

2015 WSC: WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE

**World Service Conference
= Worldwide Group Conscience
= Groups' Group Conscience**

**“Living Our Spiritual Principles:
Expanding Our Vision”**

The World Service Conference is a gathering of Delegates, Trustees, Executive Committees and World Service Office staff.

It is where decisions are made that affect Al-Anon as a whole.

It is the Worldwide Group Conscience.

It is the Group Conscience of all the Groups.

You represent your group.

The Delegate represents all the groups in the Area, at the World Service Conference.

The Conference Theme for 2015 was:

Living Our Spiritual Principles: Expanding Our Vision

2015 WSC: WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE

April 19 – 23, 2015 April 24, 25

World Service Conference, days 1-5

Open Board of Trustees mtg, day 6

Visit Lois W's home, day 7

This felt like an Endurance Test!

Pre-conference, April 18 was time for all the final preparations

5 days of Conference: Traditional approval of decisions

Day 6, Board of Trustees Annual meeting: Legal approval of the motions we passed.

Day 7, visit Lois W's home, Stepping Stones

2015 WSC: CONFERENCE SUMMARY!!

How do YOU find out what was discussed?

Listen to Delegate's Conference Report

Read Conference Summary **this summer**
on members website

al-anon.org/members

click on **Service Structure** tab

click on **District Resources** or Area Resources

then click on **2015 Conference Summary**

2015 WSC: WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE

Lois and Anne B. polled groups

Number of groups grew and grew

1961 1st WSC

Delegate = voice of Groups

Group Conscience = All voices are heard

Delegate = voice of Conference

2015 55th WSC

How did it start. Lois and Anne B. polled the 87 groups, 56 of them replied, they chose the name Al-Anon, a contraction of the name Alcoholics Anonymous. Lois continued to poll the groups, soon outgrew the method.

Al-Anons voted for 3-year trial of World Service Conference, started in 1961
Groups elect Group Representatives, they elect the Delegate in their Area, and Delegates + Trustees elect the Trustees. 67 Delegates go to the Conference, join staff, Trustees, Executive Committee members. Approx 100 voting members, including 67 Delegates from U.S., Canada, Bermuda and Puerto Rico.

The Conference votes on matters important to the continuation of the Fellowship.
The Delegate is the voice of the Groups at the Conference and the voice of the Conference back to the groups. The Conference is structured so that all voices are heard.

My job as Delegate is to help the Area understand what happened at the World Service Conference, in the discussions, presentations, voting outcomes.

1961 was the 1st Conference.
2015 was the 55th Conference.
I am on Panel 55.
Panel 55, Spiritually Alive!!

2015 WSC: Love Gifts

**Business 12 hours/day for 5 days,
filled with love, respect,
enthusiasm**

**for Al-Anon
for the newcomer
for each other**

The World Service Conference is all about the Groups, the members, what they want, what they need.

It felt so good to be at the Conference.

The atmosphere was so loving, supportive and respectful, and we had fun, too.

Everyone wants everyone else to succeed!

We all have love for Al-Anon, for the newcomer, and for each other ...in a very special way.

I'm sure many of you feel the same way – do you feel love for the newcomers, remembering how you felt when you walked in and they welcomed and comforted you? They did the same for me at the Conference.

2015 CONFERENCE THEME

COB Letter - Chairman of the Board (of Trustees)

The 2015 World Service Conference theme of “Living Our Spiritual Principles: Expanding Our Vision” encourages us to dream expansively while being guided by our spiritual principles.

This theme permeates the conversations planned for the WSC as Conference members look to the future of the program and the clearinghouse, the World Service Office.

al-anon.org/members

click on WSO tab, then Board of Trustees

In the Jan/Feb Chairman of the Board Letter, the Chairman wrote:

The 2015 World Service Conference theme of “Living Our Spiritual Principles: Expanding Our Vision” encourages us to dream expansively while being guided by our spiritual principles.

This theme permeates the conversations planned for the WSC as Conference members look to the future of the program and the clearinghouse, the World Service Office.

I thought this was a beautiful message explaining the Conference Theme in every day terms, helping me to understand it and apply it.

