

Tennessee Area 52
Area World Service Committee
August 20, 2022

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Tennessee Area 52

Area World Service Committee August 20, 2022

Voting at the 2022 World Service Conference.

They were trying a new app that would allow the voting members to use their PCs or their phones to vote. The requirement to have computer skills became evident. Of course there was confusion, and it took a while for everyone to understand how to load the app and open it. We were given the password with the suggestion that everyone write it down. When we were all ready, we were given the motion via the app and we had the choices to vote yes, no, or abstain.

- Time to vote. Ready? OK?Vote!
- Wait! Someone has not loaded the app on their phone.
- OK, ready to vote?
- Wait! Several people were not able to open the app.
- What was the password again?
- OK, ready?Vote!
- A successful vote! We all applauded.
- The total voting was more than the voting members present.

Apparently, some had not felt their vote had gone through so they voted twice.

- Everyone log out and log back in.
- OK, ready to vote?

- Wait! How does one log out?
- How does one log in?
- What was the password again?
- OK, ready to vote?
- Wait! Some accidentally closed the app and could not open it again.
- Everyone logged in?
- Ready?.....Vote!

The total votes were less than the voting members present. Some were confused about *when* to vote.

- Everyone log out and log back in.
- How does one log in?
- What was the password again?
- OK, ready?Vote!
- Success!

The wireless connection crashed. We lost the vote.

Laughter and frustrated groans rippled across the room. We broke for lunch. Coming back, we learned the connection was not capable of handling our numbers. It was suggested to hold the voting until the next day to allow time to upgrade the connection.

With laughter and great relief, all approved.

The Board of Trustees

Concept Six describes how the World Service Conference (WSC) has entrusted administrative authority and responsibility for Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc. to our Board. This responsibility carries with it a critical need for the availability of strong, dedicated leadership by our Trustees.

“The Board of Trustees, which meets quarterly, is the legal entity responsible for operational oversight of Al-Anon’s funds and services.”

2022-2025 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual pg. 69

The Board of Trustees is composed of seven to 21 volunteer members: one sustaining member (the Executive Director), Trustees at Large, and Regional Trustees. Our co-founders Lois W. and Anne B., now deceased, were honorary lifetime members.

2022-2025 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual pg

The Word Service Office is composed of executives, staff members and selected committees supervised by the legally empowered Board of Trustees and its Executive Committee.

2022-2025 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual pg. 84

Current Trustee Vacancies

There are theses vacancies:

- Two Trustees-at-Large
- Three Regional Trustees
 - US Northeast
 - US Northwest

US Southeast

It is my hope that further discussion here, will demystify the positions of Trustee and be an encouragement for members in Tennessee to send in resumes for the Southeast Regional Trustee or a Regional Trustee.

Trustee Nominating Process

After discussion at the previous WSC, the Trustee application process will become a skills based approach beginning 2023. The new Trustee role description will be put into use beginning with the 2023 Nominating Process. The role description will be posted to al-anon.org after the August 15, 2022 deadline for submitting a Trustee resume to avoid confusion about what to submit for the 2022 Nominating Process, which is already underway.

New Resume Submission Deadline

The Board decided to include a short interview conducted by the members of the Nominating Committee for Trustee-at-Large candidates. The new date of November 15 allows time for those interviews to happen before making recommendations to the Board of Trustees in January.

Trustee Service Requirements

Trustees

- Are an active member of Al-Anon Family groups, with at least ten (10) year of continuous membership
- Are eligible to become an Al-Anon Member Involved in Alateen Service (AMIAS) & pass a national background check
- Have service experience beyond the group level
- Are not a present or past member of Alcoholics Anonymous (A.A.)
- Are able to speak and write proficiently in the English language

(See <https://al-anon.org/for-members/board-of-trustees/wso-volunteers/>)

Please note there is no requirement one must have service experience as a Delegate!

Board of Trustees Annual January Board Week

The Board of Trustees has made the decision to meet virtually for January Board Week on a permanent basis. Travel is more difficult in January and that is also the time when the Trustee applicants are interviewed. They felt it made it easier for all to participate. "Participation is the key to harmony."

Fall 2022 Assembly

Guest Speaker

Nancy Shore, South Central Regional Trustee, will attend via Zoom to share of her experiences as Trustee and her knowledge of the position and the resume process.

All are welcome to attend our Assembly. Please encourage everyone to attend, and please remind everyone Group Representatives have voice and vote. Visitors listen and observe.

In preparation for her visit, during phone conversations with Nancy Shore, she answered some questions I had about Trustees.

