings of being "safe at home" in a strange city for a weekend with thousands of people from literally all over the world. I loved each workshop and meeting I attended. I brought back some great memories and a longer list of new friends. To be sober, dancing and laughing with over a thousand people of all ages in the same condition is a wonderful joyous thing.

I have one handout – NOT CAL but a great personal recovery tool. *Al-Anon Twelve Steps in Fifteen Minutes.pdf* I never understood working an issue through the 12 Steps. Each time I have worked the Steps it was a "whole life project" – thoughtful, time consuming, and somewhat tedious. But now, I feel I have "an app for that"! Working though a specific issue with one other member following a format. I brought copies of the handouts to the AWSC have sent a copy to be posted on our

website.

### **July 2018 Board Week:**

The 2019 World Service Conference (WSC) will be held in Virginia Beach. The dates selected for the 2019 World Service Conference are Saturday, April 13 through Wednesday, April 17, 2019. One of the exciting actions for the Board each July is approving the following year's Conference Theme. The CLT – Conference Leadership Team recommended and the Board is pleased to announce the approval of the 2019 WSC Theme: *Action is Attraction – There is No Growth in the Comfort Zone*.<sup>[SEP]</sup>

Over the past year a Task Force of the CLT was charged with discussing the possibility of offering professional interpretation in Spanish and French during the WSC. The CLT and the Board of Trustees recognize that, while the WSC is English speaking, our WSC Structure serves three languages: Spanish, French and English. The Board realized that in order to remain true to its Mission and Vision Statements and Strategic Plan Priorities, it needed to take a look at interpretation during the WSC and how offering or not offering interpretation could impact the WSC Structure and Al-Anon as a whole. After lengthy discussion, scrutinizing of costs by our Finance Committee and seeking of guidance from our Higher Power, the Board of Trustees approved the following:

***MOTION:***<sup>[SEP]</sup> ***to approve a special project to provide professional interpretation, when required, to support Spanish- and French- speaking Delegates who attend the World Service Conference. The project will start in 2019 as a three-year trial, with the annual net Conference cost of over \$100,000 to be transferred from the Reserve Fund.***

Logistics regarding the process of providing interpretation will be posted on the WSC Members AFG Connects community. While interpretation during the WSC will be provided, it is with the understanding that only oral interpretation, and not written translation of presentations, can be provided. Please refer to the CLT Update contained within this letter for additional information regarding plans for the 2019 WSC.

### **2018 International Al-Anon General Services Meeting (IAGSM):**

The IAGSM will meet October 3–6, 2018 in Virginia Beach. The purpose of the IAGSM is for General Service Offices to share the experience of Al-Anon national services around the world through their Delegates. Delegate participation at the IAGSM encourages the growth of a sound service structure while maintaining worldwide unity through the application of our Traditions. Ultimately, this helps fulfill the primary purpose of Al-Anon as a whole—to seek the best way to carry the Al-Anon message of recovery to families and friends of alcoholics amidst cultural and language differences. The International Coordination Committee (ICC) holds the

responsibility of planning the IAGSM agenda and bringing forward to the Board the suggested theme. The theme for the 2018 IAGSM fits perfectly with the meeting's intent: **"Leading by Example: Structures Supporting Structures"**

### **Groups Not Being Referred by the WSO:**

Our Al-Anon groups are spiritual entities, yet we find we are not immune to the same difficulties that affect the world around us. Over the past several years, our fellowship has reported an increase within their groups of the same behaviors demonstrated outside our meeting rooms; stalking, bullying, financial coercion and presentation of outside issues. Recent correspondence from members, conversations between the Executive Director and members of the fellowship, discussions at the 2018 WSC and increases in member use of the WSO online meeting search led to a robust discussion amongst Conference Staff and, subsequently, the Board of Trustees during our July meeting. The conversation centered around the potential legal and financial risk to Al-Anon Family Groups stemming from potentially dangerous and harmful situations.

Following the recommendations of our WSO Staff—the frontline workers who, on a daily basis, deal with members seeking assistance—the Board of Trustees identified the need to **take proactive action to encourage Al-Anon Family Groups to discuss safety** (which may entail the distribution of service materials regarding safety to all groups), and to **support Areas who have created robust "Do Not Refer" policies, particularly in matters where safety and affiliation with outside entities are involved.**

In 2011 and 2012, the WSC held two policy discussions related to Area "Do Not Refer" policies. Many ideas and good practices can be extracted from these conversations. The 2012 discussion offered encouragement for Areas to create these policies:

"If the Areas have a process in place and the WSO sees it as fair and balanced, then the Policy Committee would discuss whether they would have a 'Do Not Refer' policy. We may consider not referring, but not delist." (pg. 50)

Since then, several Areas have acted to create thoughtful and balanced policies and have removed meetings from local listings while maintaining their rights as groups. However, those meetings remain accessible to current or potential new members through the WSO meeting search and toll-free number.

Following a three-hour deliberation, which included review of past Conference materials, submissions from members presenting their concerns and

considerations, and review of those Areas that currently have “Do Not Refer” policies in place that appear to be fair and balanced, the Board of Trustees made, seconded and carried the following:

- . **MOTION:** <sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub> *that the Board of Trustees directs the World Service Office to send a statement alerting all registered groups on the importance of discussing and creating safety guidelines.* <sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>
- . **MOTION:** <sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub> *that the Board of Trustees direct the WSO Staff to utilize the Policy Committee criteria presented at the 2012 World Service Conference to ensure that an Area has established a fair and balanced “Do Not Refer” and “Re-Refer” policy. These criteria allow the WSO to support Area “Do Not Refer” group conscience decisions and remove group meetings from the WSO meeting list. Groups not being referred by the WSO remain active and registered.* <sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>

As noted within the motions, the Board, in their legal authority, has directed the WSO to send a statement alerting all registered groups on the importance of discussing and creating safety guidelines. This will be communicated through AFG Connects, *In the Loop* and other modes of communication as defined by the WSO.

<sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub> “Do Not Refer” and “Re-Refer” policies that Areas have put in place will be reviewed by the WSO to ensure they are within the spirit of being fair and balanced, as framed by the Policy Committee in the 2012 WSC discussion. If it is determined that these policies satisfy the spirit of that guidance, groups that are not being displayed on Areas’ meeting lists will no longer be displayed on the WSO meeting search or given out on the toll-free meeting line. It is important to note that groups not being referred by the WSO remain active and registered. Areas determining the need to establish “Do Not Refer” and “Re-Refer” policies must submit their policies to the WSO for review. Further details outlining the process will be communicated through AFG Connects and *In the Loop*.

### **Together Empowering Al-Anon Members (TEAM)**

Events are returning in 2019. Two Areas have submitted and received confirmation that they can hold a TEAM Event in 2019. The Board provides top priority to Areas that have not previously held a TEAM event in an effort to balance our participation across the Structure. Is your Area interested in filling the remaining seven openings for 2019? If so, WSC members can check out AFG Connects for additional information.

### **This year’s Road Trip!**

You and Your Board Connect will be held Saturday, October 20th In Houston, Texas at the Marriott Hobby Airport, 9100 Gulf Freeway. Road Trip! Is an interactive day with presentations, personal sharings, round table discussions, and most importantly fellowship. You can make plans to attend by registering: This year we will offer registration both by mail and online.

### **Hosting the 2019 Road Trip?**

The Board provides the program; you provide the location. Area Delegates can obtain a digital copy of the event request form on AFG Connects WSC Members. It outlines the simple requirements. Do not let this opportunity pass you by! Bids are due no later than September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018 for a Road Trip! to happen in your Area on October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Names of all Areas that submit a bid and meet the requirements go into a hat. One lucky Area will be drawn in October 2018! If your Area has not yet been selected and meets all criteria, why not try again? I have the forms.

### **Conference Leadership Team Update July 2018**

It is the responsibility of the Conference Leadership Team (CLT) to prepare a World Service Conference agenda that facilitates the active voice and effective group conscience of our fellowship. To carry out that responsibility, all or part of the CLT meets virtually or face-to-face every month from the end of one Conference to the beginning of the next.

To date we have reviewed the Conference evaluations, which were very positive and quite helpful in planning our next Conference. The increased Delegate participation and shared leadership were quite successful (and in some cases entertaining) and will be included in the next Conference. Thank you to all who contributed and offered valuable feedback. Participation is not only the key to harmony but also the key to a great Conference! *Participation also includes sending in suggestions to the Associate Director—Conference at the World Service Office, for items that should be considered by the Conference.*

After considering 70 suggested Conference themes, the CLT chose the following as the Theme of the 2019 World Service Conference:

#### **Action is Attraction – There is No Growth in the Comfort Zone**

We look forward to witnessing all the ways in which this Theme will be expressed in the coming year. Upon reviewing data collected by a CLT Task Force, the CLT recommended that the Board of Trustees provide French and Spanish interpretation at the 2019 Conference, as this would offer full participation to more of our members.

## Policy Committee Update July 2018

The purpose is to report progress and provide information on the following:

- Topics that are generated by the fellowship and discussed by the Policy Committee, along with issues or concerns that need clarification or interpretation in light of the Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts of Service;
- Progress of the work done by Policy Committee Work Groups, Task and Thought Forces;
- Policy motions that will be presented to the World Service Conference (WSC); and
- Policy motions that have been passed by the WSC.

The Policy Committee approved a request from the Executive Director to invite the Associate Director—Digital Strategy to attend the Policy Committee as a resource for a trial period of one year, beginning in July 2018.

Progress was made in reviewing revised language that had been proposed for the Alateen section of the “Digest of Al-Anon/Alateen Policies” (Policy Digest). The proposed revisions reflect spiritual principles and the Alateen Safety and Behavioral Requirements set forth in the 2003 Board of Trustees Alateen Motion. It is hoped that this section will be completed in time for the revisions to be presented to the 2019 WSC.

Additionally, the Policy Committee continued its review of the “Membership and Groups” section of the Policy Digest. After considering recommendations from the Task Force, the Policy Committee made progress in determining which provisions should remain, which could be removed because they are strictly procedural, and which procedural sections should be revised to reflect policy. The Policy Committee’s changes will also describe the spiritual principles upon which the provisions are based.

The Electronic Meetings Work Group, previously the Electronic/Virtual Meetings Work Group, is operating under an interim charge to review existing archival material about this topic. The charge includes brainstorming ideas about how to improve our understanding of the needs and wants of electronic meetings and discussing the role the World Service Office can play in helping the members in these meetings achieve Al-Anon’s primary purpose. The Work Group will begin discussions with the goal to deliver a presentation of its findings at the 2019 WSC. Given the enormity and breadth of this subject, the Electronic Meetings Work Group will continue to focus on gathering additional information about electronic meetings.

The Policy Committee was provided with copies of correspondence from members raising policy issues or questioning current policy statements.

**Recovery Month is September.** Is your district or group doing any public outreach projects?

I'm grateful for the opportunity you've given me to serve at this level.

Peace,  
Molly C  
Delegate Panel 58  
NY North Area 39