



**Delegate's Report
Spring Assembly May 2018
Florida North – Area 9**



I wish I could express my awe, my gratitude and my sense of humility to be able to participate in the World Service Conference last week. Your willingness to send me as your Delegate means so much, and I hope I can convey both the business and the love that I experienced there.

This report is just one part of what I will be bringing back to the Area. Here I will create a succinct, and easy-to-print report of the facts and issues, in case you would like to bring something simple to your Group or District. I will share with you the ongoing Delegates' work, including Conference processes and tools, as well as the many opportunities we will have to interact with the Board of Trustees and the WSO staff.

1. **Love Gifts:** I was showered with love and love gifts from all over our Area. Thank you! I felt part of such a generous and thoughtful group of people. Your many creative gifts have been shared with Delegates all around the world and I have brought some back to you to share. Al-Anon is a worldwide fellowship of love! Thank you!
2. **Chosen Agenda Items** – These are topics that originate from the membership. The Board then groups them together in broad categories to discuss in detail at Conference. They included the following topics. I am paraphrasing here, but the full CAI language will be posted on our Area website.
 - a. What is the role that rural groups and members will be playing in Al-Anon's future? How does the Board see the outreach and place of these communities in the future of Al-Anon?
 - b. How can we increase our membership, reach new members and follow spiritual principles in our Public Outreach?
 - c. How do we define and deal with "former" AA members in terms of service above the group level?

We broke into small groups and had conference-wide discussions. We approached these topics from an idea-generation and creative-discussion perspective. We did not focus on fixing any perceived problems, but continued conversations and moved along the road of clarifying the spiritual principles of the topics as well as ways that the Board can address them. We will be working on these in Area meetings over the course of 2018.

3. **WSO Finances** – The World Service Offices finances are sound and solid. We have a very professional and talented group of staff and WSO volunteers who work together for careful stewardship of funds, honest and transparent transactions, and forward-thinking ideas about sustainability of our fellowship in a changing world. I felt an enormous confidence in the presentations – there were three thorough, detailed reports and these will be posted in full on the Area website.

The simplest way to look at WSO finances is in three categories: Income, Expenses and Reserve Fund.

INCOME: comes from four sources (Contributions, Literature Sales, Forum Subscriptions and Investment Income/Reserve Fund Transfers)

	2017	2016
Literature Sales (net)	\$ 2,770,868	\$ 2,785,602
Contributions in 2017	1,972,931	2,098,098
Forum Subscriptions	264,461	251, 901
Investment Income/RFTransfer; including Reserve Fund Revenue	772,673	403,623
Noncash Contribution	145,628	187,767
Total Income	\$ 5,926,561	5,726,991
Contributions from our Area	\$ 56,244	\$ 55,272

EXPENSES: includes staffing, office supplies and business expenses, literature printing, conference costs, PSAs etc. Exact numbers from each category will be posted on the website. In addition, the WSO tax returns are available on the WSO website. For detailed questions and concerns, please contact me directly.

Total Expenses	\$ 5,424,158	\$ 5,508,445
Expenses per Group	\$ 283	

RESERVE FUND: *Warranty 1 – That only sufficient operating funds, including an ample reserve, be its prudent financial principle.*

Net Value of Reserve Fund	\$ 5,139,588
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In 2007 the Board reaffirmed its long-standing principle that the Reserve Fund be set at one year's operating expenses. The Finance Committee is suggesting that 9-10 months might be more in line with our spiritual principles. This is an ongoing topic and is considered monthly by the Finance and Executive Committees as well as the WSO staff.

- Regional Trustee Process and RCT** – our Southeast Region will be selecting a Regional Trustee candidate this year. If we have a candidate from our Area their resume will be considered at this Assembly, and if passed, forwarded to the WSO by the deadline of August 15, 2018.

I am a member of a Regional Committee on Trustees and we will work through a process of moving resumes forward to the Board.

The Board of Trustees has a Thought Force on the current Regional Trustee Process and we had an open discussion of the five KBDM questions. This process will continue to be considered and details will be on the website on my Delegate's Corner.

The documents for the Regional Trustee and Trustee at Large are located on the Area Website, Delegate's Corner. If you have any questions, or know someone you think may be qualified for (or interested in) becoming a Trustee, please contact me!

