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DELEGATE'S REPORT 2020 SPRING AWSC



Preparing for World Service Conference

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The World Service Conference (WSC) is the annual business meeting of Al-Anon Family Groups. The Conference provides guidance to the WSO in service matters brought to its attention. The WSC is in Virginia Beach this year, beginning Friday, April 12th, at a new hotel, the Sheraton Virginia Beach Oceanfront Hotel. The Conference finishes up on Thursday, April 18th with the closing dinner.

There are sixty-seven (67) Areas from the United States, Canada, Puerto Rico and Bermuda that send their Delegate to Conference. In addition to the 67 Delegates who have voice and vote, the Board of Trustees, the Executive Committee, and the World Service Conference WSO staff also have voice and vote. Other attendees include: International Representatives are chosen and have voice, but no vote. The Director of Finance and Operations, and the Chairperson of the Executive Committee for Real Property Management attend general sessions with voice limited to their role, but they have no vote.

The address for sending “love gifts” to the Delegate at Conference is:

Contact your Delegate directly for this information or you can find it in the Forum.

Be sure you include my name and address in the return address section, and put “Hold for WSC 4/20-4/24/2020” on the package somewhere. You should plan to have any packages or cards arrive at the hotel after April 15th.


Contact your Delegate directly for this information.

We will be visiting the World Service Office some time during the week.

The Conference will be reviewing proposed revisions to the World Service Handbook related to WSO staff and the Alateen Policy, as well as proposed revisions to the Bylaws of Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc. and Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, (Canada) Inc.

Service on the Literature Committee

As a Delegate I have had the opportunity to serve on the Literature Committee, one of the Selected Committees. I will serve on the Literature Committee through the end of my term, and will



serve as an At Large member of the Committee next year so we can complete the compilation and revision of the new daily reader.

Selected Committees

There are three Selected Committees – Conference Committee on Trustees, Literature Committee and Public Outreach Committee. We will hear reports from all of these Committees at Conference.

The Conference Committee on Trustees (CCT) is a sub-committee of the Nominating Committee, and independently reviews and evaluates resumes submitted for Trustee At-Large and resumes for At-Large members of the Executive Committee for Real Property Management. A compilation of their reviews is provided to the Nominating Committee to assist it in the selection of candidates to be presented to the Board. The CCT is composed of a Delegate Chairperson (a second year Delegate), a Chairperson-elect (a first-year Delegate), Delegate members from each panel, Chairperson of the Board of Trustees (non-voting), Secretary of the Corporation who is the Executive Director (non-voting), and Chairperson of the Nominating Committee (non-voting).


The CCT meets as a Committee jointly with the Nominating Committee at the WSC. During the Nominating Committee business, only Nominating Committee members vote, and during the CCT business, only CCT members vote.

The CCT reviews and evaluates the Trustee at Large (TAL) candidate resumes at least annually. The Committee also reviews and evaluates Executive Committee for Real Property Management (ECRPM) candidate resumes at least annually. Committee members encourage all Delegates to seek out members who will make themselves available as candidates for TAL and ECRPM positions.

The Literature Committee “is responsible for all Conference Approved Literature (CAL) and its mission is to see that every aspect of the AI-Anon program of recovery is presented in comprehensive written material for our members, friends and the world at large. The Committee suggests creation of material to meet new needs or changing conditions, and is charged with the revision of existing books and pamphlets.”

The Literature Committee consists of an At-Large Chairperson, selected by the Chairman of the Board, up to five At-Large members, including the Chairperson, the Associate Director-Literature (Tom Coffey), and Delegate members from each panel. The Committee meets annually at Conference with the Delegate members. There are at least three additional meetings each year, reporting to the next scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees.

The duties of the Literature Committee members are to: develop and maintain a working knowledge of the process for developing Conference Approved Literature, read AI-Anon literature on



a consistent basis and is familiar with literature that the Committee is currently addressing, keep attuned to the needs of the membership regarding Conference Approved Literature, suggest the creation or revision of literature, suggest consolidation or discontinuance of literature, review recovery material in accordance with the process for developing Conference Approved Literature, and review service material proposed by the Programs Department.