The COB Letter is AVAILABLE TO ALL AL-ANON MEMBERS, just by going to the Members Website.

Go to the WSO tab, then click on Board of Trustees and you will see the COB Letters.

Please invite your group members to read the posted COB letters.

They are very informative and easy to understand!

2015 WSC: WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE

Post cards for GRs, group members

WSO card

Delegate card, COB quote

Chairman of the Board

Love Gifts

CA(S) ↔ Other Areas, Conf members

Grapefruit and pears sent to me!

Today each DR and Liaison has 2 cards in their mailbox by the window.

A WSO card and red Delegate card.

The WSO card is only available by going to the World Service Office or going to the World Service Conference.

The red card is something I put together to give you the Conference Theme and the message from the Chairman of the Board so you can bring the message to your group. You can copy the quote from the card today, or you can get it from the COB Letter on the members website.

Also in the mailboxes are some Love Gifts for the DRs to give to the GRs.

Thank you for the Love Gifts you sent to me to give to the other Areas.

They sent Love Gifts back to you.

I also brought back some of the Love Gifts you sent.

They are so creative and beautiful! I wanted you to see each others' work.

Each DR mailbox has one package of Love Gifts to distribute somehow among their GRs.

Each district is autonomous!

The coordinators and officers made personal contributions (not Area money) to send me grapefruit and pears – they sustained my good health!!

Thank you so much!!

2015 WSC: PREP, LOTS OF HELP!

- **Conference call, new delegates**
- **Files to read**
 - Feedback, Questions from Area
 - Answers on Day before WSC
- **Conference Mentor calls**
 - 3rd year Delegate
- **Trustee calls**
- **SWRDM**
 - Southwest Regional Delegates Meeting
 - March 2016 in La Jolla!!!

We don't do it alone! At all levels of service, we don't do it alone. There are LOTS of sources for help. If YOU are not getting help, then find someone to reach out to, someone who is knowledgeable about the position you hold.

Concept 9: good personal leadership – See the Service Manual description of Concept 9. The Service Manual is so easy to understand!

To prepare the Delegates for the Conference, there is a conference call with new Delegates, Trustees and World Service Office staff.

Delegates receive files almost every week to read ahead of time, Delegates seek input from the Area and submit feedback and questions to the WSO.

They give us the written answers when we arrive at the Conference.

Since we get to read all this material ahead of time, the Conference is so efficient, so JAM-PACKED with information.

We are assigned a Conference Mentor, who is a 3rd year delegate. Mine was great!!!

We are assigned a Trustee, who calls us, we get to ask questions. Mine was great!!!

Current and Past Delegates go to SWRDM, Southwest Regional Delegates Meeting. SWRDM rotates from Area to Area, and next year it will be here in La Jolla!!

Here's a quiz!!

What would the North East Region Delegates Meeting be called? NERD Meeting.

2015 WSC: DAY BEFORE

- **Conference Mentor**
 - Seated together, assigned seats
 - Mutual guidance/care/comfort all week!!
- **Conference Notebook**
 - Seating chart – assigned seats
 - Daily Agendas
 - Files
 - Questions from Areas (You and Delegate)
 - Answers from Trustees, Committees, Staff, Exec Director
 - Reports
 - Committee or TF assignments
 - Delegates, Trustees, Staff, Exec Director

My Conference Mentor and I had a mutual exchange of guidance, care and comfort all week.

The Conference Notebook is 2 inches thick!! It contains:

Seat assignments for efficiency – no jockeying for a seat before each session, and the seating chart helps me learn names, state, position.

100 names to memorize !!

Daily Agendas

Files for each item on the Agenda:

--Answers to our submitted questions, provided by Trustees, Committee Chairs, World Service Office Staff, and the Executive Director.

--Reports that we already read and thought about in the pre-conference emailings.

Reading ahead of time allows us to cover more topics during the Conference, plus it made us ready to understand the presentations quickly and ready to make decisions.

We learned our assignments by opening the notebook.

Every Committee and Task Force consists of Delegates, Trustees and Staff, sometimes the Executive Director

2015 WSC: GETTING STARTED, DAY 1

- **Orientation**
- **Start Committees and Task/Thought Forces**
- **Sharing Area Highlights**
- **Opening Dinner**

On Day one we had an Orientation session.

