

## Delegate AWSC Report – March 19, 2022

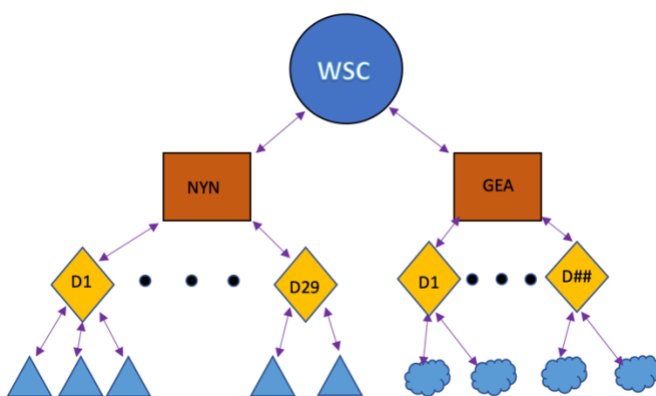
### Electronic Groups

Al-Anon electronic groups started in the mid-1990's – often using discussion boards. These groups were only allowed to register with the World Service Office (WSO) but were not part of the World Service Conference (WSC). Thus, they had no avenue to service outside of the group with the WSO links of service. During the 2021 WSC, a motion was passed to allow registered permanent electronic meetings to be placed in the newly created area, non-panel Global Electronic Area (GEA). As of November 2021, there were 613 registered electronic groups holding 854 meetings. Note, some groups have multiple meeting days and/or times.

In January, the Global Electronic Area held its first Assembly where they elected Area Officers. Ozzie A. from Florida was elected as Area Delegate. Ozzie will be attending the WSC- currently without vote. There is a motion on the WSC agenda to give the new Area a vote, too.

Al-Anon Electronic Groups are now called Al-Anon Family Groups which meet electronically (AFGWME). Hopefully, this will help clarify that these groups are registered with a meeting location of electronic – not a physical location. The Electronic Meeting Thought Force will report out results of the recently conducted survey. We will continue this discussion at the Spring Assembly to assist Group Representatives (GRs) and District Representatives (DRs) so that the Area can make an informed decision concerning allowing an AFGWME to petition to join NYN. Note, NYN already has a policy/process that must be followed should an Al-Anon group with a physical-location request to join our Area.

This diagram may help you to understand how the new GEA will fit into the WSO-structure should they be given both voice and vote:



### Committee of the Board (COB) Report

The Chairperson of the Board (COB) presentation was held in January. COB presentations are held three times per year – outside of the WSC.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee reported that for the year 2021, the net loss was \$76,066, which was considerably less than the projected loss of \$233,753. This was due to a decrease in projected expenses and the tremendous increase in contributions. In years 2020 and 2021, contributions were greater than literature sales. The last time this occurred was in 1954. More information concerning Al-Anon’s financial history is contained in the book, Many Voices, One Journey (B-31).

Largest categories of expenses consist of WSO staff salaries and benefits, printing costs, technology support, and postage. Expenses will increase this year due to the WSC being held in Tarrytown, New York that includes a trip to Stepping Stones, increase in literature printing costs as Literature Depots continue to reopen and paper shortages lessen, the printing of the 2022-2025 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual, and a new daily reader. WSO is actively searching to fill the several vacant positions. Additionally, WSO will be attending the International Al-Anon General Services Meeting (IAGSM) in London, England.

**Year to Date (YTD) December 2021**

	YTD Actuals	YTD Budget
Revenue		
Literature Sales—net	\$1,906,750	\$1,993,007
Contributions	\$2,623,242	\$2,543,540
Other income	\$643,616	\$563,600
Total Revenue	\$5,173,608	\$5,100,147
Total Expenses	\$5,249,674	\$5,333,900
Net Increase/(Decrease)	(\$76,066)	\$(233,753)

Policy Committee

The Social Media Task Force is working on any necessary revisions to the policy for creating and sharing blogs, profiles, and social media pages. As an aside, WSO is working on a process to share multimedia, images, and other public outreach materials with Areas so that it can be easily posted on Area and local Al-Anon websites or publications.