Is there a difference between Regional Trustees and Trustees-at-Large?

No. They are all volunteers and serve without distinction. *Trustees are Al-Anon members.*

We have regional trustees to give a broader base of experience among the Trustees. If the majority of trustees were from the east, would the Board gain an understanding of experiences from the regions in the west and the central part of the US? What about experiences from all of Canada?

Are trustees part of the links of service?

No. The Board of Trustees is a legal entity. The Links of Service provide communication between the World Service Office and the groups via our service arms.

(See 2022-2025 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual, "World Service Office, Links of Service", pp 143-144, and "Structure of Al-Anon/Alateen Fellowship, Links of Service, pg 63-54)

How many committees can a trustee be on?

Trustees serve on a variety of committees. Some are listed in the 2022-2025/v2 AI-Anon/Alateen Service Manual

(See 2022-2025 AI-Anon/Alateen Service Manual, "World Service Office, pp 171-174 and Concept Eleven. (pg 208-213)

What committees are not listed in the Service Manual?

Nancy Shore shared a great deal with me about this. We will hear her answer at Fall Assembly.

If we have fewer trustees, does that impact the amount of work for each trustee?

Yes, it can. Trustees are assigned other committees as necessary. After WSC this year, a committee was established to look at comments and concerns brought up during the Conference.

e-Book Update

The Finance Committee recommended, and the Board of Trustees approved, that the remaining Conference Approved Literature (CAL) currently sold as printed books also be offered as eBooks. In August, World Service Office Staff will begin the work required to move forward with this approved recommendation. The work may take a while.

Reminders

AI-Anon International Convention

Albuquerque, New Mexico June 30 – July 2, 2023

Road Trip! You and Your Board Connect

- Saturday, October 29, 2022
- DoubleTree by Hilton Cleveland-Independence

- 6200 Quarry Lane
- Independence, OH 44131
- Cleveland, OH

See: <https://al-anon.org/wso-events/road-trip-you-and-your-board-connect/>

(The details of these events were included in the Spring Assembly Report.)

Financial Reports

The 2021 Financial Report and the Budget were presented at 2022 Spring Assembly. The report is available by accessing

- AWSC.groups.io in the Files/ 2021-2023 Area Meetings/Assembly/2022 Spring Assembly
- The TN-AI-Anon.org website. Look for “For Members” and “From Our Delegate”.

Revised Budget

The Board of Trustees approved the *revised* 2022 Budget. Expenses are being cut but there is still a deficit of \$332,730.

- While we are buying literature a little more than was expected, by \$8,930, the sales still have not returned to pre-pandemic levels.
- Our year-to-date contributions are below what was expected in the budget by \$66,725.

June, 2022 Update

Contributions:

- Contributions little bit under budget, but have increased because of the Special Appeal letter. The hope is members will continue to contribute at the same level so we can receive the service we expect from the WSO.

- The June Tradition 7 Contributions were 373,444 a result of the special appeal but were still under budget. The hope is the June trend in contributions continues through July.

Literature

The literature price increase will help. The last increase was 10 years ago.

- Sales from e-Literature are \$99,055.
- Magazines and mobile app sales increased
- The market has not been favorable for our investments.

Expenses:

- Our expenses at six months are at the level that was expected for the entire year. The increases are because of translation needs and airfare.

Special Appeal Letter

June 2022

“This letter is a special appeal to all Al-Anon and Alateen members. While the World Service Conference recently approved the WSO’s 2022 annual budget, which projected a -\$353,114 deficit, the deficit is already trending higher than projected, at -\$325,749 as of April 30, 2022. Our contributions and literature sales are not meeting our planned budget.”

Suggested Tradition 7 Contributions Spreadsheet

From Cindy M., AFG Treasurer:

“With understanding comes unity. With unity comes abundance. With abundance we can reach more friends and families affected by the disease of alcoholism.”

This spreadsheet is designed to show Districts and Groups suggested Tradition 7 Contributions dependent on the budgeted expenses and the number of groups for each service arm. The number of groups and budgeted expenses for a district would be changed to reflect that district.

	Total number of Groups	Annual Budgeted Expenses	Annual Expenses Per Group	Annual % Total
District	12	\$300	\$25	3%
Area	174	\$22,554	\$130	14%
Middle TN* AIS/LDC	75	\$36,000	\$480	52%
WSO**	19,449	\$5,465,000	\$281	31%
Total Annual Per Group			\$916	100%

In this situation, the total of the Tradition 7 Contributions would be \$916 annually per group. A percentage of this total for each service arm is in the 4th column.