Committees and Task Forces met for the first time and started doing business.

Delegates submitted Highlights ahead of time to share from their Area.

I mentioned some of our Thought and Task Forces, and the updated election procedures that include using electronic voting in CA(S).

After dinner, a World Service Office staff member shared his Al-Anon story.

2015 WSC: GETTING STARTED, DAY 1

- **Orientation**

- **It is my responsibility to share my thoughts and opinions**
- **We want everyone to succeed**
- **I don't have authority but the whole room has authority**
- **Everyone here has the same responsibility: all are protectors of the Traditions**
- **We have the same responsibility but different roles**
- **My opinions are equally important as anyone else's**
- **Every year I come to the Conference and meet new parts of my family that I haven't met before**

The Conference Chair gave us an excellent, **interactive** Orientation to the Conference. THANK YOU!! Here are some of my notes:
Delegates bring views from the Area, participate in discussions, and vote in matters affecting Al-Anon as a whole.

It is my responsibility to share my thoughts and opinions. Ask my Higher Power to go to the mic with me. Don't be shy! No one is judging you. We want everyone to succeed. The first time I went to the mic, more than 15 years ago, my knees were shaking. Now it's almost always a piece of cake, unless I am uncomfortable about what I have to say, such as having a minority opinion. Knowing that it is my responsibility to share my thoughts and opinions helps A LOT, ...but I still use the tool of asking my Higher Power to go with me to the mic.

We return to the Area to share a broader perspective that we developed by listening to all Conference members.

Your Area is different from my Area. ****I**** don't have authority, but the whole room has authority.

The Delegate is the voice of the newcomer, young member, the Area, and what's best for all of Al-Anon, for Al-Anon as a whole.

Everyone here has the same responsibility: all are protectors of the Traditions, same responsibility, different roles.

Other peoples' opinions are NOT more important than mine. My opinions are equally important.

The Executive Director said: "Every year I come to the Conference and meet new parts of my family that I haven't met before." and, "Al-Anon member is my most important title. In that role, I am giving my opinion." Thus, throughout the week, sometimes he was "Ric Buchanan, Al-Anon member," and sometimes he was "Ric Buchanan, WSO Staff."

2015 WSC: GETTING STARTED, DAY 1

- **Selected Committees and Task/Thought Forces**
 - Delegates, Trustees, WSO Staff members
 - Elect Chairs (Delegates)
 - Charge; present results in 2016
- **Sharing Area Highlights**
 - One Minute at mic
 - Conference Summary, 300 words
- **Opening Dinner**
 - New Delegates join 55-year conversation about serving Al-Anon

After lunch we went to our assigned Committee or Task Force meeting, discussed the charge, which is the goal to be accomplished by that Task Force, started conducting business, and elected a chair for that assignment.

We will work on our assignments all year, then hear the results of these assignments next year, at the 2016 World Service Conference.

Each Delegate brought Highlights from their Area to share with each other at the mic. You can read all the Area Highlights in the Conference Summary, each 300 words or less. We had one minute at the mic to share our highlights, of course pared down from the 300 words we submitted.

At dinner, the new Delegates were invited to join the 55-year conversation about serving Al-Anon.

Panel 55 Spiritually Alive!!

COMMITTEES / TASK FORCES 2015-2016

- **Committees**
 - Public Outreach
 - Literature
 - Nominating / CCT - Conference Cmtee for Trustees
- **Task Forces**
 - Acceptance of Communities, Cultures, and Beliefs
 - Communication and Strengthening Links of Service
 - Meeting Types
 - Technology and Anonymity
- **Results to be presented next year, in 2016**

All Conference members got their assignments for the upcoming year.
These 3 committees perform ongoing work, continuing their work every year:
Public Outreach Committee
Literature Committee
Nominating / CCT – Conference Committee for Trustees.