The Announcing Events Policy Task Force is discussing if additional revisions are required to either the Announcing Events or the Workshop portions of the policy digest. The Local Services Policy Task Force is looking to clarify the Autonomy of Groups portion of the policy digest. The policy digest is contained in the Service Manual, pages 79-133.

Chosen Agenda Item (CAI)

Area Delegate have until March 25<sup>th</sup> to submit one or two CAI topics. This where I need your help. If any District, Group, or Al-Anon member have a concern that they wish to have placed

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on the WSC agenda you email me your CAI topic in 25 or few words along with a rationale for why this CAI is important in 75 words or fewer. Past chosen CAIs are on the WSO website Member's page under World Service Conference (WSC) on the [Chosen Agenda Items page](#).

Below is an example:

**Topic:** What steps can we take today to let the young members of Al-Anon know that we take diversity and growth seriously and are working towards change and acceptance?

**Why this topic is important:** Al-Anon has been discussing diversity frequently. Increasingly, new members who want to feel safe and respected are asking when change will happen. Members are questioning why newly printed literature (books, pamphlets, manuals) are using antiquated language. Young members often struggle to “find” alcoholics in their family tree and choose to embrace family nights at other programs. What can groups do to make everyone feel welcome while WSO moves forward addressing change?

### [Northeast Regional Trustee \(NERT\)](#)

The current Northeast Regional Trustee's term ends on March 31, 2022. Typically, a new Regional Trustee is appointed prior to the term's end date. However, this time the Nominating Committee did not present any candidates to the Board for considerations. Therefore, a special one-year term is currently in the process of being filled. This means that Areas have until August 15, 2022, to submit a candidate for the term's remainder (two years).

Any interested members need to contact me prior to the Spring Assembly. The Area reviews candidate's resumes then vote on who to submit to the Nominating Committee for consideration.

Duties and qualifications are posted on the WSO website – under Members → Board of Trustees → World Service Office (WSO) Volunteers → [Board of Trustees page](#).

### [Delegate Chats](#)

Beginning April 2022, I will be hosting a monthly Chat with your Delegate Zoom meeting on the first Sunday from 1-1:30 PM and Thursday from 7-7:30 PM of the month. This is an opportunity for any Area Al-Anon or Alateen member to ask me questions or bring forth any Al-Anon related concerns. April's dates are Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> from 1-1:30 PM and Thursday, April 7<sup>th</sup> from 7-7:30 PM.

Meeting information: [Zoom link](#) | Meeting ID: 875 5501 0946 Passcode: 341891 | To Call: 1-646-558-8656

You will be placed in a waiting room. For security reasons, you will be asked to identify the name of your group and/or your District number.

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### Meet your Board Road Trip

This year's Board Road Trip is scheduled for October 29, 2022, in Cleveland, Ohio. This is an opportunity to meet the Board of Trustees and WSO staff. Who's up for a fall road trip?

### 2023 Al-Anon International Convention

Al-Anon's 7<sup>th</sup> International Convention with AA participation is from June 29<sup>th</sup> to July 2<sup>nd</sup> in Albuquerque, New Mexico. It's not too early to start making plans. Housing registration typically opens the prior year in August. Watch the WSO website for more information and details.

I attended the 1<sup>st</sup> Al-Anon International Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah in 1998. That year's theme was "Our Window of Hope". I met people from around the world. I had a lengthy conversation with an Al-Anon member whose religion prohibits alcohol consumption and the challenges she faced as church member. I met up with several of my electronic meeting members. Together we took a side trip to see the Great Salt Lake. There are many Area members who have attended previous International Conventions who are willing to share their experiences with you – just ask!

### Personal Growth

Since starting this position I have learned so much about Al-Anon's Links of Service. I've attended monthly Panel 61 Delegate meetings and the NERD (Northeast Regional Delegate) conference where I have felt woefully under-qualified to serve in the position. That said, I have received so much love and support from both current and past Delegates that just maybe I'll be able to do a half-way decent job at my first WSC.