5. **Literature** – We received a copy of the new pamphlet P-94 “Hope and Understanding for Parents & Grandparents”! It is a fantastic piece of literature written by and for our membership. It is \$.75 and is available in English, French and Spanish. I hope you will all buy copies for your groups and your Public Outreach projects.
 - We gave conceptual approval to move forward with the development of a bookmark based on a Forum article titled “Just For Tonight” with inclusionary language.
 - You’ll hear more about this from our Literature Coordinator but this summer we will have two new pieces of literature! “Intimacy in Alcoholic Relationships” and a 50th Anniversary edition of the ODAAT. Both will be available at the International Convention in Baltimore. The ODAAT will come with a special bookplate if purchased at International. After that, the special edition books will be sold until they run out.
 - The WSO is still asking for recommendations of your favorite articles from any edition of The Forum for inclusion in a new “Forum Book (working title)” and for a new daily reader. You can submit these recommendation online, by email or by regular mail. Contact our Literature Coordinator, our Alternate Delegate (Forum Coordinator) or me for further info.

6. **Public Outreach** – our AFA orders were record-breaking at 400,325 for the 2018 edition.
 - Membership survey had over 13,000 participants; data still being collated
 - We won a Top 5% Award from Nielsen ratings for our PSAs.
 - In 2018 we will be producing 3 new PSAs. You’ll hear more about getting these out to our local stations.
 - Social media is a continuing work in progress
 - “The most important Public Outreach tool is the Al-Anon Group.”
 - Be sure to stay in touch with our PO Coordinator for more info and connection.

7. **Group Records:** Here is a breakdown of the records for 2017

Al- Anon (US/PR/BDA)	12,683
Alateen (US/PR/BDA)	831
Al-Anon (Canada)	1,185
Alateen (Canada)	50
Al-Anon (International)	9,000
Alateen (International)	646

Electronic Meetings:	
Digital (email and blog)	55
Phone	115
AMIAS Certified:	4,354

8. **Stepping Stones** – on Wednesday of Conference we visited the home of Bill and Lois Wilson; called Stepping Stones. I will be presenting some photos and reflections of this profound experience during Assembly. Our time there was so meaningful, and while there I felt such tremendous gratitude to all of you for the chance to stand there and keep our connections vibrant and alive.
9. **International Participation** – we had delegates from Denmark and Mexico who had voice at Conference. Their shared experiences were deeply meaningful, and so familiar to our own. The report from the International Coordination Committee (ICC) included amazing work going on in the Central America, Ibero-American and European Zonal Meetings : the three places visited by the Trustees and staff this year. There is a detailed ICC report online.
10. **International Convention – “Celebrating One Day at a Time”**
 - www.al-anon.org/international - allows for registration, to see the schedule and to make your plans!!
 - **The Day of Connecting is Thursday July 5 – with workshops, panel discussions, and other ways to energize and celebrate your service and the worldwide fellowship!**
 - **See you in Baltimore! JULY 6-8, 2018**
11. **Keep an eye out!** I’ll be sharing information from Digital Strategies, Office of Finance and Operations, Outreach to Professionals, Group Services, and the WSO staff and procedures by using the Delegate’s Corner, our Area website and other digital strategies between meetings.
 - We have a new Executive Director at WSO, Vali F and she is phenomenal.
 - Our Office of Finance and Operations staff was so professional and yet infused with our spiritual principles.
 - Group Services is reaching out to new members through a variety of tools. I’ll be sharing a few at Assembly.
 - The Board of Trustees presented a Mega-Issue that allowed us to work collaboratively over three hours together – BOT, WSO and WSC – using creative strategies, KBDM and our spiritual principles to approach some issues that are in the process of idea-generation and solution-seeking regarding our trilingual fellowship and the service structure of support to members. It was one of the most exciting parts of Conference, and I can’t wait to share more with you as time goes on!
 - I hope to see you all in your Districts and at Area events, and in Baltimore!

At Assembly I will share about: Electronic and Virtual Meetings, *Celebrating Our Differences and Our Common Purposes*, attending Open Board Meetings and an Open Policy Meeting. And much more!

From the bottom of my heart, and the depths of my recovery, I thank you for letting me serve as your Delegate.

Cindy J., Delegate – Florida North, Panel 58