



Al-Anon Family Groups

Help and hope for families and friends of alcoholics

SCWS Assembly Delegate's Report

November 18, 2023



**In her welcome to the 1983
World Service Conference,
Lois said, “Al-Anon is a
program of love, and love is
the primary motive in all our
activities.”**

Many Voices, One Journey (B-31), p. 230



Road Trip! You And Your Board Connect!





Road Trip! You and Your Board Connect 10/28/23

- ▶ California-South was the location for the Board of Trustees' 8th Road Trip event on Saturday, October 28, 2023 at the LAX Hilton. More than 120 Al-Anon members registered for the all-day event.
- ▶ There were personal shares by Board and Executive Committee members and a panel on how being a member of the Policy Committee impacted their recovery..
- ▶ There were presentations on: The Board at Work, Finance, Executive Committee, Conference Leadership Team, and the International Coordination Committee.
- ▶ Several SCWS Spanish-speaking members volunteered their time to be interpreters..
- ▶ In her October 2023 Chairperson of the Board Letter, Jeri W wrote: "The California South Welcoming Committee did a fantastic job greeting the Board of Trustees and the Executive Committee in beautiful Los Angeles! She also thanked me personally for our hard work when she read the letter to the World Service Conference members November 11.

The 2023 International Convention was held on **June 29 – July 2, 2023** at the Albuquerque Convention Center in Albuquerque, NM.



2023 Al-Anon International Convention with A.A. Participation

The Al-Anon International Convention was a huge success.

Total registrants were 4,517, including 3,387 Al-Anon, 42 Alateen, 293 AA, 54 guests, and 741 virtual registrants.

Transforming Electronic Groups Project – Work Completed

- ▶ Global Electronic Meeting Search is now available!
- ▶ Electronic Groups can transfer to and from the GEA using available online forms.
- ▶ Electronic group registration and change forms can only be submitted online.
- ▶ Electronic Groups registered with geographic Areas such as SCWS are now displayed on al-anon.org.
- ▶ It has now been a full year since SCWS voted to welcome Electronic Groups. We have already registered 152 Electronic Groups into SCWS—52 new groups and 100 that changed to Electronic from Physical-Temporary Electronic or split from their original Physical groups.

Electronic Groups

- ▶ According to our Area Group Records Coordinator Teresa F, there are only about 100 SCWS Physical Temporary Electronic Groups left.
- ▶ Contact Teresa at grouprecords@scws-al-anon.org and she can help you get your group information current. Becoming an Electronic Group is as simple as making a location change to your records. If at some point in the future your group wants to go back to a physical location, it is easy to make the change.
- ▶ Currently Southern California World Service has 1,050 Groups—more than any other Area in the Al-Anon fellowship!

New Conference Approved Literature

- ▶ The new Al-Anon Daily Reader entitled “A Little Time for Myself” was released at the Al-Anon International Convention this summer. The first and second printings are sold out and a third printing is underway. There may be copies available at some AIS/LDC bookstores.
- ▶ The Just for Tonight Alateen Bookmark (M-82) is now available in English and Spanish.

Board of Trustees Policy Committee Update

- ▶ During the July meeting with the World Service Conference members to discuss the Chairperson of the Board letter, we also had a report from the Policy Committee.
- ▶ The Policy Committee discussed a member question: “Is the gendered language of the Steps and Traditions in alignment with Al-Anon’s Legacies?” The fellowship has been discussing this question for many years. Jeri W, Chairperson, Board of Trustees, informed us November 11 that there will be a “Policy Committee-facilitated discussion on the question at the 2024 World Service Conference.”