I'm finally starting to get caught up with all of the Delegate related emails. To write this report, I spend many hours on AFG Connects – there really is a lot of useful information there. Now I'm wondering why it took me so long to connect with AFG Connects! I also needed to spend lots of time reading our Service Manual. The answer to any of my service questions really are in it!

My procrastination is still a part of me. My Northern HiLights articles are submitted late and I'm writing this report two days prior to the meeting. Adding to my "Listen more; talk less" is "Progress not perfection".

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kathi D. [REDACTED]  
Panel 61



Al-Anon Family Groups  
Help and hope for families and friends of alcoholics

phone: 757.563.1600  
fax: 757.563.1656

al-anon.org  
wso@al-anon.org

## January 2022 Chairperson of the Board Letter

Dear Al-Anon and Alateen members:

The purpose of this Chairperson of the Board (COB) letter is to share with you some highlights from the January 2022 Board Week. You will also find updates from our Policy Chairperson, a Finance update from our Treasurer, and a Conference Leadership Team (CLT) update.

The Board of Trustees (BOT) would like to extend a big thank you for your continued financial support! Contributions for 2021 exceeded budgeted expectations by just over \$79,000. Literature sales for 2021 fell below budgeted expectations. Although expenses fell below budget for the year, we ended 2021 with a budget deficit. (See the Financial Update for details.)

It is my pleasure to welcome the new Panel 62 Delegates as members of the World Service Conference (WSC). The Board and Executive Committee (EC) members, World Service Office (WSO) Staff, and Panel 60 and 61 Delegates wish you all the best in your new role as Delegate. I remain hopeful that we will be meeting in person at the WSC in New York in April and look forward to seeing all of you there! (See the CLT update for more information.)

### Road Trip! You and Your Board Connect:

Last year the Road Trip! You and Your Board Connect event was not held due to the COVID pandemic. I am pleased to announce that the 2022 Road Trip! You and Your Board Connect event is being planned to be held on October 29, 2022, in Cleveland, OH! Mark your calendars and come join the Board of Trustees and the Executive Committee members for a day of fun and connecting with each other. More information regarding the 2022 Road Trip! will be presented at the 2022 WSC in April, along with information about how your Area can apply to host the 2023 Road Trip! We look forward to meeting you in Cleveland! Another exciting announcement regarding Road Trip!: the Board voted to end the trial period and make Road Trip! a permanent event. Board and Executive Committee members look forward to continuing to participate in the Road Trip! events.

### Strategic Plan Update:

The Strategic Plan refresh work that was started at the July 2021 Board meeting has finally come to completion. The updated Strategic Plan consists of a mission and vision statement and new domains and goal statements. I am excited to present to you the Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc. Strategic Plan!

**Mission:** Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc. is a spiritually-based organization that helps the families and friends of alcoholics connect and support each other through barrier-free meetings, information, and shared experiences.

**Vision:** Families and friends of alcoholics find hope and encouragement to live joyful, serene lives.

#### Domains and Goal Statements:

**Members:** AFG, Inc. connects and supports the friends and families of alcoholics.

**Recovery & Service Tools:** AFG, Inc. develops and publishes materials to share the collective experience of the families and friends of alcoholics.

**Awareness:** AFG, Inc. builds public and professional awareness of the Al-Anon program.

**Financial Sustainability:** AFG, Inc. encourages membership and organizational self-support by aligning resource allocation with its core purpose and strategic priorities.

**Global Engagement:** AFG, Inc. invests in each new generation of trusted servants to preserve our legacy and improve our structure and operations to meet the needs of the global landscape.

The Strategic Plan also includes new Strategic Objectives (what we are going to do to accomplish the goal) and new Strategies (how we are going to accomplish the objective). The ongoing 2021 Strategies and the proposed 2022 Strategies have been placed into the new Strategic Plan domains. Additionally, the Strategic Plan development process will be improved to include more generative discussion among the Board, Executive Committee, and Strategic Leadership Team (SLT). I want to thank the members of the SLT for your facilitation of the refresh discussions and work aligning Strategies with the new Strategic Plan domains. Job well done!

