

November 11, 2016

#### BOARD VISION STATEMENT

All people affected by someone else's drinking will find help and recovery in every community.

#### BOARD MISSION STATEMENT

Anticipate the future and Al-Anon's place in it and ensure that the necessary resources are available.

#### STRATEGIC PLAN PRIORITIES

Al-Anon's spiritual principles permeate our policies and practices; we apply emerging technology and communication options:

- To increase the visibility of Al-Anon so that it is recognized as the number one resource throughout the world for helping friends and families of problem drinkers.
- To empower the Al-Anon fellowship to be vibrant, inclusive, and flexible.
- To achieve a viable future for Al-Anon Family Groups, the Board will be adaptive and strategic in its use of talents, skills, and abilities.

Dear Al-Anon and Alateen Members,

In 2014, The Board began discussions related to succession planning for the Director of Business Services. The position title was changed from Director of Business Services to Director of Finance, a timeline for recruitment was outlined, a Search Committee was formed whose responsibilities included reviewing resumes, interviewing, and presenting a recommendation for hire to the Board of Trustees. Interviews were held in August and September, and the Board received the recommendations from the Search Committee during our October Board Meeting. It is with great excitement and confidence that the Board of Trustees, acting within our legal authority as outlined in the By-Laws, announces the appointment of Niketa Bailey (non-member) as the new Director of Finance for Al-Anon Family Groups, Inc. Niketa holds a current CPA licensure, and a Masters Degree in Accounting, with Business related coursework. She brings with her an excitement for our Mission and Vision statements, articulate and clear thinking, a demonstrated ability to grasp the understanding and principles of our Legacies, and a shared excitement to work within an organization that applies spiritual principles as a means for guidance and planning. Niketa begins her work with Al-Anon Family Groups, Inc. on November 14<sup>th</sup>. Please join the Board in welcoming Niketa.

In welcoming our new Director of Finance, we will be saying goodbye in January to David Zach, Director of Business Services. David began working for the WSO when our office moved to Virginia Beach. We will truly miss David's commitment to the fellowship, his insight, and his special sense of humor. David will continue his work at the WSO through January.

The entire Board and Executive Committee members were warmly welcomed as we traveled to Fayetteville, Arkansas, for our quarterly Board meeting and the third Meet the Board event. Many thanks to the members of the Arkansas Area for their enthusiastic participation. The Board would also like to thank those members who took the opportunity to attend by "*getting in the car*" and traveling to beautiful Arkansas from Kansas, Missouri, Texas East, Texas West, Oklahoma, and Bermuda. Over 100 members were in attendance. One of the highlights of the Meet the Board event is the opportunity to learn more about and from each other. Board and Executive Committee members shared their personal stories, as well as information regarding the working of Board Committees, and the responsibilities of serving on the Board and Executive Committee. The agenda included opportunities to meet in small groups for discussion of current topics related to the continued growth of our fellowship. As with all work of the Board, an evaluation and review of the event will be completed, ideas gained related to the strategic plan considered, and recommendations for improvement will be implemented.

Site selection for the 2017 Road Trip! You and Your Board Connect (formerly Meet the Board) was made during the October Board meeting. An announcement concerning the October 21, 2017 site location will be made once required hotel and meeting spaces are confirmed. The Board would like to thank the 20 additional Areas who expended the time and effort in submitting to host the 2017 Road Trip! Your efforts were not overlooked.

The Eighteenth International Al-Anon General Service Meeting (IAGSM) was held October 5-8 in Rome, Italy. The planning and implementation of the IAGSM is the responsibility of the International Coordination Committee (ICC). The ICC was formed as an avenue of communication to support the international growth of Al-Anon and Alateen, and to perpetuate worldwide unity. The purpose of the IAGSM is to share the experience of Al-Anon national services around the world through its Delegates. Delegate members from the following structures were in attendance: Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Italy, Mexico, New Zealand, Poland, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ireland, US/Canada, and for the first time India, Paraguay, and Guatemala. The level of commitment from the Delegate members of these structures is remarkable. More can be learned through reading the *2016 IAGSM Summary*. The summary will be posted to the Member's website on or before the first of the year.

