

Purpose of the Spring Delegate's Report

The purpose of the Spring Assembly Delegate's report is to communicate to New York North's Al-Anon and Alateen groups what transpired at the previous World Service Conference, which is held annually in the month of April.

"The "A-Anon World Service Conference Charter" defines in broad terms the responsibility of the Conference to act on behalf of Al-Anon as a whole. The Conference, as a service body, is the guardian of Al-Anon's world services and its Twelve Traditions. Conference is the annual business meeting of Al-Anon, held to ensure worldwide service and unity." (*WSC 62nd Annual Conference Program, Welcome Letter*)

Who attends the World Service Conference (WSC)

The WSC is comprised of the following:

- Delegates from the United States, including Puerto Rico, Canada, and Bermuda
- The Board of Trustees
- The Executive Committee, which includes some At Large members
- World Service Office Staff - both voting and non-voting

Each year the above voting members are asked permission to seat some people with voice but no vote. This year we agreed to seat Niketa Williams, Director of Finance & Operations (Non Al-Anon member); Scot P., Associate Director Brand Communications (Al-Anon member); and Elizabeth (Liz) D., Chairperson Executive Committee for Real Property Management (ECRPM) (Al-Anon member).

The theme for this year's conference is Enhancing Our Recovery Through Abundance, Unity and Understanding. All conference attendees were asked to keep the following goals in mind throughout the week:

GOAL 1: The spiritual tone of the Conference will prevail by the demonstration of Al-Anon's core principles in action.

GOAL 2: 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 3: Conference members will understand the purpose of the Conference, relationships within the Structure, and be able to articulate Conference discussions and decisions.

Electronic Meetings / Global Electronic Area

The first order of business was the motion to admit the Non-Panel Global Electronic Area to the World Service Conference Structure.

Background History

Electronic meetings have been in existence since the mid-1990's. The World Service Office supported the meetings and were initially viewed as a public outreach vehicle. The first electronic meetings were telephone meetings. Next came discussion meetings, which were done through email. Today, meetings are held using Zoom, AI-Anon Mobile app, Discord, email, Skype to name a few. Over time, it became clear that electronic meetings were the primary (or only) gathering for many members recovery from the family disease of alcoholism

For over fifteen years, electronic meetings have asked WSO to be treated the same as any registered AI-Anon group. They could register with the WSO only as AI-Anon meetings, which meant with only a Current Mailing Address (CMA) but not with a Group Representative (GR).

At the 2021 World Service Conference, conference members were asked to consider and vote on a motion that would recognize Electronic Meetings as AI-Anon Family Groups and to allow them to become part of the AI-Anon service structure. The WSC voted that electronic AI-Anon meetings could register as AI-Anon groups. This meant that for the first time they could elect a GR and participate in the links of service. A new Non-Paneled Global Electronic Area was created.

Non-Panel Global Electronic Area (GEA)

The newly formed non-paneled area needed to do the following prior to petitioning to become part of the WSC. Groups needed to elect GRs. The Area needed to hold an Assembly to elect a Delegate. Groups needed to have their GR information to the WSO by January 1, 2022 to attend their first Assembly on January 22, 2022. At this time there were 650 groups of which 217 had elected a GR. The percentage of GRs attending the January Assembly was 74.65%.

To stand for Delegate, a member outside of the United States or Canada must speak English, Spanish, or French. Ten AI-Anon members stood for the Delegate position. Ozzie A., from Florida, was elected as Delegate. A second Assembly was held in March to elect three additional Officers, which 56.17% of the GRs attended.

2022 WSC Motion to Admit Non-Panel GEA

Alaska was the last Area admitted to the WSC. This occurred in 1987. So this was truly a historical moment for the WSC. Prior to the vote, there was discussion and Ozzie A. spoke to the conference members. Once all discussion ended, he was asked to leave the room and a

non-voting member stood by the door. It took many votes before the motion passed. However, it was not because of division among the voting members but due to electronic voting issues. (Even the WSO has technological issues!) When Ozzie was finally allowed back into the room, he was greeted with a standing ovation.

Next Steps

Areas now have a decision to make - whether or not to accept Electronic Groups and the WSO needs to update their group records database. Over the past year, NYN has asked groups and districts to discuss this topic. The results of the Thought Force on Electronic Groups shows that Area groups as a whole are either confused or ambivalent concerning this matter. Members wonder why an electronic group would want to be part of our Area.

Currently, when an AI-Anon group registers as an electronic group it is placed in the Global Electronic Area. Since 2020, several new electronic groups have been started by Area members. By default, they were placed in the Non-Panel GEA, which is now the GEA. Additionally, there are physical groups that have fractured into two groups - physical and electronic. These are not groups that meet at a physical location with an electronic way to join the meeting. Two groups can not have the same WSO registration number. For now, the WSO is allowing the group that chooses to meet electronically only to share the same WSO number as the physical group. However, this will not last forever. Therefore, when the members of the electronic group are required to register they will automatically become part of the GEA. These are AI-Anon members who have had a connection with NYN.

As an Area, we get to decide if and when we allow electronic groups into our Area structure. We can decide that if a new electronic group's GR lives within the boundaries of our Area, then the group can be immediately placed in our Area. Further, we can decide that if a group's GR is no longer within our Area boundaries the group must become part of the GEA. We can require that the GR must attend our Assemblies in person. Additionally, we can decide what parameters must be met to accept a group from the GEA into our Area - such as the group's GR lives within the boundaries that we already set for physical groups.

