

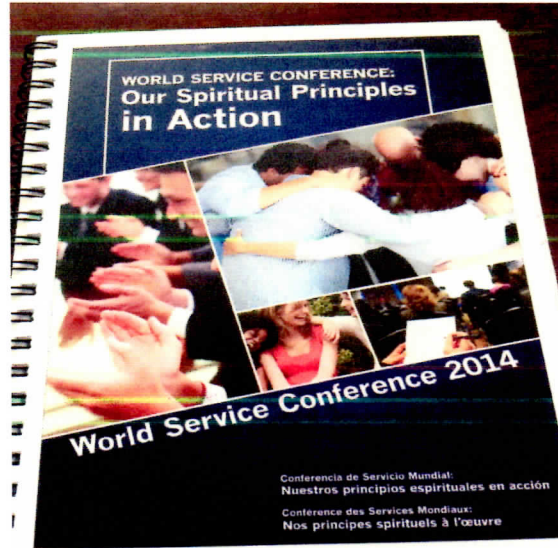
# **“World Service Conference: Our Spiritual Principles in Action”**

Jayne C., Delegate  
May 17, 2014

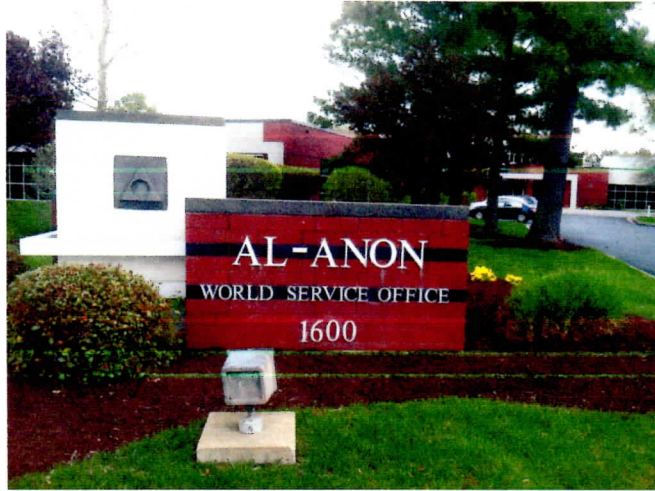


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# “WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE: Our Spiritual Principles in Action”



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**Thank you, thank you for all of the Love Gifts, cards 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 I received so many Love Gifts from so many Districts and Groups. 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!**

**There is a bag of Love Gifts from all over the U.S. and Canada for each District. Please enjoy and share the love!**

## 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.



## PERSONAL GOALS

- **Bring Al-Anon into the future where it can be dynamic, thriving and a household name.**
- **Actively listen and engage.**
- **Release any preconceived notion and be willing to speak the truth.**
- **That my Higher Power will be present in all discussions and decisions.**
- **I have delegated authority from my Area to vote my conscience.**



# AGENDA

- **New Daily Reader**
- ***One Day At A Time***
- **Use of Electronics at WSC**
- **New Conflict Resolution Tool**
- **Forum Magazine**
- **Contributions**
- **Policy Committee Update**
- **Chosen Agenda Items**
- **Memorial Contributions**
- **Second Meet the Board Event**
- **Trustee Affirmation**
- **Alateen**
- **Other Topics**



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## **New Daily Reader**

- **WSC gave conceptual approval to develop a new daily reader that reflects the diversity of our fellowship.**
- **Daily reader for all members & would respond to the needs of our fellowship today.**
- **Task Force to develop ideas for the daily reader.**
- **Stay tuned for information on ways to submit your sharings**



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In March 2012 the Literature Committee began discussing a suggestion for a new daily reader. It takes three to five years to develop a daily reader. In an attempt to consider what the needs of the fellowship might be five years from now, the Committee took into account that a new reader could give members an opportunity to share on topics that they feel are under represented in our current readers. A reader addressing the many voices of Al-Anon could bring forward all the conversations about diversity that have taken place at recent World Service Conferences and throughout our fellowship. Although Al-Anon welcomes everyone affected by another's alcoholism, not all segments of the population are fully represented in Al-Anon's membership. This includes men, people under 50 years old., and other minorities based on ethnicity, race or sexual orientation.