In July, the Board announced the theme for the 2018 International Convention. Within a few days of posting the COB letter, we realized the "hashtag" used within the theme

made our theme available at the public level and with that availability came the possibility of breaking members' anonymity. The July COB letter was taken down from the Web site the hashtag was removed, and the letter reposted. The WSO staff completed a KBDM, and as a result a new theme for the 2018 International Convention was presented and approved by the Board. The Board enthusiastically approved the new theme for the 2018 International Convention:

### **Celebrating One Day at a Time 2018 International Convention**

The 2018 International theme has a multiple layered meaning: we are celebrating; we are celebrating one of our slogans, "One Day at a Time; and we are celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our daily reader "*One Day at a Time in Al-Anon.*"

During 2016, Tennessee, Maritime Provinces, Iowa, Pennsylvania, North Carolina/Bermuda, Hawaii, and Illinois North each hosted and worked in cooperation with our WSO staff, Board, and Executive Committee members in planning and presenting TEAM events. We are excited to announce we have received and confirmed our limit of nine TEAM events for 2017: Minnesota South, Florida North, Saskatchewan, Montana/Idaho, Ohio, California South, California North, Nevada, and Washington/Oregon. In the Board's discussion and consideration of planning needs for the 2018 International Convention, and in attempt to encourage member participation at the International, the Board has made the decision to not hold TEAM events in 2018. TEAM events will continue in 2019. Information related to 2019 submission timeframes will be announced at a later date.

Contributions for 2016 were \$320,553 higher through September of 2016 versus September of 2015. This is an outstanding increase of almost \$100,000 from August of this year. It is highly possible we could reach \$2,000,000 in total contributions for 2016. Thank you to our WSC Delegates for carrying the discussion and message of our finances to the membership. Thank you to our membership for responding.

The Board would like to thank WSC members for taking the time to thoughtfully consider and respond to recent questions and information posted by the Policy and Finance Committees on AFG Connects. Your input is valued and we hope is assisting in expanding our communication with each other.

With each Chairperson of the Board letter following the Quarterly Board meeting, there is an opportunity for a Delegate/Trustee call. The purpose is to: clarify any questions related to the content of this letter; gain insight on a question that is typically presented; and offer an independent resource for potential Area concerns. If you prefer not to have the Trustee phone you, please let him/her know when the initial contact is made. It is not a venue to voice concerns or advocate a position to the Board of Trustees, since those are submitted to the World Service Office for proper routing. Please consider the following question for discussion:

**Have recent opportunities to participate in discussions related to Policy and/or Finance questions and communications expanded your knowledge and ability to communicate related information within your Area?**

To our outgoing Panel 54 World Service Delegates...*we thank you for your service!* It has been a privilege to work with each of you as we continued the important work of ensuring our primary purpose of helping families and friends of alcoholics. We look forward to hopefully meeting you again in 2018 at the International Convention in Baltimore, or perhaps at a TEAM event, Meet the Board, or Area visit. Perhaps service on a WSO Committee or as Trustee is in your future? Please stay connected and involved in service. Our fellowship benefits from the involvement of responsible, experienced leaders such as yourselves

In gratitude,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Debbie G." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Debbie G.  
Chairperson of the Board of Trustees

## Policy Committee Update

Judy K., Chairperson

Donna E., Co-Chairperson

October 2016

The purpose of the update sent each quarter by the Chairperson of the Policy Committee is to provide information and to report progress on the following:

- Topics discussed by the Policy Committee that are generated by the fellowship and need clarification or interpretation in light of the Traditions and Concepts
- Policy motions presented to the World Service Conference (WSC)
- Policy motions passed by the WSC

The Policy Committee is finalizing its work on incorporating spiritual principles into the text portion of the 'Financial Matters' section of the "Policy Digest," pages 95-99, and the text of 'Conventions and Other Events' formerly title 'Conventions,' pages 85 and 86, of the *2014 -2017 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual (P-24/27)*. The goal of the Committee is to bring the revised text for both sections to the 2017 World Service Conference (WSC).

