



Delegates Report

Florida North

Wendy R | Fall Assembly | October 6, 2017

Dear Members,

It is hard to believe that three years have flown by! I cannot express my gratitude to you for allowing me the opportunity to be your Delegate. As happens often in service I have received so much more than I gave.

I am going to start with an announcement that was also in my August report, but in case you didn't read that... 😊

New Executive Director!

It is with great pleasure that the Board of Trustees, Al-Anon Family Groups, Inc. announces that on September 5th, 2017, Vali F. will begin her tenure as our next Executive Director. Vali brings with her over 15 years as an active Al-Anon member. She served as a Panel 53 Delegate from Arizona, Area Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. Additional Al-Anon service roles include AIS Chair and Alateen Coordinator.

Vali also brings over 20 years of business experience including management of teams of staff throughout the world. Vali has a keen understanding of the world's ever-changing landscape and how those changes have and will continue to impact the growth and diversity of our fellowship.

Vali fully embraces the continued need to find new ways to reach those whose lives have been affected by someone else's drinking. Our current Executive Director, Mary G., has committed to working side-by-side with Vali beginning September 5th through the October Board meeting.

This transition period will ensure that our new Executive Director, our World Service Office (WSO) staff and our fellowship as a whole experience a smooth transition.

As shared in the April 2017 Chairperson of the Board Letter, the Board believes this transition period is supported by the spiritual principles of our program by offering the sharing of our experience, strength and hope. We then let go and allow the new Executive Director the freedom to oversee the World Service Office in her own way as outlined in Concept Eleven.

WSO Financial Presentation

On Friday night of Assembly, I will be giving a short presentation on WSO finances. Hope you can join!

WSO-KBDM vs Minority Appeal

The Executive Director clarified for an Area when to use KBDM and when to respond to a minority appeal. KBDM is used to address a new question, but to reconsider a previous action is a minority appeal. Issues that were previously discussed are not appropriate for a minority appeal unless new facts not previously stated are contained in the appeal.

Road Trip!

This year's "Road Trip! You and Your Board Connect" will be held Saturday, October 21st in Aurora, Colorado.

You can make plans to attend by registering early as there are only 150 seats available. We will be meeting at the Radisson Hotel, 3155 South Vaughn Way, Aurora, Colorado.

You may want to come a few days early or stay a few days after and enjoy Colorful Colorado.

Registration forms can be located on the Members' website: http://www.al-anon-co.org/images/A5_102117_Roadtrip.pdf

Al-Anon International Convention Baltimore 2018!

"Celebrating One Day at a Time" is the theme for Al-Anon's 2018 International Convention in Baltimore, Maryland. Al-Anon and Alateen members from around the world will come together at the beautiful waterfront of Baltimore, Maryland, **Friday, July 6 – Sunday, July 8, 2018**, for fun and fellowship. ***Registration is now open!***

It's hard to believe, but by this time next year our 2018 International Convention will be a memory. WSO remarks how exciting it has been to receive emails from those of you planning to attend. Some are coming by train, car or plane. A number of Areas are in the midst of making plans to charter a bus to Baltimore! Registration information is being finalized and will be available on our Members' website and mailed directly to registered groups by mid-September.

In addition to the International Convention, a "Day of Connecting" has been planned by the Board. The "Day of Connecting" will be held on **Thursday, July 5th**. We have planned a fun and inspiring day, one that you will want to include when planning your attendance at the 2018 International Convention.

Registration will be a separate fee from the International Convention. The "Day of Connecting" will include several formats from which you can choose:

Presentations with topics such as:

Our Worldwide Fellowship: Al-Anon's International Reach Telephone Book or the Internet—

What's Your Digital Age? Al-Anon on Social Media Know Your WSO—Service IS Its Middle Name!

What Happens at the Office Al-Anon's Financial Stewardship:

Gratitude in Action Discussion Meetings:

Dusty Bookshelves: Falling in Love with All Our CAL: Going Beyond the Daily Readers

Tag—You're It! NOW WHAT?

Becoming the Leaders Others Know You Can Be

Attitudes – Are Mine Worth Catching?

Searching for the Answer in Our Twelve Traditions

The 3 T's of Public Outreach – Tips, Tools, and Techniques – Successful Public Outreach Panels:

Are the Twelve Concepts Still Al-Anon's Best Kept Secret? Hear the Secret of Our Service Structure

A.A. will participate by holding daytime meetings on Friday and Saturday. The Friday and Saturday evening and Sunday morning “big meet- ings” for all attendees will feature U.S., Canadian, and International speakers. There will be a dance too!