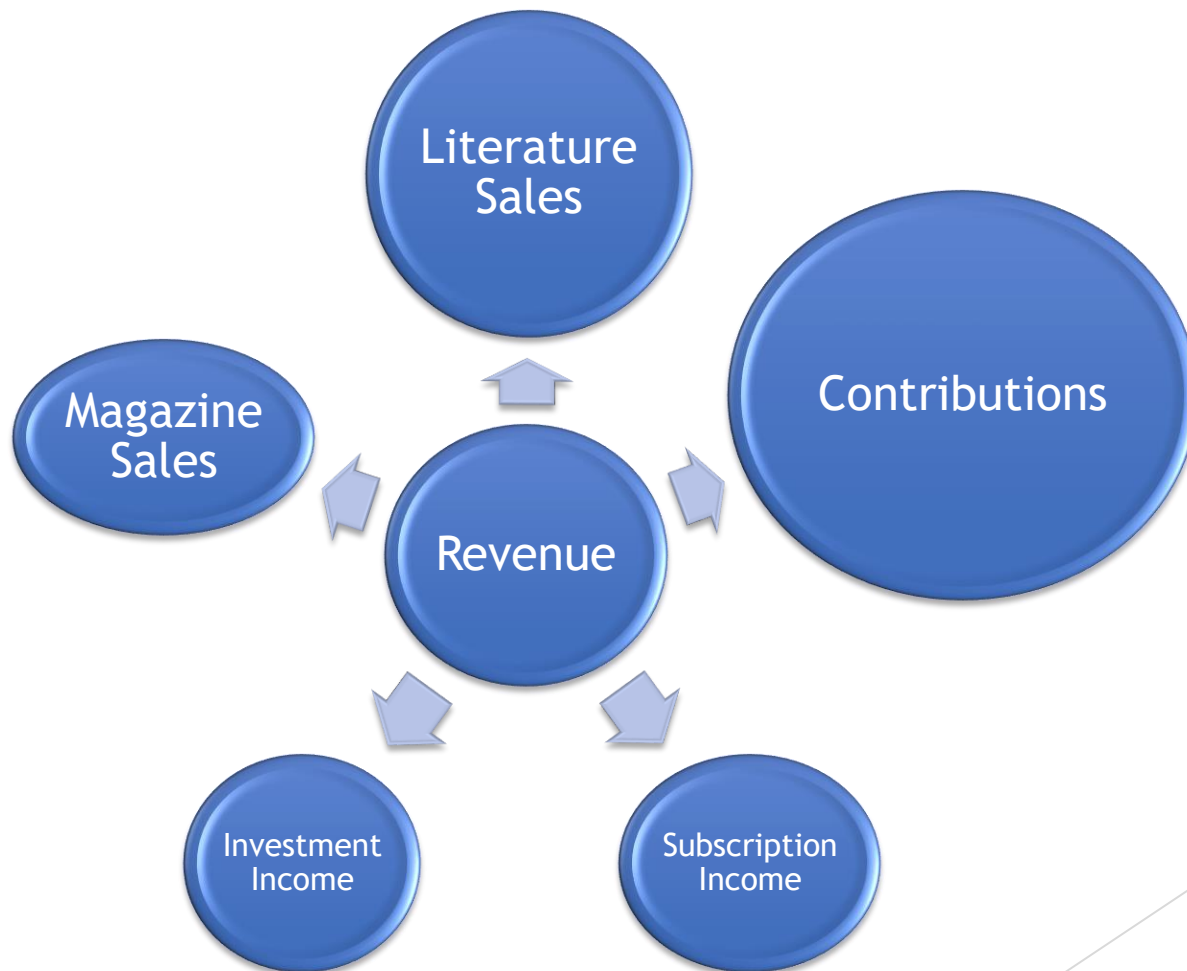
October 2023 Chairperson of the Board Letter

- ▶ On November 11 Jeri W, Chairperson of the Board, met virtually with members of the World Service Conference to share some of the highlights from the Board of Trustees' Quarterly Meeting—which took place in Los Angeles.
- ▶ There were also updates from our Policy Chairperson, a finance Update from the Board's Treasurer, and an update from our Conference Leadership Team (CLT) which plans the World Service Conference.
- ▶ These reports will be published on Al-Anon.org in the next couple of weeks—in English, Spanish, and French.