The following Task Forces start their work this year and will report back next year.
Acceptance of Communities, Cultures, and Beliefs
Communication and Strengthening Links of Service
Meeting Types
Technology and Anonymity

2015 WSC: AGENDA ITEMS

- **Th/TF presentations**
- **Policy Discussions**
 - **Memorial Contributions:** comforting families, Trad 5
 - **Concept Eight, Concept Eleven** text edits
- **WSO Service Update – Annual Report**
- **Finances**
 - **Audit, 2014 Financials**
 - **2015 Budget: Projected Shortfall \$52,000**
- **ECRPM triennial report on our property in VA**
- **Chosen Agenda Item**
 - **1. Alateen: What is stopping our kids from coming**
 - **2. Primary Focus ≠ Drug addicted family member**

Here is a summary of the kinds of things we talked about each day.

Thought and Task Force presentations.

Policy Discussions about Memorial Contributions and revising the descriptive text for Concepts Eight and Eleven.

The 40-page Annual Report.

The audit of the 2014 books and the 2015 Budget were covered in great detail.

Every 3 years we get a report about the effects of owning property, both positive and negative.

Delegates submit suggestions for topics they want to discuss. Delegates vote for one and we discuss the top two Chosen Agenda Items.

All other agenda items are selected by the Trustees and WSO staff.

Ok, let's look at all of these items on the screen, one by one.

THOUGHT/TASK FORCES PRESENTED

See 2015 Conference Summary (this summer)

- **Create Strategies to Show Spiritual Connection of Being a Registered Group** discussion and skit
- **Create Ways to Raise Awareness of Tools Available for Alateen**
- **Create Strategies to Help Membership Welcome New Trends Into the Fellowship**
- **Create Strategies to Show the Importance of Abundance and Spirituality in Money Discussions**
- **Identify, Gather and Present Practices that Demonstrate a Healthy, Thriving Group**

All the Thought and Task Forces that have been working throughout the past year gave a presentation. They gave us LOTS of ideas, and most provided a skit to help us laugh and therefore remember important points from their presentations.

These Task Forces were...

Create Strategies to Show the Spiritual Connection of Being a Registered Group

Skit: Best intentions group, Cheery, Question, Interesting, Righty, Serving, Sharing

Create Ways to Raise Awareness of Tools Available for Alateen

Create Strategies to Help Membership Welcome New Trends into the Fellowship

Create Strategies to Show the Importance of Abundance and Spirituality in Money Discussions

Identify, Gather and Present Practices that Demonstrate a Healthy, Thriving Group

2015 WSC: POLICY DISCUSSIONS

- **Policy Discussions –**
 - **Memorial Contributions:**
 - **Comforting families, Trad 5**
 - **Like accepting flowers or casserole**
 - **Very small amounts, \$25 - \$75**
 - **\$17,000 in 2014 ...30,000 contributors**
 - **Lois accepted memorial contributions from family members**
 - **Consensus (not motion): accept Mem. Contrib's**
 - **Conversation began in 2011, continue next year**
 - **GRs go to mic?**

We had important Policy Discussions that were continued throughout the week. We took as much time to talk about them as we needed. We had detailed discussions about Memorial Contributions several times during the week, and we weren't done talking about them, so we are going to talk about them some more at next year's Conference. The main point about the Memorial Contributions is that our primary goal is to comfort families of Alcoholics, Tradition 5.

The turning point for me was, ...well, there were TWO turning points. The Executive Director told us that these contributions from families arrive in amounts of \$25, \$50 or \$75. The total received in 2014 is \$17,000. That's a LOT of grateful family members and friends!! If most are \$50, then that makes 34,000 contributions. The second point he made is that when he went back and looked at how the contributions were first accepted, he saw that **IT WAS LOIS HERSELF THAT ACCEPTED MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS**. Lois always was so careful not to do anything that would provide any outside influence on our program. Clearly Lois believed that we were offering comfort to families of alcoholics when we graciously accepted Memorial Contributions as an expression of gratitude by the family and friends who saw so much growth and improvement in their loved ones. The reason we started talking about whether to put an upper limit on the contributions is that family members were asking. In a consensus vote, we voted to continue accepting Memorial Contributions, and we were talking about what kind of limits to have, but we didn't have enough time to finish discussing it, so the conversation will continue ...again, ...at next year's Conference.