There will also be opportunities to listen and learn more about how Al-Anon works through participation in Leadership Talks and Roundtable Discussions. The Day of Connecting will end with a “Meet and Greet” with presenters and participants. Keep your eyes open for further details regarding the opening of the online registration for our 2018 International Convention and “Day of Connecting.”

Members can celebrate their recovery by marching in the opening night “Language of Love” parade and can choose their costumes for fun.

Beginning in September 2017, the WSO will provide information to the fellowship through articles in The Forum magazine, Group eNews, AFG Announcements for members, the WSO Members website, print and electronic group mailings.

The Convention has its own website, <http://www.al-anoninternationalconvention.org/>. Al-Anon and Alateen members and their A.A. guests will be able to register for the convention online. Members will also find information and sign up for housing and learn

about activities connected with the Convention happening before and after the event. Members are encouraged to register early to save money.

Once you have registered to attend the convention, you can:

- Reserve a hotel room. Al-Anon has reserved a number of rooms at a guaranteed rate with several hotels in the area. If you book an “Al-Anon” room, you will receive the lowest possible rate and be supporting the Convention.
- Register to march in the “Language of Love Parade.”
- Purchase tickets for the Pioneer Luncheon (limited seating/ first come, first served).
- Come a day earlier for a separate service-oriented day of workshops on July 5th.

Registration Fees (in U.S. Funds) \$130.00 until Dec. 31, 2017 \$165.00 from January 1 - May 31, 2018 \$195.00 from June 1 - July 7, 2018

2018 World Service Conference

The 2018 World Service Conference will be held in West Harrison, New York Monday April 16-Friday April 20th, 2018. The site will allow the opportunity for the full Conference to visit Stepping Stones.

The Conference Leadership Team (CLT) recommended and the Board and is pleased to announce the approval of the 2018 World Service Conference theme:

Al-Anon – There is no standing still!

Al-Anon – ¡No hay razón para detenerse!

Al-Anon – Il n’y a pas de place pour l’immobilisme!

This theme, an excerpt from a statement made by our co-founder Lois W., is both a reminder and a call to action for every member. Al-Anon must continue to grow if it is going to fulfill its primary purpose of reaching millions who need Al-Anon’s help but are not yet aware of the existence of our fellowship.

WSO Finance Committee Update

This is an update from the finance committee to delegates July 24, 2017.

As you will read in the Chairman of the Board July Letter Finance update, Literature Sales are a little over budget at the six-month mark **but Contributions are falling a little short of target**. Your message after Conference in 2016 resulted in a significant increase in Contributions but we did not see that bump this year, which caused the Finance Committee some concern. We were wondering if we, as presenters at the Conference, did not adequately convey to you the ongoing financial needs of AFG Inc.

As you know, we built our 2017 budget based on a projected \$2,100,000 in Contributions. As you remember, the abundance realized in 2016 allowed us to make significant investments in technology. We have brought much of the work in-house, resulting in the near completion of our completely re-worked website, a Conference app, improved communication applications and hints and promises of great things to be unveiled in the very near future.

All these improvements and more are dependent on the message being carried that there is still a great need for support of the operations of the World Service Office. Last year's abundant and unexpected response was a direct result of your effectiveness in carrying that message to the fellowship.

Please also express our gratitude to your Areas. In addition, please also continue to keep them aware of the need that is as great, or perhaps even greater than last year.

The following update is based on the unaudited financial statements for the period ended June 30, 2017: The General Fund recorded a loss of \$10,349 for this period, compared to a gain of \$341,931 this period last year. That represents a net negative of \$352,280 over this period last year.

This is mainly due to full staffing in the office this year, which was not the case last year. It is also reflective of the amazing bump in Contributions this time last year after the World Service Conference.

Revenue from literature sales was slightly above that of 2016, and is tracking ahead of budgeted expectations. The General Fund investment income totaled about \$27,000. We are hopeful that Contributions and Sales increases will allow us to grow the Reserve Fund by not transferring funds from the Reserve Fund to the General Fund.

Income: Literature sales were \$1,899,251 for this period, compared to \$1,845,798 at this time last year, Gross profit on literature sales was \$1,506,554 (81% of sales), compared to \$1,495,171 for 2016.

Contributions are at \$1,015,231 for 2017, compared to \$918,718 last year—an increase of 10.5% but falling a little short of budgeted projections.

Forum subscription income was \$134,767 for 2017, an increase of 13%.

Expenses: Actual operating expenses were \$2,709,426 for the first six months of 2017, compared to \$2,321,645 last year and slightly over budget.