The Literature Committee felt that a new daily reader could provide an opportunity for all members to express what Al-Anon is today, with topics that are pertinent to them now. This proposed book could provide a voice for various minorities within the program and illustrate the diversity of relationships that lead people to Al-Anon, while still focusing on what we have in common –both problems and solutions.

## ***One Day At A Time***

- ***One Day At A Time*** now available as an audio book!
- Now on sale at [Audible.com](http://Audible.com)
- Will be available on [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) and the Apple iTunes Store
- Listening length is 7 hours and 48 minutes
- Book is narrated by anonymous Al-Anon members. Their willingness to participate in this service project made the audio book possible!



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Click



## Use of Electronics at WSC

- **Use of Electronics finally approved!**
- **Monumental Motion!**
- **Only for the use of note taking.**
- **Conversation has been on-going for many years.**
- **KBDM done. Great variance from Area to Area in technology needs/desires.**
- **All at different levels of technology, but how can we attract younger members to service level positions without the use of technology?**



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In 1997 the Board of Trustees, after input from the Conference evaluations and the Conference Leadership Team, decided that laptop computers would not be used during the general sessions of the Conference for a variety of reasons. At the 2011 Conference, the issue of computer use by Conference members was brought forward again because of the increase use of technology for communication and information purposes. In 2012 the original charge posed to a Thought Force dealt with laptop computer use again at the WSC. The 2013 WSC requested continued consideration of this topic.

Based on the continued conversations at the 2014 WSC, the Conference agreed by consensus to adjust the request to consider the use of electronic devices, limited to note taking, on a three year trial basis.



## **New Conflict Resolution Booklet**

- **“Talk to Each Other – Resolving Conflicts within Al-Anon”**
- **Guide for Holding a Discussion to Resolve Conflict**
- **S-73: Code for Booklet. Available in July - \$4.50**
- **Entire kit includes: wallet card, card sets – Conflict Resolution Using our Twelve Traditions and new booklet -- \$9.00 for entire kit. (K-70)**



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Sections include Resolving Conflict in the Group – Even in a healthy Group members may find themselves at odds over various matters. Feel an individual is trying to control or dominate the group. Feel Group is straying from Al-Anon principles and our primary purpose. Disagreements over meeting format or group conscience decision.

Resolving Conflict in the District– There may be issues regarding rotation of leadership positions among only a few. Disagreement on the allocation of district funds. Disregarding the Traditions and affecting Al-Anon as a whole such as using outside literature.

Resolving Conflict in AIS and LDCs. Finding it difficult to coach a volunteer who is giving advice on 12 step calls. Feel that the LDC/AIS is competing with another service arm.

Resolving Conflicts in the Area: Disagreement on funds. Dominating floor discussions and a difference of opinion regarding how something should be presented.

Helpful tips: How to prepare for the discussion, setting ground rules, during the discussion and closing the discussion!

Sometimes there is an elephant in the room and we don't talk about it because conflict is hard for us. So we shove it under the rug but then we have gossip and controversy. What we forget about is using our Traditions to solve the problems.

## FORUM MAGAZINE

- **Al-Anon's most effective means of communicating.**
- **Members read it and value it.**
- **12% of our members receive it!**
- **Declining subscriptions in last 7 years.**
- **Lose 100 subscriptions per month!**
- **Is your meeting using it as a "lending library"**
- **Need sharings.**
- **Sales do not generate revenue.**
- **Are you receiving the Forum? On line?**



## CONTRIBUTIONS

- 16,000 Groups in the U.S. & Canada
- 9,400 Groups contribute – 61.8%
- 1954 last time our contributions exceeded literature sales.
- \$112.00 average annual group contribution
- If each group contributed \$260 annually WSO would meet budget
- Members need to understand their connection to WSO and services Groups receive.
- How much is your Group contributing?