2015 WSC: POLICY DISCUSSIONS

- **Policy Discussions –**
 - **Concept Eight, Concept Eleven text edits**

 - **Concept Eight**
 - **done**
 - **motion approved**
 - **approved edits will be put onto members website**

 - **Concept Eleven**
 - **half-done**
 - **discussion of Concept Eleven will continue next year**

At the February Committee meeting, right here in this room, we went through every proposed text update in the Service Manual to the descriptive text for Concepts Eight and Eleven, gathering comments and questions that I sent to the Policy Committee.

The Policy Committee wanted the membership to be involved in these updates via the delegated authority of the DRs and Delegates in the Areas. I am sure that the GRs heard about these proposed updates in general at the District meetings.

Whenever you look in the Service Manual and you see those vertical lines in the margin, that means that something in that line was changed.

We thoroughly discussed the proposed updates to Concept Eight and voted to accept the updates as they were refined at the 2015 World Service Conference. We got about half-way through Concept Eleven when it was time to move on in the Agenda. We approved by vote as far as we got, and we will continue where we left off with Concept Eleven next year.

2015 WSC: UUR

- **Universal Understanding of Recovery**
 - Definition of Recovery needed for **working with professionals**
 - **Many surveys** of members and professionals
 - 2014 WSC discussed definition
 - Does the fellowship, as expressed through the voice of the WSC, need or want a definition of family recovery?
 - To use when talking with professional community

2015 WSC: UUR

- 2015 WSC compared final two definitions, discussed and voted to accept one
- **Motion 9: To adopt the following definition:**
 - Family recovery is a process of healing and growth for family members affected by someone else's drinking. This process helps these individuals make healthier life choices and develop relationships that are more positive and supportive.

2015 WSC: WSO SERVICE UPDATE

WSO Service Update – Annual Report

- Now fully in Spanish and French:
 - Members websites
 - Conflict Resolution Kit
- Oct 2014 BOT: Meeting info on WSO website
 - Find a mtg, driving directions, 24/7
 - Days of week in Spanish and French
 - Electronic – phone, online
 - Info fits on your device screen
- Alateen chat meetings on mobile phones
 - Buying programs during Conference week

Months ago we received a 40-page file with the WSO Service Update. The Delegates submitted questions and comments by a particular deadline, all of which were collated together and provided to us with answers. The Executive Director discussed the WSO Service Update at the Conference and we had a chance to ask more questions and make more comments.

Some details:

--Now fully in Spanish and French:

- Members websites
- Conflict Resolution Took Kit

--The Board of Trustees voted in Oct 2014 to put meeting info onto WSO website, making the info available 24/7

- Members now have 24/7 access to find a meeting and driving directions
- Days of the week provided in Spanish and French
- Formatting is flexible, WILL FIT YOUR DEVICE SCREEN!!

Information will be properly displayed according to which device you have, fitting onto the screen and adjusting to your zoom.

Alateen chat meetings now are on mobile phones. As we speak, during Conference week, the program to run them on mobile phones is being purchased. Adding new meetings had been on hold while other service structures around the world worked out some technical issues. Rumors arose about other causes of the delay, but it only was a technical issue, and it was in other countries.

2015 WSC: WSO SERVICE UPDATE

- **Jobs available at the WSO**
 - **Job 1. Event and Project Supervisor**
 - **Job 2. Employee Relations Manager and Organizational(?)**
 - **Job 3. Graphic Illustrator (anywhere in world)**
 - **Someone who can draw, illustrate svc pamphlets**
 - **Job 4. App Developer (anywhere in world)**
 - **Job 5. Associate Director Group Services – Alateen**

There are 5 jobs (paid employment) at the WSO that are posted on the Members Website. Jobs that can be held by non-members initially are posted only on the Members Website. Some of the positions listed here now also are listed for the general public to see since the positions have not been filled after numerous months. Those positions that are for members only will remain vacant until filled by an Al-Anon member.

Some of these positions require relocation to the Virginia Beach area, others can be fulfilled from anywhere in the world.