While there is a lot to consider concerning this, I keep reflecting on the percentage of GRs that attended the GEA's first two Assemblies - over 50%!

As one conference member said, "We have just made our circle bigger!".

WSO Finances

The first thing to know is that WSO, Inc's annual financial audit received a 'Clean' rating, which is the highest rating. The second thing to know is that the review found that WSO staff salaries were in alignment with other non-profit organizations of its size.

The 2022 preliminary budget estimated total revenue is \$5,460,061.

The total revenue breakdown:

AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP HEADQUARTERS, INC. 2022 OPERATING BUDGET			
	2022 Preliminary Budget	2021 Revised Budget	YTD Audited Actual
Estimated Revenue			
Literature Sales less cost of printing	2,057,461	1,993,000	1,906,751
Contributions	2,850,000	2,543,535	2,623,242
Magazine sales	235,000	255,000	238,040
Subscription income	32,000	28,000	33,328
Investment Income/Transfers	285,600	280,600	235,693
Total Estimated Revenue	5,460,061	5,100,135	5,037,054

This is an increase of \$359,926 from the 2021 revised budget. However, the total projected 2022 expenses are \$5,813,175. This leaves us with a net operations decrease of \$353,114. The major expense categories included in the 2022 budget:

- Salaries and associated costs (payroll taxes and benefits)
- Office expenses (postage, telephone, internet, stationery and supplies, printing, Canadian office)
- Occupancy (utilities, maintenance, landscape fees, etc.)
- Public Service Announcements (PSAs)
- Professional fees
- Travel (halted in 2020; resumed December 2021)
- Conference costs (including interpretation)
- Bank and credit card fees

2022 Projects

The following list of projects were taken into account when preparing the 2022 Budget:

- Printing of the new daily reader, [A Little Time for Myself](#)
- Publication of the New Service Manual
- Electronic group database transformation
- 1st Longitudinal Study
- Meet the Board Event in Cleveland, Ohio
- International Al-Anon General Services Meeting in London, UK
- Board Meetings
- Hire staff - returning to pre-COVID staffing and filling vacancies left by retirement

Yearly Cost of Group Services

The WSO has determined that the yearly cost of services provided to each group is \$281.88.

- Group Services \$116.40
- Public Outreach & Digital Strategy \$ 57.23
- Conference & Events \$ 34.05
- CAL & Magazine Editing \$ 32.49
- Translation \$ 19.95
- International Support \$ 18.37
- Volunteer Oversight \$ 3.40

All Al-Anon Family Groups use these services. However, only 50% of all groups contributed to the WSO in 2021 with an average \$174.58 per group contribution.

It was pointed out that the dollar tossed into the basket in 1952 is now valued at over \$10. I know that for many years tossing a \$1 in the basket at each meeting was all that I could give. Several years ago a suggestion was made to increase your meeting donation to \$2. One of the many gifts Al-Anon has given me is financial stability. So today, I try to give back financially more than I did when I first started attending Al-Anon meetings.

Overcoming the Budget Deficit

WSO truly appreciates all of its members' contributions. Contributions continue to be at a historic high. However, costs continue to rise as we navigate our way out of the economic impact of the pandemic. There will soon be another special appeal, as there was in 2020, to help close the operational budget deficit. Literature sales continue to fall below pre-pandemic levels. If every member bought just one book, this would bolster the finances for LDCs and the WSO. Finally, know that all financial decisions and actions are guided by spiritual principles and the finance committee strives to keep all of the Legacies present in all discussions.

Alateen

NYN is blessed to have a dedicated team. Mary S., Alateen Coordinator, and Mary D., Alateen AMIAS Process Person (AAPP), worked tirelessly to ensure that our Area could continue to hold Alateen meetings. Some Areas were less fortunate and were decertified. WSO is working closely with these Areas to complete the necessary steps to regain their Alateen certification.

There is currently an Alateen electronic meeting pilot coordinated by the WSO. Two Global Service Organizations (GSOs) are participating. More information will be forthcoming.

Alateen as a whole is suffering. Many groups closed due to the pandemic. As an Area, how can we support our Alateens?

Service Manual Updates

<will updated this section after the Assembly>

Stepping Stones Visit

We had the privilege of visiting Stepping Stones, Bill and Lois Wilson's home. The home remains as it was when Lois was alive. Every room is filled with AA and Al-Anon artifacts and mementos. During Bill's time on Wall Street, he purchased a \$10,000 baby grand piano for Lois. Visitors are encouraged to play it as it keeps the piano in tune. The house itself is a quaint cottage-like dwelling. The kitchen is filled with coffee and tea cups. The house has more bathrooms than I've ever seen in such a small dwelling. Lois and Bill loved to garden and had many flower beds, which are beautifully maintained. We were treated as VIPs and even allowed to have our pictures taken at Lois' desk and Bill's, located in his small writing building, Wit's End. It was a chilly but sunny day. As others continued to explore the grounds and buildings, several of us sat in lawn chairs basking in the sunlight and sharing our recovery with each other.

On Saturday, June 4th, the 71st Annual Stepping Stones Lois' Family Groups Picnic will be held both virtually and in person. You can view Stepping Stones virtual and/or register for the picnic at their website, steppingstones.org.

Road Trip

<update after Assembly>

International Convention

<will updated this section after the Assembly>

Al-Anon Service Work

<will updated this section after the Assembly>