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## **POLICY UPDATE – DUAL MEMBER**

- **NOT POLICY CHANGE, BUT A CLARIFICATION.**
- **Text was changed to reflect the alignment of our spiritual principles.**
- **Tradition Four grants autonomy to Areas except in matters affecting MORE THAN ONE GROUP.**
- **Does NOT CHANGE ANYTHING FOR CA(S)**
- **All SCWS Board and Committee positions are voting positions that affect more than one Group.**
- **All Intergroup positions are voting positions that affect more than one Group.**

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Motion: To amend the text of the "Dual Membership in Al-Anon/Alateen and A.A." Subsection starting on page 82 and ending on page 83 in the "Membership and Group Meetings/Conventions" section of the "Digest of Al-Anon and Alateen Policies" section of the 2014-2017 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual. Will be updated electronically on Members' Website.

New text to read: Service Participation by Members of Al-Anon Family Groups Who Are also Members of Alcoholics Anonymous. Al-Anon Family Groups and Alcoholics Anonymous (A.A.) share a common spiritual legacy in A.A.'s Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions. Before Al-Anon was founded, family groups met with and beside A.A. groups. In 1951 various family groups banded together and agreed to organize Al-Anon Family Groups, a program dedicated to helping the friends and families of alcoholics. Over the years, Al-Anon developed its own service structure, based on the model provided by A.A.'s experience and guided by the Twelve Traditions.

Tradition Five defines Al-Anon's single purpose. Tradition Six encourages cooperation with Alcoholics Anonymous maintaining that Al-Anon is a separate entity that ought never affiliate or create the appearance of affiliation with any outside enterprise. Putting these principles into practice maintains a separation between the service structures of Al-Anon and A.A.. This separation helps avoid the appearance of a conflict of interest and safeguards Al-Anon's singleness of purpose. Accordingly, Al-Anon's policy is that members who are also members of A.A. do not serve as Group Representatives (GRs), District Representatives (DRs), Area Delegate, World Service Conference member, alternate to any of these service positions, or on any committee of the World Service Office.

Filling service positions is a matter of district and Area autonomy, within this policy and the spiritual principles that form its basis. Tradition Four grants autonomy to local service arms, except in matters affecting Al-Anon or A.A. as a whole. Al-Anon members who are also members of A.A. participate fully in all group activities, including group conscience decisions. However, they do not hold Al-Anon service positions that vote in matters affecting another group or Al-Anon or A.A. as a whole.

Participating in Al-Anon service is integral to recovery for every member. Step Twelve, carrying our message to others, is a very important part of Al-Anon service. Members of Al-Anon who are also members of A.A. are often in a position to carry our message to those who are not aware of the benefits of attending Al-Anon Family Groups. Members of Al-Anon who are also members of A.A. may serve Al-Anon in ways that include being Alateen Group Sponsor (see Alateen Policy) or they may be invited by local/Area service arms, the Board of Trustees, or the World Service Office to participate in projects, in keeping with the spirit of this policy. This policy on service participation by members of Al-Anon who are also A.A. members protects Al-Anon's viability as a program dedicated to helping families and friends of alcoholics. It ensures that Al-Anon's service structure represents the unique perspective of families and friends of alcoholics, recognizing that the alcoholic's perspective is represented in A.A.'s service structure. Members honor this policy out of respect for Al-Anon's unity and the group conscience process, in accordance with Tradition One and Tradition Two.

Service arms affect more than one Group when voting. Intergroups and SCWS Board and SCWS Area Committee Meetings. Districts also vote and affects more than one Group.

## CHOSEN AGENDA ITEMS

- **How can we encourage more participation in service?**
  - Connecting – relationships. Ask directly.
  - Service Sponsors
  - Enthusiasm, energy and encouragement.
  - What are you doing to reach out to someone to be of service?
- **Guidelines for trusted servants not fulfilling responsibilities.**
  - What is good personal leadership?
  - Some Areas have guidelines and other Areas do not. CA(S) currently does not have anything.
  - Just because you raise your hand does not mean you are a leader.



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Encouraged the importance of a home group.