2015 WSC: FINANCES

- **Finances**
 - **Audit, 2014 Financials**
 - **We are solvent.**
 - **Our investments are safe for our reserves.**

The Associate Director of Business Services explained the audit in beautiful detail. Through his patient explanations, I was able to understand parts of it that I didn't even realize I hadn't understood!! What a gift!!! I took lots of notes.

We have been transferring from the reserve fund as directed in Bylaws.
We still are solvent.

2015 WSC: FINANCES

- **Contributions**

- **2014 first time over \$1.5 mil contributions,**
 - 8.2% increase over 2013
- **2015 budgets \$1.7 mil contributions**
 - 12% increase over 2014
- **15,496 groups**
- **9,461 = 61% contribute avg \$119 each**
- ***If* 15,496 avg \$119 each = \$1.84 mil contributions**

The membership was generous in 2014, contributing over \$1.5 million.

That contribution goal was in the budget for several years – only a wish list item till 2014.

This was an 8.2% increase over 2013

So the Treasurer projected an additional 12% increase over 2014 to make it \$1.7 million.

The \$1.5 million is contributed by 9,461 groups = avg \$119 each from 61% of the groups
Would be \$1.84 million if 15,496 groups contributed avg \$119 each

2015 WSC: FINANCES

- **Estimated Revenue 2015**
 - **\$1,700,000 Contributions**
 - **\$3,050,000 Lit sales (after cost subtracted)**
 - **\$250,000 Forum Subscriptions**
 - **\$65,000 Investment / Tsfr from Reserve Fund**
 - **Total = \$5,065,000**

The Treasurer went through the proposed 2015 Budget.

2015 WSC: FINANCES

- **Estimated Bottom Line**

- 2015 Budget: **Projected Shortfall \$52,000**
 - \$5,065,000 budgeted estimated revenue
 - \$5,117,000 budgeted operating expenses
 - = **-\$52,000**

That is **-\$52,000** not +\$52,000

This is 1% of \$5 million

Unbalanced budget

Where can we get that 1%?

So, what happens is that every year we are allowed to transfer funds from the reserves, with a 4% limit, to cover our expenses if revenues are not sufficient.

We have been transferring funds every year.

Does money grow on trees?

How many years can we dip into Reserve Funds and still have a reserve?

Where else can we get that 1%?

2015 WSC: FINANCES

Estimated Revenue, 2015

- \$1,700,000 Contributions
- \$3,050,000 Lit sales (less cost)
- \$250,000 Forum Subscriptions
- \$65,000 Investment / Tsfr from Reserve Fund
- Total = \$5,065,000

The reason the Treasurer gave us an unbalanced budget is the Board of Trustees wanted **US**, the Conference, the **groups**, to make the decision about what to do with **our** money. Did we want to continue borrowing from our future by dipping into the reserves one more time, or did we want to work on **increasing our income through contributions and literature sales** or did we want to **cut back further on the services** we can offer ourselves?

2015 WSC: FINANCES

Where can we get that 1%?

- Forecast larger contributions?
- Transfer more from Reserve Fund?
- No control over investments
- Own instead of rent?
Oh, we did that already, 18 years ago
- Fewer employees?
76 employees in 1991
46 employees in 2015
Stressful !! Everyone doubles up??
- Less service? Purpose of WSO is to provide service!!



2015 WSC: FINANCES

- Larger contributions?
- How much would it take?
 - Projected Shortfall \$52,000
 - Using Reserve Fund – fully self-supporting? Trad 7
 - 15,496 groups, 9,461 = 61% contrib avg \$119 each
 - Additional \$5.50 from 9,461 groups = \$52,000
 - or, Additional \$20 from 9,461 groups = \$1.7 mil budgeted
 - If total Additional = \$25 , get \$1.752 mil
 - If 100% contrib \$119, total of \$1.84 mil

We thoroughly discussed the budget and decided to leave a projected deficit – as part of the 7th Tradition.

What? Part of the 7th Tradition? What does THAT mean?

It is the Treasurer's responsibility to tell it like it is, to let us know what is the state of our financial affairs.

How can we make decisions about being fully self-supporting if we keep dipping into the reserves?

Choosing to leave a projected deficit lets us see the point that when we don't send enough contributions as a member, or as a group, we either have to cut into our reserves or we have to cut back on services.