*The numbers for the Middle TN AIS/LDC have been provided by that office.

**The WSO is unable to give me a current total number of groups. The number is calculated by the total budget divided by the cost per group as provided in the August 2022 WSO Finance Report Update.

Percentage of a \$150 Total Annual Contribution By a Group

Each group is able to modify the Group Annual Contribution to accurately reflect the group. If a group was able to contribute \$150 annually, by using this table, the group would have a *suggested* amount for each service arm.

Group Contribution	Annual	\$150	Suggested Contribution
District		3%	\$4
Area		14%	\$21
Middle TN AIS/LDC		52%	\$79
World Service Office		31%	\$46
Total		100%	\$150

A file containing this spreadsheet is on [AWSC.groups.io](https://awsc.groups.io) with this report.

Strategic Planning

In order to keep spending in line with members' Tradition 7 Contributions and literature purchases, the Strategic Leadership Team made these recommendations for our Strategic Plan:

Reduced

It has been approved that the following will be reduced:

- CAL translated in all languages
- Updated and translated Guidelines
- Alateen Electronic Meetings
- Animations/Cartoons via social media

Postponed

These will be postponed:

- Electronic payments from AI-Anon Family Groups
- Member guidance concerning bequests
- Phase 2 of the Online Store upgrade

Additional Responsibilities

In addition to their regular responsibilities, here are some of the special projects the WSO Staff is working on:

- New Daily Reader (including translation)
- Translation of the *Service Manual*
- Electronic Meeting Transformation
- 2023 International Convention
- 2022 Road Trip!
- IAGSM in London
- First Longitudinal Study

What Does My Tradition Seven Contribution Cover?

The Back of the Quarterly Appeal Letter

Please take the time to look at the services the World Service Office gives us. After perusing these lists, I find an appreciation that they do so much with so little. Please encourage your group to take note of this information. Better information can be downloaded here: [2021 Annual Report](#).

How Al-Anon Serves Your Group and You

Programs

Group Services

- Supports all registered Al-Anon Family Groups
- Maintains group, meeting, and trusted servant records
- Creates *Alateen Talk* quarterly newsletter
- Supports Inmate Correspondence Service
- Supports Alateen groups and encourages Al-Anon members to serve through their Area process
- Sends complimentary Conference Approved Literature (CAL) and other service materials
- Supports Al-Anon Information Service Centers (AISs)
- Supports trusted servants in their various roles and responsibilities
- Answers questions about group issues
- Approves Area Alateen Safety and Behavioral Requirements

Public Outreach / Professionals

- Prepares and distributes *Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism (AFA)* magazine
- Sends complimentary materials to professionals
- Performs outreach to professionals

- Attends professional conferences to share the Al-Anon message
- Supports and encourages Areas, members, Al-Anon service arms, and service entities in public outreach efforts

Literature

- Responds to correspondence about literature and *The Forum*
- Performs research to give the most thorough response to members' questions regarding CAL
- Processes requests to reprint CAL
- Prepares and edits CAL
- Plans, schedules, and conducts Literature Committee web conference calls
- Prepares and edits *The Forum*
- Provides leadership and support on the AFG Connects communities for *Forum* and Literature Coordinators and Area Newsletter Editors

Conference

- Prepares program and staffs the World Service Conference (WSC)
- Prepares the *World Service Conference Summary (P-46)*
- Provides leadership and support for Delegates, Area Chairpersons, and

- District Representatives
- Responds to all communications regarding Delegate and Conference concerns
- Develops service tools to educate the membership on the Structure

International

- Supports International structures
- Coordinates International Al-Anon General Services Meeting (IAGSM)
- Prepares *IAGSM Summary*
- Monitors and processes reprint permissions for the International community
- Coordinates the review of translations of CAL
- Supports the International Meeting Search on the al-anon.org website

Other Program Services

- Participates in Area and International events
- Maintains the Archives
- Provides groups with registration dates
- Facilitates updates to the *Service Manual*
- Creates International Convention program

Notes on Group Services:

Inmate Correspondence:

Inmate correspondence is between an Al-Anon member and an inmate. The requests to have correspondence comes from Al-Anon members. Currently there is one ongoing correspondence. There is little response from the inmates.

Complimentary CAL and Other Literature Provided to Groups

- Links to the Groups at Work, the SM, GR Guidelines (G11) and the free download page are sent to new groups.
- In the Loop is emailed.
- Quarterly Appeal is surface (snail) mailed.

