

Sarah S
Panel 57 Missouri
Delegate's Report



2017 WSC

**"Our members, our hope for
the future!"**

Greetings, Missouri Area Assembly,

Recently, I attended the World Service Conference as the Missouri Area Delegate held in Virginia Beach, Virginia. This was a life changing experience. I have thought about what Conference might look like for years. This exceeded all my thoughts and expectations. I decided to go a little bit early and spend some time on the beach. I am so grateful I did because it gave me the opportunity to network with other WSC members who were already there. There are so many personal testimonies I would love to share with you, but I simply don't have space or time in this report. I would love to share my experiences in your District Meetings.

I have spent some time thinking about the structure of this report. I will be reporting in chronological order with the WSC Agenda. I want to make sure that I pass on all the information. Before I get into business I would like to thank the Missouri Area for all the Love Gifts and beautiful greeting cards many of you sent me. I was overwhelmed with your kindness, thoughts, and outpouring of love. I knew that I wasn't alone. I knew that all of you were walking through the WSC with me shoulder-to-shoulder. Thank you for your love and prayers.

Now let's get into business:

Sunday:

Sunday afternoon the hospitality room opened at 3 P.M. I wish I would have taken a picture because we were lined up outside of the door. The hospitality room is where the Delegate's had access to all the mail. All of our packages and cards were housed there. The door opened and we ran in like kids opening presents on Christmas morning. I was thrilled to see I had a stack of boxes waiting to be opened and put out to share. I have brought back some Love Gifts to share with you. I can't explain how meaningful some of these gifts are too many. Thank you for sending gifts for me to share.

We also had access to our mailboxes here. When cards arrived at the hotel, they were put in our box. I checked the mail at least once a day. Every time I checked my mailbox, I had mail. I spent time opening the mail in the evening. I received so many love notes and cards from you, our Members of the Missouri Area. As I read many of the words, I was brought to tears. We spent about 12 hours a day doing business. When I found myself frustrated, tired, sad, etc, I would think of your words of love and encouragement! They carried me through all week long. I never felt alone! Every time I checked my mailbox and pulled out my cards, Delegates from other area were amazed how many cards I received. I have displayed them so you can see what I experienced all week.

Monday:

The new Delegate's attended orientation on Monday. It was an awesome overview of the World Service Conference. We participated in activities that allowed us to get to know each other, work together, and understand how the conference would be conducted. We also participated in our assigned committee meetings. Prior to Conference we were asked to fill out a survey ranking the choices we would be interested in. My first choice was the Conference Committee on Trustees (CCT). I was assigned to this

committee. During the committee meeting a new chairman was elected. I was elected as the Chair Elect. I don't have any responsibility for 2017 besides participating as a member. If I am affirmed at the 2018 WSC CCT meeting, I will assume the responsibility of CCT chairman for the year of 2018.

Monday afternoon we attended Sharing Area Highlights (SAH). Sharing Area Highlights is not an official part of the Conference. The Board of Trustees and Executive Committee Members are invited to attend. Sharing Area Highlights is an opportunity for Delegates to get together and share what is working and what is not working. This meeting is chaired and organized by Delegates. We were given the opportunity to make suggestions for topics. We broke into sub groups and had an opportunity to discuss the topics in detail. If you would like more information, please have a conversation with me. The topics were very informative and we could pass on a lot of information and ideas with each other. The topics were the following:

Round 1 – How to encourage Area Participation of:

- A. Filling Opening positions, what works?
- B. Inactive Groups/Districts
- C. Members in Remote areas

Round 2 – How can the Area help strengthen Sponsorship?

- A. Is sponsorship the key to retaining newcomers?
- B. How can I be an effective sponsor who has a grasp of our principles?
- C. How can our Area/District/Groups help strengthen sponsorship?
- D. How to encourage newcomers to get a sponsor?
- E. How to recognize and avoid cult-like behavior

Round 3 – Alateen

- A. What is working for Alateen
- B. What about Young Alateen meetings? (Young Alateen is patterned after Young AA 16-23 was started by young AA members, not governed by AA).
- C. Are we promoting instead of attracting?
- D. How to help Alateen be self-supporting

We also attended the opening dinner. We were given time to change clothes from business attire to elegant attire. This was a very special time because this dinner was for the new Delegates. We were welcomed by the Chairperson of the Conference, Tina B. She shared a few thoughts, and then struck the gavel that officially opened the 2017 WSC. After dinner Mary G., Interim Executive Director, was our opening speaker. After she closed, the Delegates were welcomed by receiving their official conference pins. My mentor attached my pin to my jacket. I have mine on today if you would like to see it. We were encouraged to rest, because Tuesday would be a long day. Tuesday was the first official day of business. The days were long and breakfast was at 7 A.M. sharp!

Tuesday:

Tina B. opened the conference with the reading of the Board of Trustees (BOT) Vision and Mission statements. We were asked to keep these in mind as we conducted business. The BOT Vision and Mission statements are listed below:

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 the necessary resources are available.

