

The Spiritual Journey of Changing “Me” to “We”

Jayne Crisafi, Delegate
May 18, 2013

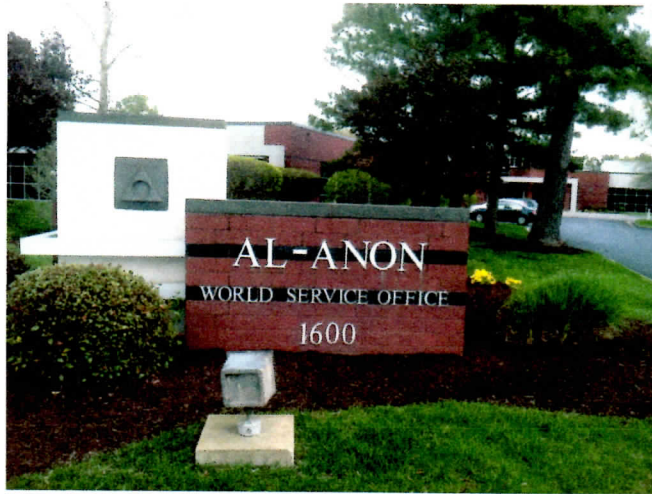


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THE SPIRITUAL JOURNEY OF CHANGING “ME” TO “WE”

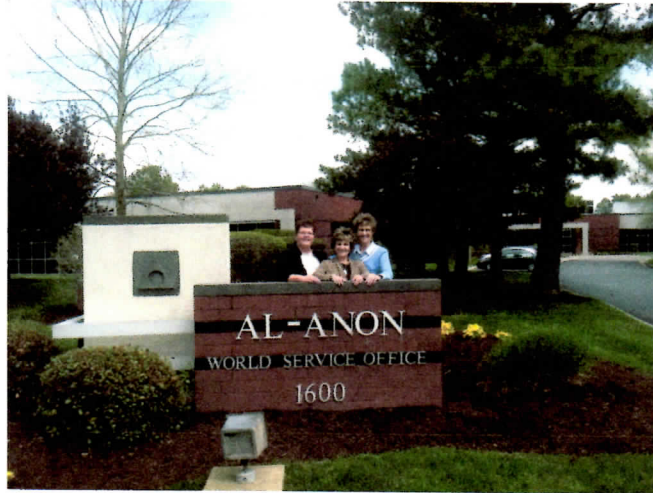


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CONFERENCE GOALS

- The spiritual tone of the Conference will prevail by the demonstration of mutual respect and acceptable conduct by its members.
- Conference members will understand the purpose of the Conference, relationships within the structure, and be able to articulate Conference decisions.
- Knowing that our Higher Power is present in the expression of our group conscience, Conference members will presume good will.



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Thank you, thank you for all of the Love Gifts and the Flowers from the SCWS Board. I was overwhelmed and so touched. I know I will miss giving credit to all the districts, but just a few were that I received a hand made Quilt from District 12 with all the different counties. District 17 sent survival bags for all the Delegates. District 64 sent hand made embroidered things. Another District made hand made cloth coasters with slogans. They were magnificent. Districts sent so many love gifts it was wonderful! Meetings also sent cards and that was very special. My home meeting the Monday Night New Way of Life Cerritos Meeting sent a card from everyone. What an amazing feeling getting a card from your friends back home!

AGENDA

- **Electronic Literature Update**
- **Conference Approved Literature Update (CAL)**
 - Why CAL Workshop
 - Parents / Grandparents Pamphlet
 - Conflict Resolution – New Service Tool (S-72)
 - New Legacy Workbook
- **Contributions**
- **Policy Committee**
- **Meet the Board Event**
- **Conference Structure**
- **Financial Report**
- **Other**

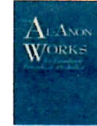


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ELECTRONIC LITERATURE UPDATE