Administration and Digital Communications

Digital Communications

- Designs, builds, and maintains the website
- Builds and maintains the *Al-Anon Family Groups* Mobile App
- Creates content for and manages blogs, podcasts, and social media pages
- Supports Web and Public Outreach (PO) Coordinators
- Develops service-wide PO campaigns, including Public Service Announcements (PSAs), and collaborates with media
- Maintains *The Best of Public Outreach*
- Conducts internal research and collaborates with researchers
- Builds and distributes *In the Loop*
- Evaluates emerging technologies to determine benefits for AFG, Inc. and the fellowship
- Maintains and defends copyrights and trademarks
- Coordinates Staff and World Service Office (WSO) Volunteers participation in International and Area events
- Oversees Staff implementation of the Board of Trustees' Strategic Plan
- Recruits, grows, and retains WSO Staff to support our primary purpose
- Grants permissions for service arms to post the Legacies on their websites
- Facilitates the WSO Volunteer application process to ensure consistency in candidate selection

Administration

- Answers the Toll-Free Meeting line in English, Spanish, and French
- Facilitates special projects and events, including Conference and International Conventions

Finance & Operations

Operations

- Designs *The Forum* and *AFA*; *In the Loop*; event programs, posters, and summaries; and CAL
- Translates, designs, and distributes *Le lien* and *Al-Anon y Alateen en acción* magazines
- Translates new and updated literature, WSO website pages, programs, Mobile App premium content, and other published materials
- Stocks literature inventory
- Maintains WSO building and grounds
- Maintains AFG Connects and the online store
- Processes and distributes literature orders for members, groups, and Literature Distribution Centers (LDCs)
- Receives and processes *The Forum* and Mobile App premium content subscriptions

Finance & Customer Service

- Manages AFG, Inc. financial matters
- Receives and processes member contributions

UPDATED JUNE 2021

Experiences Traveling

Arriving



Rather than fly to LaGuardia Airport or JFK, I chose to fly to the Westchester Airport in White Plains, NY. Being used to the Nashville International Airport, I found Westchester a much smaller airport with a "slower pace."

When the plane landed, I debarked, walked across the tarmac, and entered the terminal from the one back door.

Being used to the Nashville airport with twelve baggage carousels, I loved that the Westchester Airport had one.



In Tennessee, it was spring. The earth was beginning to awaken. New York was still chilly and brown.

Another delegate and I were shuttled from the airport to the hotel. The driver preferred back roads and knew the route very well. As we barreled down a very curvy 1 ½ lane road, we were passed by speeding cars, a tractor, and a few 1 ton trucks as if the road had full two lanes.

We passed an old barn on the left. On the right close to the road was a small, dilapidated old house with a collapsed roof. Further down the road, rusted farm equipment sat near a farm house. When a stray dog ran across the road, I found myself smiling. It felt like rural middle Tennessee and it felt like home.

Traveling Home

Being used the the airport in Nashville, I loved the peacefulness of this smaller airport.

I entered through the one door at the front.



There were two lines for security. TSA had one person; standard had a handful.

When it came time to board, soldiers and those who had mobility challenges were asked to board first. Next Group 2 was called; one man boarded. She called for Group 3. No one moved. Next was Group 4. We all waited. With some exasperation, she told the rest of us, "Just get on the plane." The four of us complied.

I was reminded of much younger days as I walked across the tarmac and climbed the metal stairs that had previously been rolled up to the side of the airplane.



The World Service Conference Experience

I heard a past delegate say they wished the atmosphere of the World Service Conference could be bottled and brought back home. I now understand. During the week we had some difficult discussions and some serious topics to cover, but there was kindness, courtesy, and respect throughout. We earnestly listened to discussions sometimes with courage and sometimes with patience. We laughed at the technical difficulties, times of confusion, and eventually just because we were so tired. Most importantly, we remembered that unity gives the most progress for all.

Recently, as I was listening to a Trustee talk about the Policy Committee's dedication to their tasks and the atmosphere of their meetings, I realized she was also describing the World Service Conference. Her thoughts are what I wish for each of our Area meetings.

"Unity, thoughtfulness, patience, mutual trust, and willingness to serve are evident in everything we do.....Also! Add the concept of love for this program and one another, and how we truly respect the Service Manual."

*Jeri W
SW Regional Trustee, Policy Committee Chair*

I am learning so much about how to serve our Tennessee Area. I'm also learning about the workings of the World Service Office, our Board of Trustees, our Service Manual, and about myself. What a gift it is to be able to serve as delegate.

Thank you,
Karla Kelso
Tennessee Area 52 Delegate