We were reminded of the Conference theme. We were asked to consider expanding our vision and when making decisions considering the Conference theme. The 2017 WSC Theme:

2017 CONFERENCE THEME: "OUR MEMBERS, OUR HOPE FOR THE FUTURE!"

When I arrived at my seat I had a sash at my table that said Missouri on it. The Conference Leadership Team (CLT) spent time making sashes for everyone at Conference. Each Panel was asked to come to the front of the room and introduce themselves. Of course, Panel 57 was first. I stood in the line and proudly said, "Sarah Smith, Panel 57, Missouri." Reality set it in. I was representing the Missouri Area at the World Service Conference. We didn't have a ton of time to experience the moment. Once all Panels, Board of Trustees, and Executive Committee members were introduced, we immediately moved into the business for the day.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR POSITON:

The opening for the Executive Director position was announced on May 1st. Mary G., Interim Executive Director, has done an amazing job over the last year. She has agreed to stay on for a while during the transition.

- Applications will be accepted through June 15th, 2017
- Please send Resumes to Bill@al-anon.org
- Full Job Description listed on website
- Position is hoped to be filled and announced to the fellowship by mid-September

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION 2023:

The following cities submitted bids for the 2023 Al-Anon International Convention: Albuquerque, New Mexico; Calgary – Alberta, Canada; Chicago, IL; Columbus, OH; Dallas, Texas; Denver, Colorado, Houston, Texas, Indianapolis, Indiana; Little Rock, Arkansas; Nashville, Tennessee; Salt Lake City, Utah; & Seattle Washington. Delegates from these Area were to stay an extra day and present bids to the Site Selection Committee. The Site Selection Committee was charged with narrowing it down the 3 options. Two members of the Site Selection Committee will visit each city and access if it meets our needs. When a decision is made, it will be announced to the fellowship.

WSC AGENDA THOUGHT FORCE:

At the 2016 WSC, a request was brought forward by a few Delegates who asked that the Chairperson of the Board appoint a Thought Force to consider ways in which Delegates can be actively and directly involved in developing the Conference agenda.

The Chair of the Board honored this request and a Thought Force was created for 2017 Conference. The WSC Agenda Thought Force members include two Delegates each from Panels 54, 55, and 56; the Conference Co-Chair (a Trustee); and the Associate Director – (a staff member).

As part of its charge, the Thought Force has:

- Produced a Knowledge-Based Decision-Making (KBDM) document
- Identified the roles of all Conference members
- Reviewed the history of the Conference Committee, which is now the Conference Leadership Team
- Identified current avenues of communication with Delegate members
- Identified current opportunities for Delegate contributions to the WSC agenda
- Reviewed the current practice of Orientation for new Conference members
- Identified potential opportunities for further Delegate contributions
- Report current and potential opportunities for involvement of the Delegate members

In April 2016, the Conference Leadership team proposed the following question to Delegates: “What specific feedback would you like to offer the Thought Force working on this?”

44 Delegates Responded – 2 of the Responses were from Thought Force Members. The following are the results from the other 42 who responded:

- **Too Much to Do (10%)**
- **It is Working (5%)**
- **Already Included (17%)**
- **Delegates are to the WSC What GRs are to the Assemblies (5%)**
- **Satisfied but Open to Consider Change (33%)**
- **More Involvement, Please (14%)**

The Thought Force presented some potential opportunities for more Delegate Involvement. We reviewed the items as a Conference. The Conference Leadership Team agreed to take the list into consideration. A Trustee stated, “They were appreciative and open to more Delegate involvement. They were concerned with working only from the list, because it could limit the possibilities.” The Chairperson of the Board posed the question, “Where do you want to go from here?”

Answer: Our voices were heard and we are in agreement that the CLT will take our suggestions and continue trying to incorporate Delegates into the planning of the Agenda.

CHOSEN AGENDA ITEM #14 – DISCUSSION:

What are the barriers of Attracting & Maintaining Members?

- Attracting
 - Family Therapy Referrals
 - AFA's (AI-Anon Faces Alcoholism)
 - Attend Open AA Meetings
- Are we supporting families & others:
 - Child Care (esp. for young members)
 - Multi-Addiction Issues – Welcome them
 - Offering Sponsorship
 - Friendly New Member Welcome
 - Follow up Calls
 - Invite to help with simple service (set up, etc.)
 - Use “I” messages, not “you”
- Technology to Connect
 - WhatsApp app
 - Bitmoji
 - Text
 - Email
 - Electronic Meetings
 - Phone Meetings
- Alateen
 - Is it social or is it recovery based?
 - Transitioning to Young AI-Anon Member meetings
 - Involve Alateen on Service Committees
 - Updating Alateen Literature
 - Ask an Alateen to share at an AI-Anon meeting
 - What happened to Alateen Focus month?
- Meeting Types
 - New Meeting Beginner Format (G-2)
 - On Campus Meetings
 - Co-locating with AA
 - Invite members to come early/stay late
 - “God can be scary, Try “Good Orderly Direction”

TRIP TO THE WSO:

Tuesday Afternoon we took a trip to the World Service Office. When we arrived, we were greeted with a tunnel composed of Trustees, WSO Office Staff, and Executive Committee Members. I walked through the tunnel and each person gave me a hug and exclaimed, “Welcome Home”! Mary Gregory, Executive Director, welcomed us all with a warm heartfelt message. We were divided into groups and were given

a tour of the WSO. We met every employee who is participating in the day-to-day operations that aids in Al-Anon Family Groups continuing to evolve. It's nice to put a face to their names. We spent some time taking pictures as a Panel. Panel 57 took pictures in 3 different places: Lois's Gazebo, in front of the WSO sign, and in front of Lois's Shoe. I will put together a power point in the future where I can take all of you on a virtual tour of my WSO experience.

