

Updates From Al-Anon/Alateen World Service Office

2018 World Service Conference Summary is Available

"World Service Conference (WSC) Al-Anon's annual business meeting, attended by all Delegates from the World Service Conference Structure; representatives from other countries; of the Board of Trustees and Executive Committee; and the WSO administrative staff and other office personnel. The Conference provides guidance to the WSO in service matters brought to its attention." ("World Service Handbook" section of the *2018-2021 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual*, pages 139-140)

- The electronic version of the 2018 World Service Conference Summary is available on the website, www.al-anon.org. Hover over the *Members* tab, then click *World Service Conference (WSC)*. You can download the *Summary* or access the order form if you wish to purchase copies for \$5 each. Printed copies of the *Summary* will be available to ship in late August or early September. (NOTE: SCWS is purchasing a complementary copy for each AWSC member.)

July 2018 Chairperson of the Board (COB) Letter and Updates

The complete COB letter will be posted on our SCWS website (scws-al-anon.org). Highlights from this letter are:

- The 2018 Al-Anon/Alateen International Convention (4,044 attendees, over 131 workshops, speaker meeting, panel discussions, "Big Meetings," Language of Love Parade).
- The next International Convention will be in Albuquerque, NM in 2023.
- The 2019 World Service Conference (WSC) will be held in Virginia Beach. The Conference Leadership Team (CLT) recommended, and the Board approved, the 2019 WSC Theme: "Action is Attraction – There is No Growth in the Comfort Zone".
- The World Service Board of Trustees approved the following motions:

MOTION: to approve a special project to provide professional interpretation, when required, to support Spanish-and French- speaking Delegates who attend the World Service Conference. The project will start in 2019 as a three-year trial, with the annual net Conference cost of over \$100,000 to be transferred from the Reserve Fund. (This is oral interpretation and not written translation of presentations.)

MOTION: that the Board of Trustees directs the World Service Office to send a statement alerting all registered groups on the importance of discussing and creating safety guidelines. (This will be communicated through AFG Connects, *In the Loop* and other modes of communication as defined by the WSO.)

MOTION: that the Board of Trustees direct the WSO Staff to utilize the Policy Committee criteria presented at the 2012 World Service Conference to ensure that an Area has established a fair and balanced “Do No Refer” and “Re-Refer” policy. These criteria allow the WSO to support Area “Do Not Refer” group conscience decisions and remove group meetings from the WSO meeting list. Groups not being referred by the WSO remain active and registered.

Quote from the COB Letter:

“Do Not Refer” and “Re-Refer” policies that Areas have put in place will be reviewed by the WSO to ensure they are within the spirit of being fair and balanced, as framed by the Policy Committee in the 2012 WSC discussion. If it is determined that these policies satisfy the spirit of that guidance, groups that are not being displayed on Areas’ meeting lists will no longer be displayed on the WSO meeting search or given out on the toll-free meeting line. It is important to note that groups not being referred by the WSO remain active and registered. Areas determining the need to establish “Do Not Refer” and “Re-Refer” policies must submit their policies to the WSO for review. Further details outlining the process will be communicated through AFG Connects and *In the Loop*. (July 2018 COB letter, pg. 4)

How does the “Do Not Refer”/ “Re-Refer” information relate to our Southern California World Service Area?

In November, 2016, our Assembly approved the *Southern California Policy For Resolving Group and Member Concerns (Do Not Refer Policy)*. This *Policy* was developed by an Area Task Force using numerous sources: many pieces of Conference Approved Literature, along with the *World Service Conference Summaries* from 2006, 2009, 2011, and 2012 (referenced in the COB letter). After the *Policy* was approved in 2016, we informally submitted it to the WSO and received positive feedback. We will formally submit our *Policy* for WSO review as soon as they provide details regarding this new process.

In the meantime, our Area is following the procedures outlined in the *Southern California Policy For Resolving Group and Member Concerns (Do Not Refer Policy)*. We continue to receive emails via the groupandmemberconcerns@scws-al-anon.org, and will respond to these emails in a timely manner.