- **Electronic Literature Update**
 - First e-book “Having Had a Spiritual Awakening”
 - Sold 500 copies
 - \$2500 profit
- **Forum**
- **“How AI-Anon Works”**
 - May 1 – Price increase to \$6.00 in soft cover
 - E-Book Coming in All 3 Languages - (English, Spanish and French)
 - Cost of E-Book will be \$11.99
 - Audio version in digital format for \$24.99
 - “Hope for Today” in soft cover, large print
 - Soft cover requests: “Courage to Change” printed 10k copies took five years to sell



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Forum: Thought it would be easy to go electronic. Process has been stalled. Using third party vendors. Vendors not as prepared as thought they would be. Waiting in line for Nook to release it. It will be released on Nook, Kindle and iTunes, but we must practice patience.

I want to mention that in this month's Forum (May 2013 on page 10 and 11) the article is written by someone who is an Alateen Sponsor in Juvenile Hall in San Diego. This is a perfect example of how when we write about our ESH it can make it to print. Please consider writing your own article for the Forum.

“How AI-Anon Works”. The idea was to “pay it forward” for your gratitude. One of the Delegates mentioned that she keeps a box in her trunk and gives a book to newcomers at her meeting. They will continue to publish it in soft cover for another three years. E-Book will be released this summer also. Will be in all three languages and cost will be \$11.99. Will be an audio book version in digital format for \$24.99. Will be released between now and the end of summer on Amazon, iTunes and Audible.com. Audio book only in English.

Goals of WHY CAL Workshop

- **What is “Conference Approved Literature” (CAL)?**
- **Why do we use only CAL at meetings?**
- **Why all outside literature, like the A.A. “Big Book” and religious materials are not used in Al-Anon meetings?**



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One of the activities that I worked on during this past year was a Task Force. This Task Force was to design a presentation for Districts and Groups to use as to “why we only use CAL at meetings”. The presentation is available to anyone who would like a copy. It has been sent out to all the District Reps. But if you still need a copy please let me know. I wanted to provide a thumb nail sketch of what is in the presentation for you. The participants were Delegates, one Trustee and one Office Staff person who is a member of Al-Anon.

What are we going to discuss in this workshop?

What is “Conference Approved Literature (CAL)?

Why do we use only CAL at meetings?

Why **outside** literature, like the A.A. “Big Book” and religious **m**aterials are not used in Al-Anon Meetings?

(CLICK)

CAL helps Al-Anon to establish and maintain unity within our fellowship

Past

Present

Future



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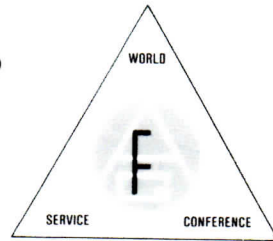
Unless you were a member of one of the original 87 Family Groups in the 1940's or started attending Al-Anon in the 1950's, you have always had access to Conference Approved Literature (CAL). Even members who have been attending Al-Anon for 30 to 40 years are accustomed to having a variety of books, pamphlets, and other materials approved by Al-Anon's World Service Conference. It is easy to take CAL for granted.

Learning why and how CAL was created is a journey of gratitude to the generations of members who have gone before us.

When you visit a group or attend an Al-Anon event in another city, state, province, or country, you will find some or most of the same literature. Although the language may be different, the literature reflects members' use of the Al-Anon program and its principles.

What is CAL? Conference Approved Literature

- **CAL is written by and for Al-Anon members**
- **CAL has passed a rigorous review process**
- **CAL is identified by this logo**



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What is CAL? CAL is the acronym for Conference Approved Literature.

- CAL is written by and for Al-Anon members on various shared experiences and topics from the Al-Anon point of view.
- CAL contains a unified and consistent message available to members and potential members worldwide. All submissions, publications, and translations have passed a rigorous committee review process to insure they accurately express Al-Anon policies, perspectives, principles, and reflect the group conscience of Al-Anon Family Groups.
- Conference Approved Literature is easily identifiable with its logo.