New Employee Highlight:

- Niketa B., Director of Finance
- Scot P., Digital Strategy Manager
- Sue P., Associate Director – Groups
- Kerri K., Associate Director - International

APPROVAL OF THE ANNUAL REPORT:

The Annual Report is a yearly report that details all the work completed by the Executive Director, Board of Trustees, Executive Committee, Policy Committee, Administration, Public Outreach, Literature Services, Members Services, Group Records, Membership Outreach, International Coordination, & Finance. The Annual Report outlines the activities and services of our World Service Office, which are provided on behalf of the members and made possible by their contributions. The Annual Report was over 40 pages long. If you would like specific information about the Annual Report, please have a conversation with me.

MOTION #2 – TO APPROVE THE 2016 ANNUAL REPORT – MOTION PASSED ON APRIL 25TH WITH SUBSTANTIAL UNANIMITY.

INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE – NEW ZEALAND – ARNOLD H.:

On Tuesday Evening, Arnold H. shared a little bit of his journey with us. He walked through the door in 1990 because he had a problem with this wife's drinking. He shared about sponsorship and being encouraged to be active in service. Arnold has served as a Delegate in New Zealand and is currently serving on the New Zealand Board of Trustees. He shared that they are currently re-building because the Al-Anon Office was destroyed in an earthquake. There are currently 85 meeting in New Zealand. He was very thankful for our hospitality and grateful he could be a part of our World Service Conference.

INTERNATIONAL AL-ANON GENERAL SERVICES MEETING (IAGSM):

Five Members of the Board of Trustees & WSO staff were afforded the opportunity to attend the IAGSM in Rome, Italy in 2016. Our Representatives were: Marilyn M. (International Coordination Committee Chair), Karen W-P (International Coordination Committee Co-Chair), Kerri K. (Associate Director – International), Therese S. (Trustee), and Debbie G. (Chairman of the Board). Each Member who attended was given an opportunity to share their highlights of the trip. The 2016 IAGSM THEME: "Sharing worldwide diversity, strengthening our growth". The IAGSM started in 1980. In 2016, 21 different structures attended. There were 3 structures in attendance for the first time: Guatemala, India, Paraguay. The IAGSM is not a business meeting. It's a meeting where International Structures

meet and carry the message of hope to each other. Every Trustee who shared was truly moved by their experience. The IAGSM meetings are held every two years. The next IAGSM meeting will be held in Virginia Beach, Virginia in 2018.

Wednesday:

APPROVAL OF THE AUDITOR'S REPORT:

We reviewed the 2016 Auditor's Report. The 2016 Independent Audit Report was prepared by *Dixon Hughes Goodman*. The Audit included information for the calendar year of 2016. The independent Auditor's Report was shared with the Delegates prior to Conference so we had plenty of time to review it.

Dixon Hughes Goodman *Opinion:*

"In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material aspects, the financial position of Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc. as of December 31, 2016, and the changes in net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

MOTION #3 – TO APPROVE THE 2016 AUDITED FINANCIAL REPORT – MOTION PASSED ON APRIL 26TH WITH SUBSTANTIAL UNANIMITY.

APPROVAL OF THE 2017 FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT:

The 2017 Budget shows that we expect expenses to be \$10,500 less than revenue for the year. We are estimating expenses to be \$5,229,500 and revenue to be \$5,240,000.

PROJECTED EXPENSES

Overall expense is budgeted to increase by \$275,051 from last year's actual. Labor costs are expected to increase \$341,086 due to addition of new staff, cost of living, and merit expenses.

ESTIMATED INCOME

We are estimating income from literature sales to be about \$14,877 less than last year and Forum subscription income to be comparable to the prior year. We are budgeting contributions to be \$2,100,000 which is equal to last year's actual. Beginning in 2008, we agreed to transfer up to 4% of the

fair value of the Reserve Fund to the General Fund. Since, 2016 was successful we returned the transfer to the Reserve Funds. For 2016, we have budgeted a transfer of 4% again.

Report from Jennie M, Treasurer/Trustee & Niketa B., (Non-Member) Director of Finance

Jennie M., Treasurer spent a good amount of time explaining the 2017 Projected Budget. We went through the line by line. She explained why there is a projected increase of decrease for every line item in the budget. I will attach a copy of the 2017 Budget to this report.