2015 WSC: ECRPM

- ECRPM = Exec Cmtee for Real Prop Mgmt
- ECRPM triennial report on our property in VA
 - Tax exempt → lower interest rate, pd in full
 - 2014 Approx. savings \$673,000
 - Prop mgt kept sep from spiritual aim via ECRPM
 - No Staff time searching for new office
 - 18 years ownership, no negative impact
 - Small minority of groups attempted to tie Alateen req'ts est. by BOT to ownership of prop in 2004.
 - Only assets BOT was protecting were our name and our children

When we voted to purchase property rather than continue renting, rather than continue being subject to rent increases and searches for new office space to rent, searches that take staff time away from providing services to us the membership, we voted to make the oversight and management of the property to be **completely separate** from the then-existing service structure. More than 15 years ago we voted to have a separate executive committee, called the Executive Committee for Real Property Management, the ECRPM. The ECRPM provides a report to the Conference every 3 years. 2015 is one of those years when we get to hear the report.

The bottom line is that we are saving approx. \$750,000 every year by owning property versus renting office and warehouse space in Virginia Beach. That's three-quarters of a million dollars. The amount is way higher if we compare to rent we would have been paying if we had continued renting in New York City.

After reviewing the last 18 years of real property ownership, the Board of Trustees has no negative impact to report. A small minority of groups attempted to tie the Alateen requirements established by the Board of Trustees to the ownership of property in 2004. The Board of Trustees clarified that the only assets it was protecting were our name and our children. The ECRPM is a Committee separate from all other committees. It operates separately from the work and business of the World Service Office, allowing the WSO to focus on the primary spiritual aim of the fellowship. This real separation is what allows the ownership of property to function as well as it does.

2015 WSC: CHOSEN AGENDA ITEM

- **Chosen Agenda Item**
 - **1. Alateen**
 - **2. Primary Focus**

One of the pieces of HW the delegates were asked to do in November was to submit proposals for Chosen Agenda Items. These are Agenda Items proposed and selected by the Delegates themselves. The rest of the Agenda Items are selected by the Conference Leadership Team (Trustees), but the Delegates propose and select two Agenda Items every year. In the last three years, the Delegate from CA(S), Jayme, submitted Chosen Agenda Items.

Current Delegates received a list of possibilities in January, with multiple related suggestions grouped together, and we submitted our votes for which two items out of 20 that we wanted to discuss.

The two topics selected by the 67 Delegates, in 3 words, are Alateen and Primary Focus. The list of questions about each Chosen Agenda Item all were submitted by different Delegates.

Let's see those questions now. You can read the discussions about them in the summer when the Conference Summary gets posted on the Members Website.

2015 WSC: CHOSEN AGENDA ITEM

- **Chosen Agenda Item**

- **1. Alateen:**

- **What is stopping our kids from coming?**
 - **How to get teens interested in Alateen and Service they can do?**
 - ★ **CT has ADR who is an Alateen**
 - **Is the current model of Alateen working?**
 - **Are the adults running it instead of the teens?**
 - **How to get Al-Anon members interested in being Sponsors, Coordinators, AAPP?**

- **GRs go to mic?**

What is stopping our kids from coming to Alateen? How to get teens interested in Alateen and Service they can do? Is the current model of Alateen working? Are the adults running it instead of the teens? How to get Al-Anon members interested in being Sponsors, Coordinators, AAPP?

See the 2015 Conference Summary on the Members Website this summer to see the discussion among Conference members.

2015 WSC: AGENDA ITEMS

- **Chosen Agenda Item**
 - **2. Primary Focus ≠ Drug addicted family member**
 - **How do we welcome families of alcoholics who also have drug addictions, without diluting our program?**
 - **Is Al-Anon becoming friends and families of addicts?**
 - **Is the focus more on addiction than alcoholism?**
 - **Are we diverted from Tradition Three and Five?**

 - **GRs go to mic?**

The second Chosen Agenda Item is, are the meetings discussing outside issues and not sticking to the Primary Focus of Al-Anon?