#### **International Coordination Committee (ICC):**

Three WSO Staff members of the ICC attended the Central American Zonal meeting (RECACSA), which was held virtually in December. Their attendance allowed connections to be made and conversations to be started. WSO Staff will continue to reach out to the Structures involved and serve as a resource. Planning for the International AI-Anon General Services Meeting (IAGSM) being held in London, England, October 12-15, 2022 is in full swing. The agenda items have been set and the Invitation Letter has been sent to all IAGSM Delegates. Currently an in-person event is being planned, but options are being explored for any possible COVID-related changes.

#### **Envisioned Future Work Group (EFWG):**

The EFWG is a work group of the Board charged with fostering generative, visionary, oriented discussions. They bring discussion topics and questions to the Board that will help us generate new thoughts, ideas, challenges, and opportunities. The EFWG presented an article discussing the organization and formation of committee structures for nonprofit organizations. They also presented several thought-provoking questions that guided our discussion and helped expand Board members' thinking around the possibilities of how we do our work. We will continue these discussions at future Board meetings.

#### **Nominating:**

Each year in January, the BOT meets with the Regional Trustee and Trustee at Large candidates. The interviews were conducted virtually over two days. Each candidate shared a ten-minute talk, presented a brief technology presentation, and participated in an interview with all the current Board members. The Board is responsible for ensuring that "this [Nominating] Committee aids the Trustees in discharging their prime obligation to see that all vacancies within the Board of Trustees or its Executive Committees are filled with those of the greatest possible competence, stability and industry," as stated on page 205 of the *2018-2021 AI-Anon/Alateen Service Manual* version two (2) (P-24/27). Throughout the selection process, we as a Board keep our hearts and minds open to the collective understanding and guidance of our Higher Power.

The list of nominees to be presented to the World Service Conference (WSC) for traditional approval are:

##### **Regional Trustee:**

Jean L., US North Central, second three-year term

Sally K., Canada West, first year of a remaining two-year term

##### **Trustee at Large:**

Ann Marie Z., first three-year term

Pennie K., first three-year term

##### **Board Officers:**

Lynette K., Chairperson of the Board

Jean L., Vice Chairperson

Cindy M., Treasurer

Following traditional approval, the Board may elect the nominees at the Annual Meeting following the WSC.

The following resumes will be presented to all World Service Conference members for their information:

**Executive Committee:**

David B., second one-year term

Jeffrey F., first one-year term

Carol M., first one-year term

**Chairperson of the Executive Committee:**

David B., one-year term

**Executive Committee for Real Property Management (ECRPM):**

Sue C., three-year term

**Chairperson of the Executive Committee for Real Property Management (ECRPM):**

Liz D., one-year term

We are grateful to all those willing to stand for service to fulfill our primary purpose.

I have been thinking about the 2022 WSC theme, "Enhancing Our Recovery Through Abundance, Unity, and Understanding." The theme seems to be challenging me to become a better person (enhance my recovery) by expanding my thinking around three principles (abundance, unity, understanding) that I probably don't consider enough. I am looking forward to the opportunities my Higher Power will give me throughout the year to enhance my recovery by practicing these principles. I am grateful to be on this journey of Al-Anon recovery.

With gratitude,



Lynette K.

Chairperson, Board of Trustees

Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc.

## Finance Update

Cindy M., Treasurer

The following update is based on the unaudited financial statements for the period that ended 12/31/2021.

### Revenues (Income)

Revenue consists mainly of literature sales and contributions. Other revenue includes magazine sales and investment gains or losses. Literature sales for December were \$213,541.

Contributions for December were \$368,734. See the table below for YTD Actuals vs. YTD Revised Budget.

### Expenses

The largest categories of expenses consist of WSO staff salaries and benefits, printing, technology support, and postage. Expenses for December were \$558,217. See the table below for YTD Actuals vs. YTD Revised Budget. We continue to monitor all expenses and reduce them wherever possible.

### Net Increase/(Decrease)

Change in net assets resulted in a net decrease of (\$76,066) which is below budgeted expectations of a (\$233,753) loss.