(CLICK)

Motion # 8 2010 World Service Conference



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Today, we have more than 60 years of Al-Anon members and groups' experiences. We know how the early Family and Al-Anon Family Groups struggled without or with a limited amount of Al-Anon literature. There was a time when our groups relied upon A.A. literature, religious, spiritual, and self-help books that were not written by or for Al-Anon members. As the need for Al-Anon unity grew, so did the need for our own literature as a tool to keep us rooted in our Al-Anon program of recovery.

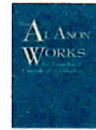
In 2010, Al-Anon's World Service Conference, the group conscience of the Al-Anon fellowship, approved Motion #8 to modify the wording in the *Digest of Al-Anon and Alateen Policies* in the *Service Manual*, p. 101, to remove the word "suggested" to strengthen the policy, the *Digest of Al-Anon and Alateen Policies* in the *Service Manual* now reads:

"To keep Al-Anon's message in focus and encourage unity, only Al-Anon/Alateen Conference Approved Literature (CAL) and Al-Anon/Alateen service tools are displayed, distributed, and used at Al-Anon and Alateen meetings, including meetings at conferences and conventions. These items reflect the informed group conscience of the Al-Anon Family Groups as expressed by its World Service Conference since 1961."

Why do we use only CAL at meetings?

- Ensures that Al-Anon remains Al-Anon and avoids confusion
- “Only Al-Anon materials are used at Al-Anon meetings. We do not impose this restriction to pass judgment on material produced by others, but because, by focusing exclusively on the Al-Anon philosophy in our meetings, we avoid a great deal of confusion.”

How Al-Anon Works for Family and Friends of Alcoholics
(B-22), p. 111.



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Either the Presenter or a member of the audience reads the quote to the attendees:

“Only Al-Anon materials are used at Al-Anon meetings. We do not impose this restriction to pass judgment on material produced by others, but because, by focusing exclusively on the Al-Anon philosophy in our meetings, we avoid a great deal of confusion.”

For presenter’s use/information. Additional references:

How Al-Anon Works for Family and Friends of Alcoholics (B-22) (B-32), p. 111.

A.A. literature is not Al-Anon CAL

- **We are often asked if A.A. literature is Conference Approved**
- **It is approved by A.A.'s General Service Conference for A.A.— but not for Al-Anon**



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We are often asked, "What about A.A. literature? Is it Conference Approved?"

It is approved by A.A.'s General Service Conference for A.A. members and groups—but not for Al-Anon. Approval by the A.A. General Service Conference does not mean the "Big Book" is approved for use at Al-Anon meetings and events.

(CLICK)

Why use of A.A. literature is no longer an accepted practice at Al-Anon meetings

A.A. literature, including the “Big Book” is:

- **Not written from the perspective of family members, written by and for the alcoholic**
- **Different recovery issues, e.g., drinker’s sobriety**
- **Use of A.A. literature would impact Al-Anon unity**
- **Confuses newcomers about Al-Anon’s purpose**



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The use of A.A. literature including the “Big Book“ is not an accepted practice:

- Not written from the perspective of family members
- Different recovery issues
- Use of A.A. literature would impact Al-Anon unity
- Can be confusing as to what Al-Anon’s message is, particularly to the newcomer

Summary—Why CAL?

Using CAL

- **Written by and for Al-Anon members**
- **Ensures that Al-Anon remains Al-Anon**
- **Subject to rigorous review to ensure it accurately reflects Al-Anon principles**
- **Avoids confusion about Al-Anon's focus and purpose**
- **Enhances our unity by avoiding outside issues**



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I have this presentation and so many others. Please contact me for Workshop Material. I have an enormous amount of presentations for your use at District Workshops or functions!

THE SPIRITUAL JOURNEY OF CHANGING “ME” TO “WE”



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We performed a skit. I also can provide the skit to anyone who is interested. It was a Twilight Zone type of sorts. Our Task Force Chair, Norm Weiss from New Mexico was our Narrator, I was the newcomer. I just wanted to give you an idea that for 5 – 6 days and evenings we work but we have fun too!