Many positions increasingly require a set of skills that willingness alone cannot fulfill. Bill W's leadership essay in the Concept Nine section of the Service Manual, Page 199 – 202. states: "No society can function well without able leadership at all levels, and we are no exception.....A good leader originates plans and policies for the improvement of our fellowship. In new and important matters, he nevertheless consults widely before making decisions. Let's have it our way or no way at all is often powered by visionless pride or a gripe. Leadership is often called upon to face heavy and sometimes long-continued criticism – an acid test. Vision is, I think, the ability to make good estimates, both for the immediate and for the more distant future. But the valuable principle of one day at a time really refers to our mental and emotional lives and means that we are not to repine over the past nor daydream about the future. Thank God that so many of our service leaders at all levels of operation are blessed with the attributes of tolerance, responsibility, flexibility, and vision.

We need to educate our trusted servants. Sometimes being willing is not sufficient enough.

Bottom line: Recognize the importance of presuming goodwill and the accountability of members who are in service to the fellowship.



## MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

- **Current policy restricts non-member memorial contributions to honor deceased family member who was Al-Anon member (STILL TRUE).**
- **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.**

 **Discussion will continue.**

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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.

## **SECOND MEET THE BOARD EVENT**

- **Opportunity for entire BOT to interact with fellowship and for AI-Anon members to meet all 19 Trustees and Executive Committee.**
- **First one to take place in St. John's Newfoundland Labrador, Canada**
- **Goal is for all participants to realize we are all AI-Anon members, working in different capacities, for the good of the fellowship.**
- **Had so many Areas apply had to pull from hat!**
- **Deadline for submitting application to host Board of Trustees event is September 15, 2015.**



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This event is part of a three year trial, and the Board of Trustees is asking me to encourage our Area to put in a bid for the second "Meet the Board" Event in July 2015. This is an opportunity for local AI-Anon members to meet and interact with the 19 Trustees and the three Executive Committee members. The content of the event will be the responsibility of the Board of Trustees. The Area is responsible for publicity. All monies will be handled by the World Service Office. The Area Delegate, the Area Chair, and the Area Contact person for the event need to complete and sign the "Meet The Board" Event Request Form.

As we did last year we can discuss this more at the Area World Service Committee Meeting in August.



## TRUSTEE AFFIRMATION

- **US SOUTHWEST:** Joyce Bush
- **US NORTHWEST:** Donna Eubank
- **US NORTHEAST:** Joan Sullivan
- **US SOUTHCENTRAL:** Annette Thuresson
- **TRUSTEE AT LARGE:** Terry Follett
- **APPOINTMENT FOR ONE YEAR:** Sandi Cox (CA(N)) and  
John McLoughlin (RI)
- **NEW CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD:** Paula Burleson
- **VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD:** Connie Hurst
- **TREASURER:** Jennie McCann
- **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:** Karen Rimmell, Chairperson,  
Roger Cowles, Member at Large, Bev Anderson, Member at Large
- **ECRPM:** Lynn McCluskey



# ALATEEN

- **New Alateen Service e-Manual available at:**  
[www.al-anon.alateen.org/members](http://www.al-anon.alateen.org/members)
- **Sample sharings from *Alateen Talk*, learn about Alateen literature, Alateen events.**
- **Overview of Alateen service, becoming an Alateen Group Sponsor, Role of Alateen Group Sponsors outside of meetings.**
- **Challenges in Alateen service, Alateen safety.**
- **Alateen Public Outreach**
- **Still to come: AMIAS discussion boards, PowerPoint modules.**



## OTHER TOPICS

- **BIG QUESTION:** How can we as service leaders anticipate the future in Al-Anon? In 15 – 25 years how will we as service leaders emphasize spiritual principles as guides or safeguards rather than barriers?
- **TREATMENT FACILITIES OUTREACH:** The “How TO” of Public Outreach. SCWS is hosting a pilot for an exciting new World Service Office (WSO) program – “Treatment Facilities Outreach”. Sunday, August 24, 2014 at 12:30PM at Hoag Hospital in Newport Beach!



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During the Board “Big Question”, members were asked to consider Al-Anon Gfamily Groups at our 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversary and the changes and resources that could be needed while maintaining and using our spiritual principles as our guide. There were six breakout sessions that looked at this in light of: the opportunities the future will bring; the structure of the fellowship; the internal communication; the external communication; use of technology by service arms; and diversity. Members shared ideas and dreams beyond their current reality.

# **“WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE: Our Spiritual Principles in Action”**



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