### Year to Date (YTD) December 2021

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### Investments

Our ample reserve is contained mostly in the Reserve Fund under the careful watch of our investment managers. Market conditions in December were favorable as the market experienced some gains. Year to date, we have an unrealized gain of \$1,826,682 in the Reserve Fund. Our investment accounts continue to be sensitive to market conditions.

### Reflections and Insight

We want to say, "Well done!" While we ended with a loss for the year, we were expecting a larger loss, so, "Bravo!" Thanks to the fellowship for continuous contributions and literature purchases, even with the current industry challenges of paper shortages, staffing issues, and shipping delays! Contributions for December 2021 were the highest since December 2020!



We want to share with you some of our history out of *Many Voices, One Journey* (B-31). “The Clearing House [now the WSO] gave its first annual report to the Advisory Committee [now the WSC] at the beginning of 1953. Total income for 1952 was about \$2,800 – about \$2,400 from contributions and about \$400 in literature sales...Expenses totaled about \$1,500. The Clearing House held about \$1,200 in reserve in a bank account” (page56). It goes on to say, “Total income for 1954 was about \$5,200 – about \$3,500 from contributions and about \$1,700 in literature sales. This was the last year in which members’ cash contributions exceeded the amount of income generated by AI-Anon literature sales” (page 67). At least until 2020 and 2021! Please continue to carry the message of gratitude and consistency back to your Areas, Districts, AISs, and groups. Thank you!

As we move into 2022 with continued uncertainty, please remind your groups of these planned expenses: holding our annual World Service Conference (WSC) in New York and visiting Stepping Stones; attending the International AI-Anon General Services Meeting (IAGSM) in London, England; printing our new *Service Manual*; and employing a full staff at the WSO to support the fellowship.

Therefore, our expenses for 2022 will increase. Let’s continue to think abundantly and act prudently, so we can continue to focus on “Enhancing Our Recovery through Abundance, Unity, and Understanding!”

## **Policy Committee Update**

January 2022

Marianne B., Chairperson

Don B., Co-Chairperson

Policy statements are interpretations of our basic guides, the Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts of Service. They help clarify how a Tradition or Concept might apply to a new or confusing situation that arises in Al-Anon or Alateen. Changes and additions to the Policy Digest are made only as our circumstances and growth require, since anticipating and including every specific situation would be impossible.

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

- Topics that are generated by the fellowship and discussed by the Policy Committee regarding issues or concerns that need clarification or interpretation in light of the Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts of Service
- Progress of work being completed by Policy Committee work groups, task and thought forces
- Policy motions to be presented at the World Service Conference (WSC)
- Policy motions passed by the WSC

The Policy Committee met virtually on Tuesday, January 25, 2022, for four hours. The following topics were presented and discussed:

The Public Outreach Policy in Relation to Social Media Task Force members continued their discussion from October 2021 on the policy of creating and sharing blogs, profiles, and social media pages. They assisted the Policy Committee in discussing the different roles of the WSO, service arms, groups, and individuals when it comes to public outreach in social media. After lengthy discussion, the Policy Committee approved their recommendations to this section of the Policy Digest. They are excited to bring their work to the 2022 WSC for review and discussion!

The Announcing Events Policy Task Force brought forward a discussion around whether additional revisions are required to either the "Announcing Events" or the "Workshops" portions of the Policy Digest to reflect the intention to support groups announcing group events, such as anniversaries, speaker meetings, etc. The thoughtful and detailed conversation raised some additional considerations, so we look forward to further discussion at the April Policy Committee meeting.

The Local Services Policy Task Force's new charge was to conduct a broader review of "Local Services," rather than just the "Autonomy of Groups" portion of the Policy Digest. The discussion the Task Force brought forward helped clarify paragraphs that may require rewriting to better reflect policy, as well as continuity to paragraphs that might be better suited to a different location within the Policy Digest. We look forward to further discussion at the April Policy Committee meeting.

Thank you to all the members of these task and thought forces, and Staff who worked so tirelessly to bring this work to the Policy Committee.

As always, the Policy Committee welcomes all questions and suggestions from any AI-Anon and Alateen member, meeting, group, or Area regarding issues that might need further clarification or interpretation in light of our Legacies.