MOTION #4 – TO APPROVE THE 2017 FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT – MOTION PASSED ON APRIL 26TH WITH SUBSTANTIAL UNANIMITY.

2017 REGIONAL TRUSTEE PLAN:

During this session, we received a packet of information about the 2017 Regional Trustee Plan. The Regional Committee on Trustees is composed of all Delegates from the region and three Out of Area Region Delegates. Each Region was charged with electing a Chairperson and RCT Alternate Chairperson. We were given time during this session to meet as the South Central Region (including out of Region Delegates). I was unanimously elected the Chairperson for the Regional Committee on Trustees (RCT) for the South Central Region. We are charged with tallying trusts resumes when they are received. Each committee member will grade the resume and send the total to the RCT Chairman. The RCT Chairman will tally all scores and send results to the executive director.

TRUSTEE/EPRMC/BOARD OFFICERS/EXECUTIVE COMITTE AFFIRMATION PROCESS:

TRUSTEES

- | | | |
|--------------|----------------|-------------------------------|
| • Joyce B. | U.S. Southwest | Second three-year |
| • Terry F. | At- Large | Second three-year |
| • John McL. | At- Large | Second three-year |
| • Therese M. | At- Large | First three-year |
| • Norm W. | At- Large | Last year of First three-year |

BOARD OFFICERS

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Debbie G. | Chairman of the Board |
| • Marilynn M. | Vice- Chair of the Board |
| • Elizabeth (Jennie) McC. | Treasurer |

ECRPM

- | | |
|----------|-----------------|
| • Sue C. | Three-year term |
|----------|-----------------|

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- | | |
|------------|-----------------|
| • Paula B. | Second one-year |
|------------|-----------------|

- Connie H.
- J.P. M.

Second one-year
Third one-year

CHAIRPERSON OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- Paula B.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR REAL PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

- Jeffrey K.

TASK FORCE: SPIRITUALITY IN GROUP MONEY DISCUSSIONS:

The Task Force on Spirituality in Group Money Discussion presented a workshop on how we could incorporate Spiritual Principle into our Group Money Discussion. We were broken up into groups and given a topic. My group focused on “Abundance and Gratitude”. Four Different Groups addressed the following questions:

- “Fear on Financial Insecurity”
- “Living by Spiritual Principles”
- “Using Tradition Seven for Money Discussions”
- “Abundance and Gratitude”

Notes from Abundance and Gratitude:

- Educate our members on the quarterly appeal – Share with them it’s an opportunity to make a personal contribution out of gratitude for the gifts we’ve been given.
- Not all members feel connected to the quarterly appeal? What can we do?
- Some members give a birthday contribution – Area you?

This was an excellent workshop. Each question was answered and a representative reported back from each group. The Conference members suggested we would like to see the workshop turned into a tool accessible for all members to use.

PRAYER FOR TODAY:

This discussion was a “Hot Topic”. This discussion was actually part 2 of a discussion that started at the 2016 WSC. Conference Members were asked to obtain feedback regarding the St. Francis Prayer on the back side of the *Just for Today, Al-Anon Bookmark (M-12)*. The Conference was given one hour for discussion. Conference members lined the outside of the room waiting for their opportunity to share the feedback from their respective areas. We were asked to answer the following two questions when sharing?

1. What format did we use for obtaining information from the Area’s?
2. What were the results?

The following are the results from the discussion:

- There was no consensus for keeping it or removing it.
- Some thought the most impacted was the newcomer or potential newcomer.
- Some shared about the “Prayer is a part of our history”. If we start taking parts of our history out little by little, where will we stop?
- Just for Tonight – The Literature Committee is considering taking the Forum article titled, “Just for Tonight” and making it a bookmark.

RESOLUTION: A CONSENSUS COULD NOT BE REACHED WHETHER TO LEAVE IT OR TAKE IT OUT. WE TOOK CONSENSUS VOTE TO STOP CONVERSAION AT THE WSC UNTIL NEW INFORMATION IS PRESENTED. THE AREAS MAY CONTINUE CONVERSATION IF THEY CHOOSE TO. FOR NOW, WE WILL NOT BE MOVING FORWARD IN THE PROCESS UNTIL NEW INFORMATION IS PRESENTED.

AFG, THE FELLOWSHIP AND AFG INC, THE ORGANIZATION:

This skit was presented to the Conference. It explained the difference between AFG, The Fellowship and AFG, the Organization. The skit explained that Fellowship=Recovery and Organization=Legal. The skit is available to all members of the fellowship. If you are interested, please see me and I will get it for you.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES – BIG QUESTION:

Every year at the WSC the Board of Trustees poses a question for the Delegate’s to discuss. This years’ question:

“How do we empower our members in the use of the Legacies & Policies when seeking solutions to issues within the Area, District, and group?”

- Everyone is Responsible, not just the “GR”
- Take a consensus, instead of giving the answer
- Ask the question, What are the Spiritual Principles involved?
- Don’t give an answer, encourage members to find the answer in the Literature
- Model Conflict Resolution
- Encourage Group Inventory
- Share “Chart” with others. Included in this packet
- Study Traditions and Concepts with others
- Help someone walk a situation through the chart.

INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE – MARIA M:

Maria shared a short version of her story with us. I had the opportunity to spend time with Maria and her translator who was from Mazatlan, Mexico. It was surreal for me because a few months ago, I spent

time in Mazatlan. I realized how vast our program is and we all suffer from the same disease wherever we are from.

OPEN BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING:

The Board of Trustees held an open meeting for all Conference Members to attend. Attending this meeting was one of the highlights for me. The Delegates sat in rows facing the Board of Trustees who were in a U shape at the front of the room. It was awesome watching how the meeting was conducted. They displayed an unbelievable amount of respect for each other. The Key Topic was shared and the Trustees had an opportunity to share their experience regarding the topic. There was a time limit. When time ended they simply moved on. There was no resolution. It was a conversation. The Key Topic:

- Key Topic: Use of Technology to Attract Younger Members While Maintaining the Core Principles of Our Legacies

Thursday:

World Service Handbook Update:

Number of changes to the text in the World Service Handbook Section of the *Service Manual* were approved by Conference members. There will be a new, updated Service Manual released in early 2018 that will reflect all changes made to date. To see the exact changes, go to the WSO website. Changes will be reflected in the Electronic copy of the *Service Manual* soon.

MOTION #5 – TO AMEND PAGES 131-165 IN “WORLD SERVICE HANDBOOK” SECTION OF THE 2014-2017 AL-ANON/ALATEEN SERVICE MANUAL – MOTION PASSED ON APRIL 27TH WITH SUBSTANTIAL UNANIMITY

CHOSEN AGENDA ITEM BREAKOUTS:

1. # 9 Encouraging Service

- Are we making service fun?
- TSA: Trusted Service Announcements – In the lull of a service meeting, give short announcements of what you do for your service position.
- Warning Sign Checklist for Service Commitments
- Phone calls to stay in touch vs. emails
- Invite non-participating districts to come for an “all-expense paid fun weekend.” “the group recognized your growth and think you might do this well.”
- Encourage the encourager to continue.
- Ask personally instead of announcing “we need.”
- The word ‘service’ is avoided when attracting – stress that it’s part of the triangle
- Alternate positions or shared leadership is stressed to be successful.

- Media Café?? Set up different computers to different web sites to look at different things on the WSO Members Web Page- help members know what's there & how to navigate

Assembly Ideas:

- Breakouts for DRs
- Fun ideas incorporated into the day
- Spirit stick to the district with most attendees
- Gifts (links of service or emoji's thrown out to the attendees)
- Offer GR or DR forum time when they can bring whatever they want to the meeting
- Lanyard with names – add pins to it.

2. # 5 Cooperation with AA

- Open meetings, opportunities at conventions to share or make
- Provide an Al-Anon description of what our program is to be read at AA Conventions
- Combined Social Events
- Speaker exchange at Assemblies
- Supply meeting lists to AA AIS
- Exchange contact info at District/Area level.
 - Providing convention Speaking, Al-Anon guidelines to AA Liaison

3. # 16 Welcoming and supporting newcomers to Al-Anon dealing with drug addiction

WSO Research tells us that among those in treatment,

- a. 21% only alcoholism
 - b. 20 % only drug addiction
 - c. 50% - treatment for both
- Can't ignore these facts

AA overall has stayed the course and have kept their focus on alcoholism

- i. Tradition 2: I'm not an authority and I'm not supposed to judge.
- ii. Be gentler with drug addicted family members when they show up in Al-Anon

POLICY DISCUSSION – OPEN/CLOSED MEETINGS:

The Policy Committee asked the Conference to consider the history of the terms "Open" and "closed," the feedback from the Delegates, and what, if any, direction the Policy Committee should take? The goal was to reach consensus upon a course of present or future action or inaction.

After much discussion, the Conference decided to take a consensus vote.

RESOLUTION: MOST AREAS SEEM TO AGREE THAT WEBSITE DESIGNATIONS OF "CLOSED" SHOULD BE REMOVED. THIS DISCUSSION WAS SENT BACK TO THE POLICY COMMITTEE BY CONSENSUS. ASK THE POLICY COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER THE TERMINOLOGY AND TO CONSIDER ALTERNATE WORDING

APPROPRIATE FOR MODERN TIMES, WITH THE CAVEAT THAT PRESERVING ANONYMITY, CONFIDENTIALITY, AND SAFETY IS IMPORTANT TO ALL MEMBERS.

TASK FORCE: SPIRITUALITY IN DISTRICT MONEY DISCUSSIONS:

This was absolutely one of my favorite parts of the WSC. We were asked to think back to when we were District Representatives getting ready to host a meeting about District Financial Discussion. The Task Force split into two groups. One group was a district who had fears centered around money and the other group was a district who used the Spiritual Principles in their discussions centered around money. Both groups did an awesome job. By the end of the skit, the fear based group had joined the group that embraced our Spiritual Principles because it looked attractive.