The Policy Committee continued its discussion of the terms "open" and "closed" meetings, reviewing the results of information obtained from Area Delegates via AFG Connects. The thorough outpouring of information from over half of the Areas provided a broad overview of concerns and questions regarding the use and interpretation of these terms. A Policy Committee Task Force has been formed to analyze the information and suggest possible strategies to eliminate the confusion these terms cause for the public and even for Al-Anon members. The Policy Committee first discussed this topic in light of Tradition Five, the principle of being welcoming, and Tradition Twelve, maintaining anonymity of members.

The Policy Committee also discussed other concerns raised by members, among them Al-Anon as it relates to prospective members seeking help for family members with addictions other than alcohol. Traditions Three and Five address the spiritual principles of welcoming anyone seeking help and allowing prospective members the right of decision about Al-Anon membership. Al-Anon's primary focus is helping those affected by alcoholism, but we do not decide who meets that requirement for membership.

As always, the WSO Policy Committee appreciates hearing from members about matters that affect Al-Anon as a whole. We welcome all inquiries and suggestions from Al-Anon and Alateen members regarding issues that need clarification or interpretation in light of our Traditions and Concepts.

## Finance Committee Update

Jennie M., Treasurer

October 2016

The following update is based on the unaudited financial statements for the period ended September 30, 2016:

The General Fund recorded a gain of \$303,315 for this period, compared to a loss of \$176,337 this period last year. That represents an improvement of \$479,652 over this period last year. This is mainly due to an increase in contributions. Revenue from literature sales was slightly below that of 2015. The investment income and transfer from the Reserve Fund totaled \$166,742, compared to \$43,666, due to a larger planned transfer budgeted in 2016. The big news is that 2016 Contributions for the first nine months exceeded 2015 Contributions by \$320,553.

### **Income:**

Literature sales were \$2,663,981 for this period, compared to \$2,617,502 at this time last year. Gross profit on literature sales was \$2,174,164 (81% of sales), compared to \$2,177,526 at September 30, 2015. Contributions were \$1,459,358 for the first nine months of 2016, compared to \$1,138,805 this period last year—an increase of 28.15%! *Forum* subscription income was \$184,776 at September 30, 2016, an increase of 6.66%. This reflects the additional subscriptions purchased due to the suspension of the complimentary group copies of the *Forum*.

### **Expenses:**

Operating expenses were \$3,681,725 for the period, compared to \$3,709,572 last year—a decrease of less than 1%. Expenses were below budget due to some staffing changes and some timing differences for purchases year over year.

### **Reserve Fund:**

The fair value of investments in the Reserve Fund totaled \$5,042,455 at September 30, 2016.

### **Outlook:**

We are very optimistic that we will meet and maybe even exceed our budgeted revenue numbers for 2016, which is very good news. The Finance Committee keeps a watchful eye on expenditures in an effort to minimize the projected deficit. Perhaps with the collective abundant response from the fellowship, we can eliminate the deficit!

## Conference Leadership Team Update

Tina B., Chairperson

October 2016

### *“Our Members: Our Hope for the Future”*

The purpose of the Conference Leadership Team (CLT) update is to communicate the agenda planning activities for the World Service Conference. Planning begins at the close of the prior Conference with review of the evaluations and insights offered by WSC members at the conclusion. The agenda topics are determined by the World Service Conference’s request for more information, for Thought Forces and Task Forces, and direction to the Committees.

The 2017 World Service Conference agenda is filling quickly. The CLT is working diligently to include all required reports and requests for time during the brief time we are all together. During this Conference we will be visiting the World Service Office at the beginning of the week. For those who have not had the opportunity to visit, and for the WSO staff, it is an exciting time to connect our home and our members.

Please be sure to check AFG Connects for the Chosen Agenda Items request. The Chosen Agenda items will be submitted via a survey this year—the deadline is December 31<sup>st</sup>. All WSC members can submit Chosen Agenda Items for discussion at the 2017 WSC. Delegates are encouraged to bring forward from their Area items that are of concern to the fellowship as a whole. All Conference members will have the opportunity to discuss the CAIs both on the Conference floor as well as in smaller breakouts that report back to the full Conference.

To all of the new Panel 57 Delegates—Welcome! There will be a New World Service Conference Member conference call on January 14, 2017 to answer all of your questions.