Full staffing, notably in the Digital Strategy Department, is reflected in the increased expenditure over last year.

Reserve Fund: The fair value of investments in the Reserve Fund totaled \$5,585,360 at June 30, 2017, an increase in value of over \$400,000.

Outlook: While Contributions dipped a bit in the month of June, we are hopeful that the abundance demonstrated in 2016 will carry on in 2017. That level of participation, along with some encouraging Literature Sales numbers will allow the World Service Office to continue to support all the members carrying the message of help and hope.

2018 International Al-Anon General Services Meeting

The 2018 International Al-Anon General Services Meeting (IAGSM) will meet October 2018 in Virginia Beach. The purpose of the IAGSM is to share the experience of Al-Anon national services around the world through their Delegates.

Delegates to the IAGSM encourage the growth of a sound service structure while maintaining worldwide unity through the application of our Traditions. Ultimately, this leads to the primary purpose of Al-Anon as a whole — to seek the best way to carry the Al-Anon message of recovery to families and friends of alcoholics amidst cultural and language differences.

The International Coordination Committee (ICC) holds the responsibility of planning the IAGSM agenda and bringing forward to the Board the suggested theme. During our July meeting, the Board enthusiastically approved the theme for the 2018 IAGSM:

“Leading by Example: Structures Supporting Structures”

WSO Strategic Planning

The WSO Administrative Team joined the Board and Executive Committee members in a Strategic Planning session. The purpose of our joining together in our Strategic Planning sessions is to clarify the forward direction of the organization and the operations of the WSO and how we can appropriately connect. We discussed that the Board is the “what”—being responsible for the strategic direction, and that the staff is the “how”—being responsible for implementing the “what”.

The Board and staff are committed to working together in discussing strategies. We believe it to be imperative to have staff in the room for our discussions. We are working from the belief that we support what we help to create.

Following our Strategic Planning session, the Board, Executive Committee members and staff participated in the second annual “Meet and Greet”. This is a continued opportunity to introduce staff, Board and Executive Committee members to one another. Concept Eleven reminds us that the WSO staff not only *supports* the world leadership of the Board, the staff *shares* world leadership with us.

As is typical with any Al-Anon gathering, food and laughter were shared.

Staff was also invited to attend the annual Open Nominating Committee meeting. In years past, the Open Nominating Committee meeting was held in the evening and included a dinner. In an attempt to cut costs and offer the entire staff the opportunity to learn how Trustees and our Committee members are selected, this year’s meeting was held at the WSO and the entire staff was invited to attend.

WSO Investments

In keeping with the Board’s legal and fiduciary responsibilities, the Board met with the two Financial Advisors for an in-person review of AFG, Inc.’s investments in the Reserve and General Funds.

Board Development Session

Each Board meeting the Board and Executive Committee members hold a “Board Development” session. These discussions typically relate to the fiduciary and foresight responsibilities of the Board along with the Executive Committee.

The July topic was related to our governance practices. We are working from the place that the Board is best equipped to lead when we are self-aware, function in constructive partnership with our Executive Director and staff and are committed to continually improving our performance.

From our discussion came the realization that while our By-Laws have been updated to reflect changes as they have occurred, such as the amendment this past year to update the title of Director of Business Services to Director of Finance, the Board should also periodically review our By-Laws to ensure timely amendments when necessary.

Our By-Laws formalize the Board’s structure and practices. The Board’s needs evolve over time, as do the external circumstances within which the Board functions. The outcome of

our Board development discussion is the forming of a new task force and thought force to review and update the AFG INC By-Laws.

Workshop- How can we empower our members in the use of our Legacies and policies when seeking solutions to issues within the Area, District and group?

Since members are “our hope for the future,” how can we encourage them to trust themselves, to use Al-Anon’s Legacies and policies and to “talk to each other and reason things out?”

After all, members really are the ones most familiar with a particular issue for which they are seeking a solution and they have the available tools to address most situations that arise in their group, District or Area.

How do we, as experienced leaders in service, support our members and help them believe they are capable of finding their own answers if they use our Al-Anon and Alateen resources to seek solutions? We will be discussing the above in our workshop on Saturday during Assembly.

My Last Report!!

With the risk of being repetitive I want to thank you all again for the opportunity to serve as your Delegate. I look forward to seeing our Area continue to grow and expand our thinking.

I hope you are thinking about your next service opportunity for Panel 58! As I mentioned in my August report if you are feeling a twinge of unease about service remember; **FEAR-Face everything and recover!**

Hugs & Love to all,

Wendy R.

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