Frame: Due to the effects of living with alcoholism, many Al-Anon members have fears about financial matters, which carry into service, making it difficult to have discussions about District finances. This workshop is designed to help uncover the fears and barriers to District discussions, about money, as well as the Spiritual Principles that can help to overcome them.

We were divided into groups and assigned a section of questions to answer. My group was assigned Fears and Barriers.

Fears: What are our fears in talking about finances as it relates to our District?

- Hoarding Money – Not Contributing
- No Budget
- Never going to be enough money
- Not all groups contribute
- All they do is keep asking for money!
- We need an ample reserve
- Our Treasurer is not reliable
- There spending money on something I don't want
- If we spend money on this/we can't do that

Barriers: What are the barriers we have concerning money discussions and our District finances?

- Self Will – I want it my way!
- Hoard our Money
- GR's won't like it/they won't vote for me
- Competing service arms
- Membership is dwindling
- Treasurer shoots down ideas
- Can't give equally
- Members don't understand where money goes

I will attach a full copy of the workshop to my report.

OPEN POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING:

Thursday Evening, we attended an Open Policy Committee Meeting. This was a very interesting meeting to attend. The following notes are from the Open Policy Committee Meeting:

1. Tradition 4 and Warranty 4 – discussed group autonomy considering the principles contained in Tradition. 4 & Warranty. 4
 - Who’s the al-anon police?
 - Who gets to decide?
 - Reasoning it out vs. interrupting a meeting
 - Unity, understanding, patience, compassion, not self-righteous
 - Conversation after the meeting
 - Solving problem together via business meeting and group conscious
 - i. Summed up: Voted to continue to the conversation about this topic (may see thought/task force)
2. Electronic Meetings – To consider the increase of members attending electronic meetings and how these members/groups can be included and supported in the spirit of Tradition. 1
 - How to support thousands of members and include them in our service structure
 - i. (1990’s) 6000 members to 13,000 today
 1. Of 13K, no data on how many go to f2f meetings
 - ii. Could they be a virtual “Area?”
 - iii. Request made for yearly contributions by these groups
 1. Policy committee will do a KDBM on topic to further explore

INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE – UK & ERIE – KIM A:

Kim shared some of her personal journey and about the Service Structure in U.K. & Erie. Kim was a fine example of recovery. Her luggage was lost and she didn’t get it until Wednesday. That would have rocked my world, but not her! Please see *2017 Conference Summary* for full story.

ROAD TRIP: YOU AND YOUR BOARD CONNECT 2017

The 2017 Road Trip is rapidly approaching. This year the event will be held in Aurora, Colorado on Saturday, October 21, 2017. Why should I attend this?

- Meet the WSO Staff and Board of Trustees
- Opportunity to participate with members from all over the U.S. & Canada who attend.
- Network with others
- Recovery is fun
- Duh! Road Trip with Al-Anon friends

ROAD TRIP: YOU AND YOUR BOARD CONNECT 2018:

We have been invited to apply to host the “Road Trip” for 2018. This is a very simple process. 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. The event will be held on October 20,

2018. The WSO will organize and facilitate the program. All we have to do is secure a location that meets the specifications and submit. What do you think? LET'S SUBMIT A BID.

2018 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION UPDATE:

Who's going to the 2018 International Convention held in Baltimore, Maryland? Please join me in celebrating the world-wide fellowship of Al-Anon.

- When? – July 6-8 in Baltimore Maryland
- Registration Opens in September. As soon as you register you can book your hotel room. You must register first.
- The WSO website will be updated with information about the International

Friday:

TASK FORCE: SPIRITUAL PRINCIPLES OF SERVING AS TRUSTEE:

Have you considered serving the world-wide fellowship of Al-Anon as a Trustee? Currently, the boards of Trustees are four Trustees short. We have many in the Missouri Area who have the ability to serve the fellowship in this role. The Trustees facilitated a presentation on why you should consider being a Trustee. They also had a Meet & Greet with the outgoing Panel 55 members encouraging them to submit a resume when they are eligible to.

What are some Spiritual Principles gained in Service?

Honesty	Integrity	Respect
Responsibility	Willingness	Perseverance
Gratitude	Humility	Faith
Courage	Compassion	Trust

I have attached a Trustee Resume form to the report.

POLICY DISCUSSION – ANNOUNCING EVENTS:

Framing:

The Policy Committee was asked to clarify what could be announced at meetings. This is because of a passage often cited by members who organize an event and call it Al-Anon, even though the event does not abide by Al-Anon's Tradition.

The passage is pm p. 85 of the Policy Digest under the title "Mini Conventions, Share-a-Thons, Workshops or Other Get-Togethers" which reads in part:

"Members may choose to plan get-togethers for public information, service, other sharing purposes. Chairpersons of these events are not necessarily chosen by, or are members of, their Area World Service Committee (AWSC)..."

In some Areas, these members plan an event using the Al-Anon name, distribute their flyers, and request that groups announce this workshop at meetings. They are doing this even though the agenda

does not reflect Al-Anon as we know it, and the event does not abide by Al-Anon's Traditions and principles. Because of Tradition Six, that we are asked not to lend our name to any outside enterprise or allow anyone else to use it, the Policy Committee has drafted language to address this loophole passage and provide more clarity.