The last Selected Committee is the Public Outreach Committee. This Committee is the umbrella under which we try to reach families and friends of alcoholics and professionals who work with them, through a variety of media and communication vehicles. The Committee assists in the development of educational tools for our members to use with a variety of outside audiences to inform them of what Al-Anon/Alateen is and how it can be an effective resource for families and friends of alcoholics, and attract new members to our following without compromising our Traditions.

The Public Outreach Committee consists of an At-Large Chairperson, selected by the Chairperson of the Board, the Associate Director-Public Outreach Professionals (Claire Rieswasser), Delegate members from each panel, up to five At-Large members, and the Associate Director-Digital Strategy (non-voting).

The Committee meets annually at Conference with web conferencing support for the At-Large members. There are at least three additional meetings per year.


The Committee utilizes Al-Anon's Twelve Traditions in all public outreach activities, provides input and feedback to enhance Al-Anon's public image with the media, general public and professionals nationally and internationally, and reviews public outreach material proposed by Staff.

Task and Thought Forces

The Executive Committee has established one new thought force and two new task forces, that will report to Conference in 2021. These are the Task Force on Conflict Resolution, the Task Force on Using the Concepts in Personal Recovery and the Thought Force on Dreaming Big—Envisioning Our Future.

(1) Task Force: Conflict Resolution

Background: Everyone experiences conflict. Conflict occurs with family, friends, co-workers, just about any human encounter can generate a conflict even at Al-Anon meetings including group, District and Area business meetings. To help Al-Anon members deal with conflicts within Al-Anon the World Service Office (WSO) has created three wonderful tools: "Loving Interchange to Resolve



Conflict” (S-71), “Conflict Resolution using our Twelve Traditions” (S-72), and “Talk to Each Other—Resolving Conflicts with Al-Anon” (S-73).

Charge:

Create a workshop for the 2021 WSC that can be used in all Areas, Districts and groups on how to use the Conflict Resolution Tools we have, taking into consideration Concept Five.

(2) Task Force: Using the Concepts in Personal Recovery

Background: In April, 1970, the Twelve Concepts of Service received Conference approval.

“The Concepts are not meant for general Al-Anon Consumption,” but will be a useful guide for “whose of the future who will manage our services,” Lois wrote to a member who had read the current draft of the Concepts.”

Many Voices, One Journey (B-31), pg. 154

The World Service Conference (WSC) has frequently created tools/strategies in various forms to support the needs of members. Concepts of Service in personal recovery continues to be one of interest. Perhaps it’s time to consider new ways to encourage how the *Twelve Concepts of Service* play a part in personal recovery.


Charge:

Conduct a Knowledge-Based Decision-Making (KBDM) process among the members of the Task Force to determine what is currently known about this topic and what remains unknown.

Create a tool(s) to help members and groups use the Concepts of Service in personal recovery.

(3) Thought Force: Dreaming Big—Envisioning Our Future

Background: At the 2014 WSC, the Board’s “Big Question” focused on “taking Al-Anon Family Groups into the future using our spiritual principles as guideposts.” Questions in breakouts included: Al-Anon in 2051; the structure of Al-Anon in the future; how internal and external communication may look; the effect of technology at the group, AIS and LDC, District, and Area levels; and the diversity as a result of a “global world” moving into the future.



Even since that 2014 WSC discussion, the way Al-Anon functions has changed. Ever evolving technology, expanded use of viable resources, a new Board Strategic Plan, and concrete Strategies to be more inclusive of members regardless of language, have led to revitalized Goals to move Al-Anon Family Groups further into the future. And, while our Legacies and other spiritual principles will and must not change, Al-Anon as a whole will continue to evolve.

The 2020 Conference theme is *Dreaming Big with 20|20 Vision*. Consider Al-Anon's history (where we've been), where we are now, and where we may be going (envisioning our future). Now, consider Al-Anon's past, present, and future in your Area. When you think about "dreaming big" for your Area, what do you envision? What gets in the way of dreaming big for your Area?

Charge: Consider Al-Anon history over time to current time in your Area. What had to be replaced or needed to evolve? What was and is important that must not change? Using 20|20 vision, what might Al-Anon in your Area look like in five, ten, or twenty years (2040)? What are barriers to dreaming big in order to envision your Area's future? With these questions in mind, develop strategies that might be used in your Area to allow your Area to dream big and envision your Area's future.