See the 2015 Conference Summary this summer on the Members Website to read the discussion among Conference members about the following questions:

How do we welcome families of alcoholics who also have drug addictions without diluting our program? Is Al-Anon becoming friends and families of addicts? Is the focus more on addiction than alcoholism? Are we diverted from Tradition Three and Five?

2014 WSC: POLICY CLARIFICATION

- **Al-Anon members who also are members of A.A.**
 - Print updated pages 82, 83, 126 of current Service Manual
 - Read Conference Summary 2011, 2013, 2014
 - 2011, p. 49-51 ThF on How to Include Dual Members in Service Work While Maintaining Our Policies
 - 2013, p. 65-66 TF on Piece with Criteria to Help Service Arms Identify Service Jobs for Dual Members
 - 2014, p. 53-57 Policy Discussion – Dual Members
 - Discussions at 2014 SWRDM
 - Reoccurring question

Did you print updated pages 82, 83, 126 of the current Service Manual? The 2014 WSC voted to approve this **policy clarification**.

Since this occurred after the 2014-2017 SM was printed, the updated pages are available for download on the Members Website,

www.al-anon.org/members

4 places on Members Website to find these updated pages:

Individuals tab – Member Resources

Or Groups tab – Group Resources

Or Service Structure tab – District Resources

Or Service Structure tab – Area Resources

Pick one of those, then click on the purple SM cover, then click on yellow highlighted text.

Print, cut it out, tape into your Service Manual.

Cathleen mentioned a learning curve for Alateen in the Area.

There also is a learning curve for their **existing, clarified policy**.

Let's read it together: p. 82, 126

The policy clarification to show the spiritual principles behind this Policy was voted on at the 2014 World Service Conference. KBDM was used in the entire process. Please see the Conference Summaries from 2011, 2013 and 2014 to see the progression, including discussions and questions/answers. Go to Service Structure and click on either Area or District Resources then click on the navy blue cover of the 2014 Conference Summary to

read the pages listed here. In 2011 there was a presentation by the Thought Force on How to Include Dual Members in Service Work While Maintaining Our Policies. In 2013 there was a presentation by the Task Force presentation on a Piece with Criteria to Help Service Arms Identify Service Jobs for Dual members. In 2014 there was a Policy Discussion on Dual Members. Included in 2014 is discussion about if an AI-Anon member, who is no longer a member of A.A. seeks or is holding an AI-Anon service position that votes in matters affecting another group or AI-Anon or A.A. as a whole. It also discusses where the Policy or idea came from (“Bill W. was concerned that having A.A. members in two fellowships could bring A.A. into controversy and having A.A. members voting in two fellowships could bring A.A. members into controversy and having A.A. members voting on positions that might put AI-Anon in opposition to A.A.’s policy could leave or give the appearance of conflict in A.A. and he asked that a member of AI-Anon who is also a member of A.A. not be allowed to vote in the AI-Anon structure in ways that could create conflict.”

2014 SWRDM: All who attend the Southwest Regional Delegates meeting (SWRDM) participate in detailed discussions in breakout groups by service position. In 2014, the breakout groups were focused on the Policy Discussions of Dual Members policy that was to be held at the 2014 WSC. CA(S) was represented at all four 2014 breakout groups: Delegate, Alternate Delegate, Chair and Officer/Coordinator. The Delegates wanted the policy text to be positive, clear, and conveyed in a spiritual manner. The Alternate Delegates saw the language as inclusive and encouraging to AI-Anon members who also are members of AA to bring the All-Anon message to situations (i.e., closed AA meetings) where non-AA members cannot go. The Area Chairs discussed policy voice with regard to dual members. As an Area Officer (Secretary) in 2014, I went to SWRDM at my own expense and I participated in the Officer/Coordinator breakout group, in which we generated a list of how each Tradition applies to the proposed modified text. Our list was sent to the Board of Trustees for their consideration in the KBDM for the Policy Discussion.

Now, I will read a Reoccurring Question and a response.

Question: A member wants to serve as Group Representative (GR), and says they are no longer a member of A.A. The policy is that members of AI-Anon who also are members of A.A. are not to serve as GR, District Representative (DR), Delegate, etc. Is this person considered an AI-Anon member who also is a member of Alcoholics Anonymous?

THE END

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