

2019 World Service Conference

“Action Is Attraction – There Is No Growth in the Comfort Zone”

From WSO:

Annual Report: Want to know how your WSO is sharing our message of hope and help? Now you can read all about it in the 2018 World Service Office Annual Report, which has been published simultaneously in English, French, and Spanish. Yes that’s correct – the WSO Annual report is now TRILINGUAL!

Chosen Agenda Items: “It’s all in the “Service Manual”! *“None of us is as smart as all of us.”* – Anonymous, AFG, Inc. Archives, 1955. The *Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual* (P-24/27) is a how-to manual that explains how to start a meeting, how to have a group conscience meeting, how to manage contributions, how to maintain unity, and more. We may hear “Al-Anon has no rules,” but we do have Legacies, policies, a Charter, and more than 60 years of experience, strength, and hope. As is the case with all Al-Anon service work, the *Service Manual* is not written or revised by any one member; instead, it is approved by vote at the annual World Service Conference—Al-Anon’s largest group conscience. When we talk things over and reason things out, we are able to keep the message of help and hope clear and consistent and share the program of help and hope with families and friends of alcoholics everywhere.

You want to know how our group conscience has worked? How decisions have been made? Check this out – Chosen Agenda Items.

An Index of Chosen Agenda Items 1976-2019 is posted to Al-Anon.org referencing the online copies of the World Service Conference Summaries. All of this is public knowledge for our members. I'd like to encourage members to read through the list and read the old summaries ... and see how long we have been discussing and listening and reasoning things out. Per WSO the Areas may include a link on their website to the Index on Al-Anon.org website. **Index of Chosen Agenda Items--1976-2019**

Blog: WSO is pleased to introduce a blog to share their experience, strength, and hope on a variety of topics for all members. It was announced in *In The Loop* on July 24th. This month we're asking you to share your favorite Al-Anon spiritual principle and why. New topics will be added each month! Here's the link:

<https://al-anon.org/for-members/members-resources/member-blog/>

WSC Summary: The printed copy of the 2019 World Service Conference Summary is available to order through the online Al-Anon store. The electronic version of the [2019 World Service Conference Summary](#) is available! It's on al-anon.org-click on "World Service Conference (WSC)" on the Members tab.

WSO Volunteer Positions: There is a twice yearly solicitation for service volunteers at the WSO level. **AFG, Inc - Board of Trustee Opportunity**

The number of positions available annually is as follows:

- 3 At-Large Trustees [SEP]
- 3 Regional Trustees (rotates depending on Region) **North East Region resumes due 8/15/2021, and term begins April 2022 [SEP] Regional Trustee Selection Planner 2019-2021**
- 1 At-Large member, Executive Committee for Real Property Management [SEP]
- 5 At-Large members, Forum Editorial Advisory Committee [SEP]
- 5 At-Large members, Literature Committee [SEP]
- 5 At-Large members, Public Outreach Committee [SEP]
- 2 At-Large members, Audit Committee [SEP]

This year, we have additional openings to fill partial terms for the following positions: [SEP]

- 2 At-Large Trustees – two-year term [SEP]
- 1 Southeast Regional Trustee – two-year term [SEP]
- 1 Canada Central Regional Trustee – one-year term [SEP]

NY North will be looking for qualified candidates by Fall of 2020 in order to get resumes submitted for our next North East Regional Trustee.

Trustees At Large apply directly to WSO. Applications are available online or through your delegate.

Open or Closed: The Al-Anon Meeting Type designation, which previously referred to whether the meeting was open to visitors or closed to attendance by members only, often confused members and newcomers. It has been replaced by the term **Meeting Attendees**, and the options have been changed to **“Families and Friends Only”** and **“Families, Friends, and Observers Welcome”** on the WSO [Group Records Forms](#).

The Forum Book (working title): Following discussion, a motion was made, seconded and carried to explore alternate methods for sharing *Forum* articles selected by members as favorites in a more financially responsible medium rather than publishing a book. This information was then presented to the Board of Trustees as motion:

Not to proceed in the development of printed publication of a piece of Conference Approved Literature based on member sharings published in past issues of *The Forum* which was given conceptual approval at the 2015 World Service Conference (Motion #6) due to concern about its lack of appeal to members and therefore its financial feasibility.

This motion passed unanimously with the understanding Staff would continue to explore alternatives for sharing these articles in a financially feasible manner. Staff will report to the Executive Committee and the Board of Trustees at future meetings on their progress.

Use of Drug Addiction in PO Materials: Vali F. Executive Director WSO

I feel it is important to share this message from Vali F in its entirety.

"We are all messengers of Al-Anon's purpose and have the responsibility to accurately communicate it to avoid confusion, misperception, or dilution of our program.

The 2018 Membership Survey states "35% of the members came specifically because of someone's use of drugs." The survey also showed that 78% of these members eventually came to realize that someone else's drinking also effected their lives.

When developing and implementing Public Outreach activities, members are urged to keep Al-Anon's Twelve Traditions in mind, this includes reviewing the words of the Traditions in their entirety. This summary of applicable Traditions may assist your communication efforts with members, newcomers, professionals, and the media.

- Tradition Three states "The only requirement for Al-Anon Membership is that there be a problem of alcoholism in a relative or friend."
- Tradition Four tells us that "Each group should be autonomous, except in matters affecting another group or Al-Anon or AA as a whole."
- Tradition Five defines that our singleness of purpose is to help families of alcoholics.
- Tradition Ten tells us that "The Al-Anon Family Groups has no opinion on outside issues;

According to a statement on page 131 in Al-Anon's Conference Approved Digest of Al-Anon and Alateen Policy "... our responsibility is to ensure Al-Anon's survival as a resource for families and friends of alcoholics. By focusing on these drug-related problems, we risk being diverted from Al-Anon's primary aim."

Therefore, conveying that Al-Anon is for families and friends of alcoholics and drug addicts in local or Area produced Public Outreach materials is an expansion and misrepresentation of Al-Anon's purpose (see Tradition Five). This includes but is not limited to posters, flyers, websites, etc.

We appreciate your efforts supporting the families and friends of alcoholics and maintaining our Traditions and primary purpose.

Al-Anon materials for further reference:

P24-27 2018-2021 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual – Families with Related Problems pg. 131

M-44 Al-Anon Is / Is Not bookmark

2018 Membership Survey

2019 World Service Conference Summary pg. 62

From NY North

Meeting aligned outside it's District and or Area Boundary: I've been contacted by Jeffrey F, Panel 58 Delegate of the Pennsylvania Area. "... a meeting in the PA Area has requested changing to the NY North Area. The Attitude of Gratitude meeting located in Little Meadows, PA 18830 is requesting to be in NYN District 10 (Apalachin, NY). The Pennsylvania group records coordinator has been in contact with Valerie Stump and others at the WSO. It is our understanding that the Assemblies for both Areas need to consent to the meeting being associated with a district outside its Area in order for it to be moved. I believe the group request is due to its location very near the New York border. I believe this group is currently participating in the NYN District. Pennsylvania will be presenting this at our Assembly on August 16th - 18th. If you think this is a possibility and are willing to present at your next Assembly, we will continue to move forward. Let me know what you think. "

I contacted Cerise from District 10 and she is aware and has the contact info for this group. I would recommend that we place ask District 10 to have a conscience on accepting this meeting into their district and if approved place a motion on the Fall 2019 Assembly agenda to accept this meeting into our NY North Area and notify Pennsylvania AWSC and WSO of the outcome.

"Action Is Attraction - There Is No Growth in the Comfort Zone"

Thank you for letting me serve NY North.

Peace,
Molly C.