Last year at the WSC, the Policy Committee presented a proposed revision of the text on "Announcing Events" to the Conference. However, after much discussion, the Conference asked the Policy Committee to reconsider portions of this text. The Policy Committee followed through of the 2016 Conference's request.

Now we are presenting the amended text of "Membership and Group Meetings/Conventions" section found in the *2014-2017 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual (P24-27)* on pages 85-86 and 123-124. Included in this amended text are Al-Anon principles and criteria for members to consider when choosing to announce these events at meetings or to personally attend them.

The paragraph titled "Outside the Fellowship" found on page 123 has been moved into the section on pages 85-86 in order to have all policy statements about announcing events in one section of the Policy Digest. This paragraph makes clear that the Al-Anon name cannot be used to identify or publicize retreats or activities sponsored by others.

Last year the Conference asked the Committee to "tighten up" the language to address specific situations. Remember that Policy is an **interpretation** of our basic guidelines – the Traditions – expressed in a broad sense, with the hope that members learn to apply the principles of our Legacies in order to resolve situations they might encounter. While Policy statements provide a few examples, Policy does not and cannot address every possible circumstance. Policy is merely a framework for members to reason things. It is not intended to be a set of rules. The policy statements contained in our Policy Digest are based on commonly shared experiences of the world-wide Al-Anon fellowship.

Section of Proposed Text: It may be helpful to consider the following Spiritual Principles when announcing these events:

- Cooperation
- Participation
- Responsibility
- Singleness of Purpose
- Unity or Common Welfare

MOTION #6 – TO AMEND TEXT ON PAGES 85-86 & 123-124 IN THE "MEMBERSHIP & GROUP MEETINGS/CONVENTIONS" SECTION IN THE "DIGEST OF AL-ANON/ALATEEN POLICIES" SECTION OF THE 2014-2017 AL-ANON/ALATEEN SERVICE MANUAL (P-24/27) – MOTION PASSED ON APRIL 28TH WITH SUBSTANTIAL UNANIMITY

- ✓ **FULL TEXT WILL BE UPDATED IN THE UPDATED SERVICE MANUAL WHICH WILL BE OUT IN EARLY JANUARY, OR SHOULD BE AVAILABLE IN ELECTRONIC SERVICE MANUAL ON THE WSO WEBSITE SOON.**

POLICY DISCUSSION – FINANCIAL MATTERS

In 2014, the Policy Committee (PC) began its work on amending the text of the “Financial Matters” section, pages 95-99, in the “Digest of Al-Anon and Alateen Policies” section of the *2014-2017 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual* (P-24-27). The purpose of the revision is to update the text to include core spiritual principles, whenever appropriate, that are foundational to our Al-Anon philosophy of giving and receiving. The initial idea of re-examining our Policy language was sparked by a Thought Force conversation in which we began reflecting on abundance and gratitude as part of giving, rather than just the responsibility of self-support.

Including Al-Anon’s core principles into this revised text helps clarify how and why we do what we do in relation to Tradition Seven in order to be fully self-supporting. Besides incorporating key principles into the text, several passages contain updated language. For example, we now have the ability to make online contributions and to access technological services available to all other not-for-profit organizations.

Since the Policy Committee began working on this section, the “Individual Members/Direct Contributions/Memorial Contributions” portion on page 95 (and continued on page 127) was approved by the 2016 World Service Conference. The discussion of that topic, addressed separately but contained in this section titled “Financial Matters,” took five years of revision and discussion before the amended policy was approved by the Conference. Today, the Policy Committee is very pleased to bring the completed text of this entire section titled “Financial Matters” to the 2017 Conference for consideration.

Section of Proposed Text:

Spiritual Principles of Al-Anon’s Self Support

Tradition Seven is Gratitude in Action. Al-Anon is supported by members’ financial contributions together with the sale of our literature.

Our spiritual principles inspire members to support the fellowship as it serves both members and prospective members. As we receive the hope and help we each sought, we use these spiritual principles to ensure that those following in our footsteps have the same opportunities:

Abundance – We learn to change our thinking from what we don’t have to an awareness of gratitude for what we do have. As that idea expands, we continue to give of our time and money, realizing we can never give back all we have been given. Thinking abundantly allows us to accomplish our primary purpose of reaching out to families and friends of alcoholics.

Anonymity – Within our practice of anonymity we are reminded that our personal donations are made without recognition or public acknowledgement.

Gratitude – We express our gratitude by giving generously of our time and resources. We want to ensure that Al-Anon will continue to be available to others.

Responsibility – Step Twelve suggests that reaching out is essential as we strive to carry out our responsibility to be there for the newcomer. To fund this very important work, we consider what combination of service and money each of us is willing to provide.

Trust – We believe our trusted servants practice these spiritual principles when making informed decisions about the use of our recourses. We realize that we all want what is best for Al-Anon as a whole. As we trust others, we come to understand that we too are worth trusting.