THE SPIRITUAL JOURNEY OF CHANGING “ME” TO “WE”



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NEW CAL LITERATURE UPDATE

- Parents / Grandparents Pamphlet Coming
- New Conflict Resolution Service Tool
- New Legacy Workbook – Available at 2013 International Convention
- CAL Quotes now available
- Abuse Discussion
- Intimacy Literature



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The 2013 WS Conference gave conceptual approval to develop a new pamphlet to address parents and grandparents whose children (teenagers and young adults) are problem drinkers. Process was very spiritual. Discussion. Motion passed almost unanimously. The disease of alcoholism is the gift that keeps on giving!

Conflict Resolution Service Tool. Using our Twelve Traditions with conflict. Wonderful. S-72. \$4.00 each.

New Legacy Workbook will be available at the Al-Anon 2013 International Convention. The name of the workbook is: "Reaching for Personal Freedom for Living the Legacies". Cost will be \$15.00. P-92. 176 page spiral. 12 Steps, 12 Traditions and 12 Concepts and how to apply them to our personal lives. Will be in English and French for now.

There are 20 CAL quotes provided to the fellowship and they will be posted on the e-communities. For using those 20 quotes you will not need to request permission to use them. They are to be used for calendars only. Some Areas produce Area Calendars and use those calendars for fundraisers.

Literature Committee using KBDM process for an informed group conscience on the idea of a new piece of literature on mental, emotional, verbal and physical abuse. The Abuse discussion continues. Still not clear what the members want! If you want a new piece of literature on abuse then continue to inform WSO.

CONTRIBUTIONS

- 1952 Lois asked the 252 registered Groups to contribute \$1.00 per person twice a year. This was what we now know as the Quarterly Appeal Letter. They purchased a typewriter and table.
- That \$1.00 is now equal to \$17.00 per person
- 1954 last time our contributions exceeded literature sales
- Costs WSO \$252 per year to service each Group. Many services provided by WSO.
- Only 64% of the Groups support WSO. 40% of groups do not contribute to WSO. Yet all Groups are supported no matter what they contribute.
- Groups average contribution to WSO is \$111 per year.
- How much is your Group contributing to WSO each year? Is it contributing \$252 per year?
- Delayed printing of Service Manual until next year. On-line October 1, 2013.

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June 22, 1951 a man from Massachusetts made the first contribution to Al-Anon. Contributions are 29% of WSO's income.

Some of those services are: Phone calls, Emails, Letters, Copy Rights, Use of the logo, Inmate services, Forum, Group Communications, Public Outreach, Group Records, Alateen, LDCs, AFA.

The more members and groups understand their connection to the WSO, the more generous they will be with their contributions. There is a direct connection between the services the groups receive and the financial contributions the groups make to the WSO.

What do we need to communicate to members so they realize that their giving is as much a part of their gratitude and spiritual connection to the program as any other service opportunity?

CONTRIBUTIONS



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Do Groups understand the definition of “reserve fund”?

Step 12 carrying the message is truly related to money. Practice these principles in all our affairs.

When Groups disagree with what WSO is doing some withhold money. That is control.

The spiritual principle of giving is gratitude. It is more important that 100% of members contribute to the Quarterly Appeal, than amount contributed.

The question is: What do we need to communicate to members so they realize that their giving is as much a part of their gratitude and spiritual connection to the program as any other service opportunity?

So CAL: 68.5% of the Groups contribute to WSO an average of \$108.55 per Group!

Envelopes with the shoe have been distributed on all the tables. Please take them back to your Groups and use for contributions!

MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

- **Current policy restricts non-member memorial contributions to honor deceased family member who was Al-Anon member.**
- **2011 WSC – Thought Force to identify Guideline on Memorial Contributions.**
- **WSO receives approximately three to five inquiries about family member contributions a year.**
- **WSO gives potential donors option of purchasing CAL and donating it to a facility or make contribution to National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence or Stepping Stones Foundation.**



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Page 92 and 93 of Service Manual:

WSO may accept a one time bequest from an Al-Anon member in any amount provided the use is not restricted by the donor. Amounts up to 10% of total revenue of WSO General Fund of the previous year's audit.