Service Volunteers at the WSO Level

Annual vacancies – the number of vacancies available each year is as follows:

- 3 At-Large Trustees
- 3 Regional Trustees (rotates depending on Region)
- 1 At-Large member, Executive Committee for Real Property Management
- 5 At-Large members, Forum Editorial Advisory Committee
- 5 At-Large members, Literature Committee
- 5 At-Large members, Public Outreach Committee
- 2 At-Large members, Audit Committee

Resumes for the Trustee at Large and the Regional Trustee are due to WSO by August 15th. The Regional Trustee resumes have to be submitted through the Area's process, but the Trustee at Large resumes can be sent directly to WSO. The electronic resume is found on the Al-Anon website - <https://al-anon.org/for-members/board-of-trustees/wso-volunteers/board-of-trustees/>.

At-Large Committee resumes and resumes for the Executive Committee for Real Property Management are due to WSO by March 15th. Each candidate who submits a resume receives an



acknowledgment letter via e-mail when the resume is received, with a copy to the Area Delegate. All candidates, for any position, will receive a final letter whether they were chosen or not.

Our region did not put forth a candidate again this year.

2020 Conference Theme

Dreaming Big with 20/20 Vision. The Panel 58 Delegates have all submitted our 3-minute talks focusing on this year's Conference Theme. We will have an opportunity to present them at Conference. We will be submitting our Area Concerns soon for review with other Delegates the day before Conference begins. One of my responsibilities this year is to compile all of the submissions for the Sharing Area Highlights session at Conference.


My primary responsibility, as your Area Delegate, is to be a conduit of information between the Area and the WSO. I will listen to concerns and entertain questions and ideas from the officers, coordinators, DR's and GR's, and note all Area decisions. I'll take those with me to Conference, where I'll listen to the concerns, questions and ideas from other members of the Conference. Then I will listen for the will of my Higher Power and vote on behalf of our Area. When all Conference members do that, the decisions reached at Conference are then the larger group conscience of all Al-Anon members.

Southeast Regional Trustee-Special Appointment

The Nominating Committee, through the Area Chairperson, invited the Area to submit an application for a Southeast Regional Trustee to serve a one-year appointment on the Board of Trustees, with the term to begin following the Annual Board Meeting in April. Resumes are due to the WSO by Thursday, February 13th. The applicant should go through the Area approval process and then submit the resume through the Area Delegate. Tennessee does not currently have a process for submitting resumes on an off-cycle year. I would like to see us address that as an Area.

AFG Connects Discussions

There have been several discussions recently that I believe may be of interest to our members. These include internal review of Area financial records, use of the term "Qualifier" in meetings, dual members in service, the history of "Love Gifts" at Conference, and I submitted a question regarding



banquets at Area Conventions. I forwarded all of the responses to the Convention Chairperson and Co-Chairperson. If you have anything that you'd like to research or if you'd like to receive experience, strength and hope on a topic, just send it to me and I'll post it for you.

WSO New Office Hours

The World Service Office has changed their office hours. They are now available to answer member questions, provide customer support and receive visitors between 8 am and 5 pm Eastern time. After hours, they offer support to those still struggling with the effects of another person's alcoholism through their IVR phone and online meeting searches.

New Al-Anon PSA Campaign

As reported last fall, the new Al-Anon PSA campaign is underway. You can find the PSA Request Form at the following link on the Al-Anon website: <https://al-anon.org/for-members/public-outreach/outreach-to-the-publicmedia/psa-requests/>. You can select TV or Radio, and either English, French or Spanish. You'll need the station name, the city where the station is located, the name of the contact person, and their e-mail address to complete the request form.

Member Position Opening at the WSO

WSO is looking for a member with 5-7 years continuous Al-Anon membership who also has Alateen service experience at the District or Area level to fill the position of "Group Services Specialist—Alateen (Spanish)," a vital role within the Group Services Team at the World Service Office in Virginia Beach, Virginia. They believe they will get the best candidates from the efforts of members like you who know a fellow member, if not yourself, who has the expertise for this position. I have the Position Description available if you know anyone who is interested in the position.

New Al-Anon PSA Campaign

The International A.A. Convention is scheduled for July 2nd – 5th in Detroit, Michigan. You can find all the information you need here: https://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/international-convention-2020