AFG Inc. Finance Update as of 9/30/2023

- ▶ Total Revenue \$5,031,754
- ▶ Total Expenses \$4,299,432
- ▶ Net Increase \$732,322
- ▶ For the first time since the pandemic started, our literature revenue in the first three quarters (\$2,446,827) exceeded member contributions (\$2,061,822.) This is due to the strong sales of our new Daily Reader “A Little Time for Myself.”

Sources of Revenue



Program Services



Registers new groups



Supports international structures



Maintains and updates meeting locations



Produces exciting new literature



Prepares program and staffs the World Service Conference (WSC)

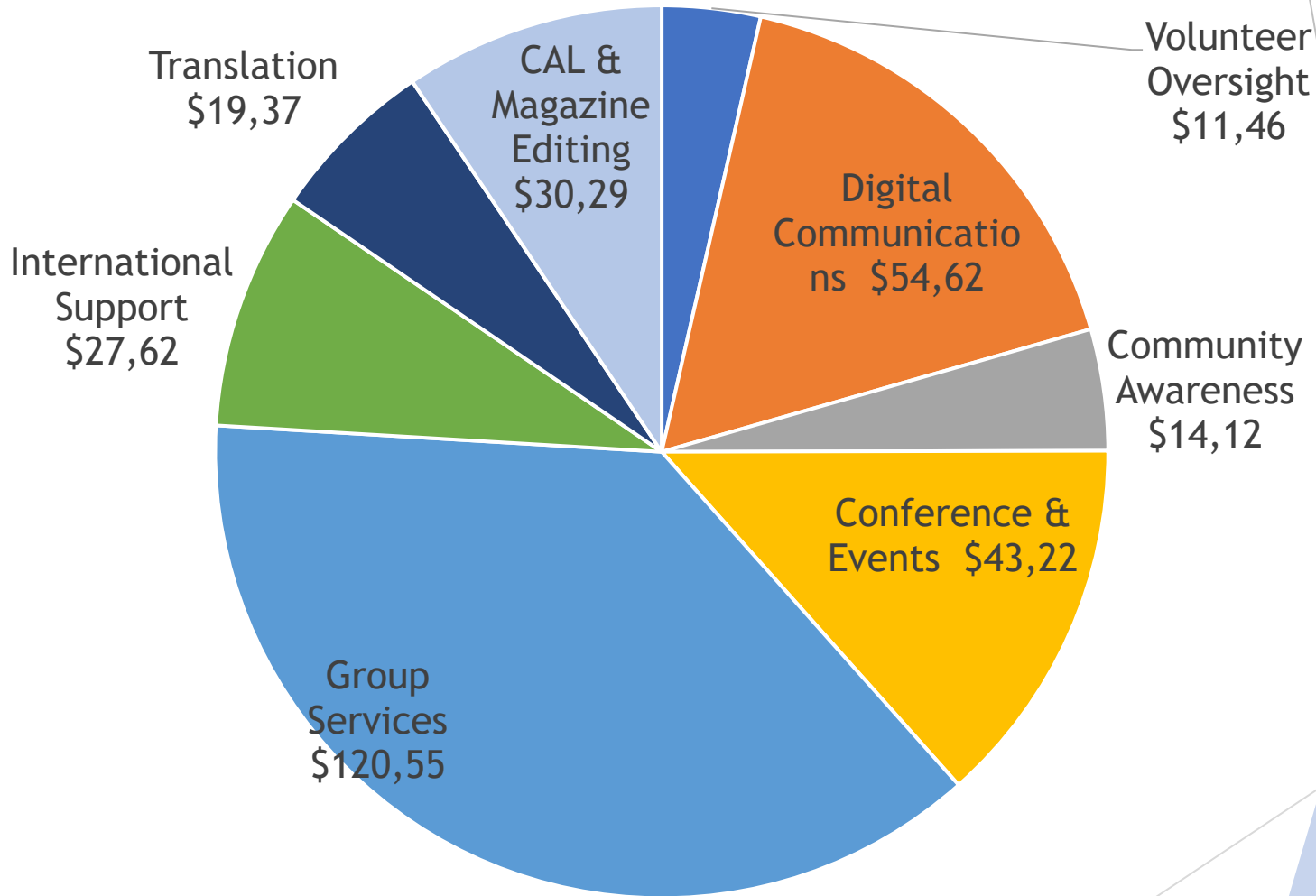


Maintains our website, mobile app, enhances communications, and develops PSAs

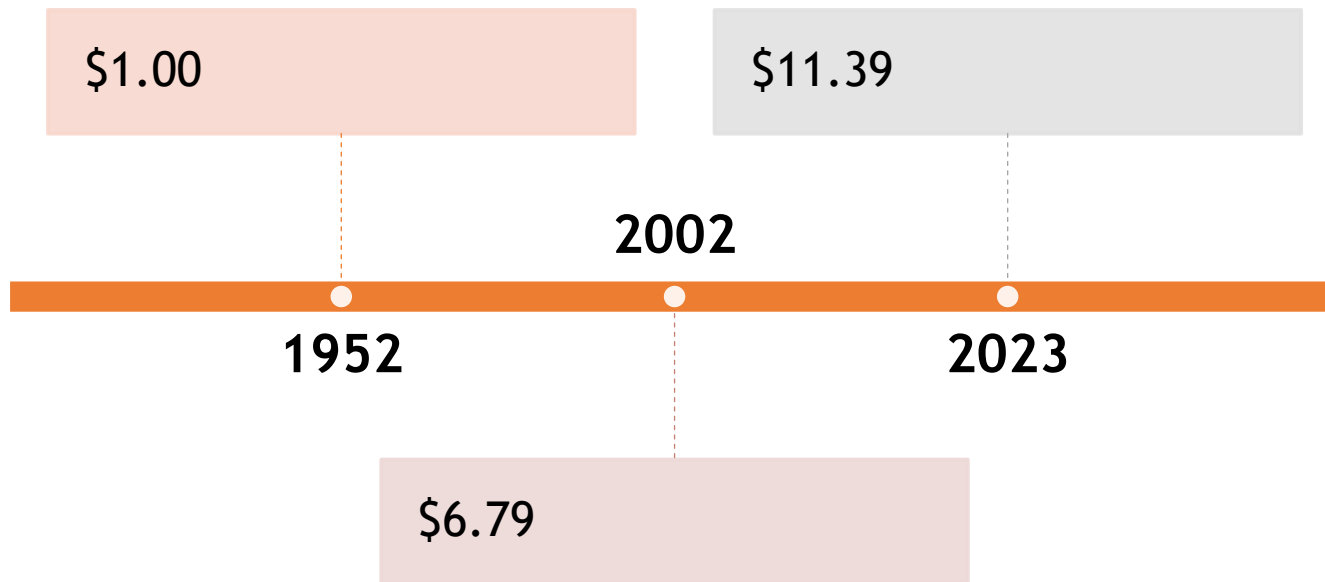


Attends professional conferences to share the AI-Anon message

Cost per Group: \$321.25



The power of \$1



Stepping Stones and the WSC in New York

- ▶ At the 2021 Virtual WSC we had a virtual Stepping Stones visit that was deeply moving. In 2022 the WSC was held in Tarrytown and WSC members visited Stepping Stones—the home of AA founder Bill W. and his wife Lois W. Al-Anon's first office and Clearinghouse was at Stepping Stones.
- ▶ This year at the 2023 WSC we had a discussion about the feasibility of continuing to have the WSC in the New York every third year. Holding the WSC in New York is considerably more expensive than having it in Virginia Beach.
- ▶ Many Delegates described the spiritual impact of visiting Stepping Stones and witnessing this Al-Anon history.
- ▶ The AFG Inc. Board of Trustees has decided that the 2025 World Service Conference will be held near New York City. Delegates will have the chance to see Stepping Stones before or after the WSC.