Any Al-Anon or Alateen member may make contributions to the WSO in memory of anyone who is deceased (contact WSO for details).

The Conference discussed the appropriateness of accepting non-member memorial contributions from family members and friends of Al-Anon members. An extensive timeline regarding the history of non-member memorial contributions was shared as well as how the Traditions apply to this issue.

2013 WSC requested a Thought Force continue to look at identifying Guideline. Open questions remain. Policy Committee will continue to gather information. We will continue to discuss at the WS Conference.

Member called me recently and was doing their will. Wanted to leave a large amount of money to Al-Anon, but wanted to restrict the use to Alateen only. The bequest cannot be accepted. The use cannot be restricted.

POLICY COMMITTEE

- **Policy Committee ensures that “Digest of Al-Anon and Alateen Policies” is clear and concise.**
- **Committee is comprised of Board of Trustees, WSC staff members, and the At-Large members of the Executive Committee.**
- **Makes recommendations to the BOT and if BOT approves change in Policy Digest then the change requires approval by the WSC to take effect.**



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First we discussed the proposed changes to text in the Service Manual on pages 88 – 91. (We were asked: Is it accurate? Does it provide clarity? Can you live with it?)

The text was circulated to members for suggestions and questions prior to the WS Conference.

Amended the text on pages 88-91 beginning with the section “Anonymity and the Media” on page 88 and ending with the new section “Anonymity in Al-Anon/Alateen Publications” on page 91 in the Policy Digest section of the 2010/2013 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual.

Amended the text on pages 107-109 of the entire “Public Relations” section of the Policy Digest beginning with the section “Public Outreach” and ending with the new section “Social Networking – WSO” in the 2010-2013 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual. Among other things changed the Public Relations heading to Public Outreach. Clarification given to new technology.

The vote was to approve the changes (98 yes, 0 no, and 0 abstain)

MEET THE BOARD EVENT

- **Background/History:** Changing venue of July BOT meeting. Reduce the costs for WSO during the tourist season in Virginia Beach.
- **Opportunity for entire BOT to interact with fellowship and for AI-Anon members to meet all 19 Trustees and Executive Committee.**
- **Event takes place before or after Board meeting.**
- **Goal is for all participants to realize we are all AI-Anon members, working in different capacities, for the good of the fellowship.**



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Areas apply to the WSO using the Request Form. Areas publicize the event and provide an Area contact person. Event must be held at a hotel that comfortably seats the expected total number of attendees from your Area plus the 19 Board members and three Executive Committee at-large members. Meals must be catered by the hotel. Wireless capabilities.

Timeline:

September 15, 2013: Deadline for reception of potential site request from Areas.

October 2013 Board Meeting: Board will choose the site of the 2014 “Meet the Board” event with two runners up.

December 1, 2013: Applicant Areas will be notified of the definitive choice. Communication will start between the Area and the WSO staff and volunteers. The WSO will negotiate the hotel.

February 2014: WSO will provide a registration form to the Area for distribution.

July 2014: Members from the chosen Area will meet and interact with the members of the AI-Anon Board and Executive Committee at a local “Meet the Board” event.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED
TO A
"MEET THE BOARD"
EVENT

When: A Saturday in July 2014*

Where: Your Area

Who: Al-Anon Members
Trustees & Executive Committee members

What: WSO Program

Why: This is an opportunity for Trustees and the Executive Committee to interact with members, as well as for members to interact with Trustees and the Executive Committee