Unity – Our contributions provide the means to create, maintain, and expand the services that are necessary to enhance the sense of belonging so all members are connected in fulfilling our primary spiritual aim.

MOTION #7 – TO AMEND TEXT ON PAGES 95-99 IN THE “FINANCIAL MATTERS” SECTION IN THE “DIGEST OF AL-ANON/ ALATEEN POLICIES” SECTION OF THE 2014-2017 AL-ANON/ALATEEN SERVICE MANUAL (P-24/27) – MOTION PASSED ON APRIL 28TH WITH SUBSTANTIAL UNANIMITY

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TASK FORCE: SPIRITUALITY IN AREA MONEY DISCUSSIONS:

Once again, this was an awesome conversation and workshop. I have learned over the years there are a few topics that we tend to focus on our emotional response rather than the spiritual principles. Money and Finances are definitely one of these topics. I hope this workshop is a tool that we will be able to use in the Missouri Area. Here are a few thoughts and questions from the workshop.

Thoughts:

- ✓ We as an Area are unified, and we practice harmony when we agree to take on our financial responsibilities and support all service levels.
- ✓ Our Area adheres to singleness of purpose when we keep focused on Al-Anon and don't get distracted.

Questions:

- ✓ How can we communicate our Area Financial needs to our Districts and Groups?
- ✓ How can we as Area embrace abundance in our financial discussions?

Workshop will be included in this report.

PUBLIC OUTREACH REPORT:

- 2016 digital postcard from professionals that request info: 38% come from professionals (therapists), 18% middle & high school counselors, 19% students, balance was drug & alcohol treatment facilities.
- Writers guide for incarcerated Al-Anon members has been produced. Provides opportunity to give them a voice to share in the Forum.
- AFAs 184,625 copies ordered in Feb. (a 19% increase – a new record). Will have a new tagline to focus on Help and Hope for families and friends of alcoholics. The publication name is much smaller and there's a new graphic that says its free and can be taken home.
- Revenue neutral project. Only print the required number of copies. Comparative information (year over year) of AFAs ordered will be available to our PO coordinators.
- Feb/Mar 2018 – we will have a new membership survey available. Taking survey is a 12th Step service opportunity to al-anon as a whole as it helps to carry our message to professionals who want this info to realize how effective al-anon is.

GROUP SERVICES REPORT:

- Area Highlights – visits to view it quarterly was approx. 139 per quarter. Information is scant for publication.
- Only 4 inquiries incurred in Oct. 2016 – where is it? Is it time to revitalize it in a different format? A survey is coming out.
- Group e-news – Name change contest. Want members to be more engaged and stay longer. May have different content directed toward French, English and Spanish.

GROUP NEWS:

- WSO receives daily phone calls re: meetings that are not there. Review your meeting listing online and make sure everything is accurate.
- 60 years of Alateen to say Happy Anniversary by post or internet. It will be on display at the WSO.
- Over 900 meetings in US & Canada, 680 meetings in other Areas.

LITERATURE REPORT:

- New website – Jan 2018
- The new service manual will be available online (with the new website) for free. The hard copy cost will be the same as is now, \$5.00, and \$1.00 for Groups at Work.
- Parents & Grandparents pamphlet will be moved to an editor to review the material. Hope for the material to be released soon (next year's conference), goal is the 2018 in French and Spanish
- Intimacy Book, 2018 release at the 2018 int'l in English only
- New section to the Forum – questions about how to work the legacies
- Forum publication still needs lots of sharing's FROM YOU

- Lois & the Pioneers DVD are now available in downloadable format as an audio only – available on the WSO Members Site. Under Inside WSO/History. A link will be available in the next group e-news. There will be more information shared than the DVD has.

2018 WSC SITE:

- April 16-20, 2018
- West Harrison, NY
- Will visit Stepping Stones that Wednesday!

DELEGATE'S THREE MINUTE TALKS:

Each outgoing Panel 55 Delegate was asked to give a three-minute talk sharing a culmination of their recovery and service experience. Please take the time to read these when the 2017 Conference Summary is released. They were very encouraging and inspiring.

PANEL 55 CLOSING:

- Video from Delegates expressing what being a Delegate means, favorite moments and what we'll do when done.
- Song/dance with Delegates sung to the tune of 'Ol 55

WRAP IT UP:

Wow! I've arrived at the very end of my first written Delegate's Report from the World Service Conference. This is a "bittersweet" moment. Bitter because my first conference is over, and sweet because my report is finished and I have the opportunity to share it with you. Participating in the World Service Conference impacted me in ways I don't know if I will ever be able to effectively communicate. I am so honored and grateful to have had this opportunity. I wrote a Travel Journal that includes my daily writings while I was at the WSC. I have a copy for each of you.

Thank you for your love and support! I couldn't have done this without knowing many of you were walking along side of me. This has been the PINNACLE of my recovery and I'm so honored and humbled that you trusted me to represent the Missouri Area.

What we believe, we can achieve!

Love in Service,

Sarah S

Panel 57 Missouri Delegate