2022 Annual Report

2023 WSC Summary

- ▶ Al-Anon's 2022 Annual Report was published this summer and a PDF version is available on our web site:
- ▶ <https://al-anon.org/pdf/World-Service-Office-Annual-Report-2022.pdf>
- ▶ The 2023 World Service Conference Summary has been delayed because of the International Convention. It will be published before the end of the year and will be available online and in a printed version.

2024 World Service Conference April 18-21, 2024

- ▶ The 2024 World Service Conference will be held in Virginia Beach, VA, from Thursday, April 18 through Sunday, April 21, 2024.
- ▶ As reported in the 2021 World Service Office Annual Report, the Board of Trustees passed a motion to approve reducing Conference Week to four days effective in 2023 on a three-year trial basis.
- ▶ I look forward to working with the SCWS Delegate who will represent us at the 2024 WSC!

2028 Al-Anon International Convention in Southern California?

- ▶ The World Service Office has sent out a 2028 International Convention Site Selection Bid Packet which must be submitted by January 16, 2024.
- ▶ The form is relatively short. The basic requirement is to propose a city with a Convention Center with seating for up to 5,000 people, and with 20-25 meeting rooms that can seat 3,000-4,000 people in 20 concurrent meetings. Hotels, restaurants and local activities have to be within one mile. They also want an airport serving major US and Canadian airlines.
- ▶ SCWS would also have to commit to organizing a volunteer committee of about 400 Al-Anon members.

2028 International Convention

- ▶ Our bid must propose a specific city.
- ▶ Traditionally the Convention would be held from June 29 through July 2, 2028 to take advantage of holiday rates. However, they will consider a long weekend in June.
- ▶ The 2028 Olympics will be held in Los Angeles from July 14 to July 30. Would preparations make the LA area too hectic for an earlier convention?
- ▶ The Board of Trustees found expenses for their October meeting in LA to be very expensive.
- ▶ Would major cities such as San Diego or Long Beach be any less expensive?
- ▶ Do we want to submit a bid?

SCWS Thought Force: Future of the Assembly

- ▶ Seven SCWS Al-Anon members, including three members of the SCWS Board, have been meeting to use Knowledge Based Decisionmaking (KBDM) to look at options for our Assemblies and other SCWS meetings as the pandemic wanes.
- ▶ We had no trouble looking at the pros and cons of an in-person Assembly and of an Assembly on Zoom. We decided it was impossible to do KBDM on the third option: A hybrid Assembly with both an in-person and a hybrid (virtual) component.
- ▶ We petitioned our Area Chair to authorize us to become a Task Force so that we can study how other areas do hybrid Assemblies—what works and what doesn't. She has agreed!

SCWS Task Force: Future of the Assembly Our Charge

- ▶ We will explore what it will take to produce a hybrid SCWS Assembly, starting with the May 18, 2024 Assembly. We have considered several locations and technology options that will allow our Assembly to meet in person—with technology that enables members who prefer to join electronically to participate fully in the Assembly. One venue in Long Beach looks particularly promising. We will keep you posted on our progress.
- ▶ With answers to these questions, we can then look at how we want to handle our Area World Service Committee (AWSC) and Board Meetings.
- ▶ In the future we will investigate other options such as Assemblies held in different locations around Southern California—and perhaps an Assembly that lasts longer than one day.

49th Southwest Regional Delegates Meeting March 8-10, 2024

- ▶ SWRDM is a meeting of past and current delegates and trustees from 8 Southwest areas: CA South, CA North, Nevada, Arizona, Hawaii, Utah, Colorado and New Mexico/El Paso. The purpose of the meeting is to prepare delegates—particularly new delegates—for the World Service Conference in April. Other area officers and Al-Anon members are welcome to attend.
- ▶ This year Southern California is hosting SWRDM, which will take place at the Hilton Orange County/Costa Mesa.
- ▶ We hope many local members will join us. We promise that the experience will give you a deeper understanding of Al-Anon service at the World Service level.

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- ▶ Our World Service Office's e-newsletter in three languages

Questions