Cost: Registration Fee
Meal

How: Areas apply to the World Service Office using the Request Form

Area Participation: Publicize the event
Provide an Area contact person

*Exact date, program, and times to be confirmed at a later date

CONFERENCE STRUCTURE

- **Five Delegates gave their status of Conference Structure in their particular Areas.**
- **CA(S), Rhode Island, Florida North, Texas East and providence in Canada.**
- **CA(S), Area 04 provided status of Conference Structure. Thought Force on this topic. Presentation at the May 2013 Assembly.**
- **Each Area is taking this very slow.**
- **Motion passed at the Conference to approve the requests of five Areas to officially change their names.**



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When the WSC was formed, it was agreed that the Area names and boundaries would follow the geographic boundaries of the states and provinces. Over the years, as the Area structures grew this did not always allow for the best service possible due to geographic conditions. There are Areas that have voted to accept groups and/or districts of an adjoining Area into their Assembly because of convenience of ease but did not raise it to the level of a name change at the Conference. A name change request is sent to the WSO with documentation that both Areas have agreed to release groups and accept groups. The Alabama/Northwest Florida, New Mexico/El Paso, Manitoba/Northwest Ontario, and Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. These Areas already included the Areas in their Assemblies. They requested the name change to make it legal. Though these changes seem very businesslike, it was a very emotional moment for many of our members. All of the name changes were approved and embraced by the Conference after hearing the feelings and concerns of those Areas.

OTHER

- **Regional Trustees for NE, NW, SW and SC**
- **Three Skilled Leadership Workshops**
- **Task Force: Tool Kit on Service & Personal Growth**
- **Task Force: Importance of CAL in Meetings**
- **Thought Force: Strategies to Strengthen Personal Connections**
- **Use of Computers at WSC- Board of Trustees will discuss options and will form a Task Force.**
- **New Members' Website – To be launched July 1**
- **Chosen Agenda Item: Improving the Retention of Newcomers and Experienced Al-Anon Members**

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The WS Conference confirmed the following Trustees: Connie Hurst, Iowa (Second 3-year term). Judy Kirby, Nevada, First 3-year term. Elizabeth (Jennie) McCann, Maine, First 3-year term. Paula Burleson, US Southeast – Second 3year term. Debbie Grace, US North Central, First 3-year term. Board Officers: Karen Rimmell, Chair, Connie Hurst, Vice Chair, Penny Ridderbusch, Treasurer. ECRPM-Carrie Kitterman – 3 year term.

Since the Conference was held during the Region's election year, the members of the RCT (Regional Committee on Trustees) elected a Chair and an Alternate Chair from among ourselves. The Chair and Alternate are Delegates from within the region holding the election. The Regional Committee on Trustees (RCT) Plan was reviewed.

I am currently serving on the CCT (which is the Conference Committee on Trustees). This is the committee that reviews the resumes for the Trustees at Large.

Skilled Leadership Workshops: KBDM, Conflict Resolution and Shared Leadership. I was one of the facilitators for the Shared Leadership Workshop along with another Delegate and two Trustees. We built the Workshop and presented it to the Delegates.

Retention of Newcomers: We discussed: Giving rides to meetings, Give How Al-Anon Works, Make eye contact/warmth/hugs. Assign a greeter/hugger. Is your meeting inviting/welcoming? Ask someone to share what Al-Anon means to them. Encourage that they attend Newcomer Meetings if they are available in your Area. Treat them like a member. Don't skip the 7th Tradition basket. Answer questions. Loving interchange. Involve experienced members in service. Experienced members lead workshops. Blog

OTHER

- **Chosen Agenda Item: How can we get districts, without DRs and few GRs to become re-involved in participating in Assemblies and AWSC? How do we reach out to registered groups who do not attend Area events?**
- **TEAM Event**
- **2013 AI-Anon International Convention, Vancouver, Canada**
 - July 1 New Members' Website to be launched!



2018 AI-Anon International Convention, Baltimore, MD

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SAVE THE DATE: CA(S) will hold another TEAM Event in January 18, 2014. WSO will be here for this event. Ric Buchanan will be here for sure and we do not know who else will be coming with him.

THE SPIRITUAL JOURNEY OF CHANGING “ME” TO “WE”



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