

GA Area Delegate's Report To the May, 2022 Assembly

Dear GA AWSC members, it was my honor to represent you at the 62nd World Service Conference in White Plains, NY. As I report on the group conscience discussions, historic votes, updates and more, my thoughts turn to our bold and relentless co-founders, Lois W. and Anne B. who helped move forward plans for our first WSC in 1960. So from 1960 to 2022, Al-Anon's largest group conscience continues hear the voices, perspectives, needs of Al-Anon members via their elected Delegates.

The 2022 Conference Theme is: *"Enhancing Our Recovery through Abundance, Unity, and Understanding."* Over the five days of the Conference history was made, we heard important updates from the Conference Chair, WSO Executive Director, WSO staff and reports from standing Thought and Task forces. Panel 60 rotated out, and Panel 62 rotated into their three-year term. We had meaningful discussions on the "chosen agenda items," affirmed new Trustees at Large, Regional Trustee, and Board Officer for the ECRPM/Executive Committee for Real Property Management. We visited the home of our co-founder and her husband, Lois and Bill Wilson; I felt Lois' presence all around the property. It was a week packed with reconnections, connections, history making and "discussions and deliberations where the active voice and effective group conscience of Al-Anon is heard on world service matters"(service manual, p.70 of app). I wanted to keep all of you were with me in my heart, as I entered the "discussions and deliberations" and throughout the entire experience so I created a "travelogue."

I know many of you are familiar with the Purpose of WSC, I but thought it would be useful to review for long-time AWSC members as well as those who are new. From page 144 of the 2022-2025 SM: "World Service Conference (WSC) Al-Anon's annual business meeting, which is attended by all Delegates from the World Service Conference Structure, representatives from other countries, members of the Board of Trustees and Executive Committee, voting members of the World Service Office (WSO) administrative Staff, and other WSO personnel. The Conference provides guidance to the WSO on service matters that are brought to its attention."

WSO Staff

As always, there is much to report back from WSC and I struggled to decide where to begin, so I decided to begin with the WSO staff. This small group of dedicated employees (46) provides an amazing range of services, worldwide! It is the "principal service center of the Fellowship" (online SM p.69). The staff produces an a-ma-zing amount of services throughout the year as well as to the Annual Conference. The back of the Appeal Letter lists some of the services they provide and how they support our annual WSC. Please take a moment to review the back of Quarterly Appeal letter to take in just how much our WSO staff does to provide essential services to us. These services don't include emergent needs such as those that electronic groups have surfaced. We are so blessed to have this dedicated group of employees, some are not Al-Anon members, clearly understands the importance of maintaining these vital services for members, groups and structures globally.

Financials

Our Director of Finance & Operations, Niketa Williams gave her report on the 2021 Audit and 2022 budget. Some of the key areas she covered were:

- **100%** of groups are using services, but only **52%** of groups contributed in 2021. Some of the Services groups use:
 - Using the *Mobile App* for a Zoom meeting
 - Getting your group registered
 - Reading CAL at meetings
 - Calling WSO to find a meeting
 - PSAs playing on TV stations

- If all registered groups (13,841) in 2021 contributed the cost per group of \$283.33 that would equal \$3,921,571 in contributions!
- If all the groups that contributed in 2021 (7,179) contributed the cost per group of \$283.33, that would equal \$2,032,590 in contributions, which is 71 percent of our goal!
- Contributions exceeded budget by 3 percent in 2021
- We will still need to rely on contributions to support operations in 2022

The 2022 Operating Budget presented as a deficit (\$353,114) due to a number of factors:

- Impact of COVID-19 on revenues continues, with a degree of uncertainty
- eBook and audiobook for *Opening Our Hearts, Transforming our Losses* (B-29) launch in 2022
- Literature sales are budgeted below historical levels

Additional details from the 2021 Revenue and Expenses can be found in the 2021 WSC Summary.

Electronic “Meetings” and Electronic “Groups:” What’s the Difference?

Since things are rapidly changing how groups meet, I thought it would be helpful to include the definition of Electronic “Meetings” as defined in our 2018-2020 service manual and a description of Electronic “Groups” from the WSO website:

- **Electronic meetings:** Can occur globally as well as locally without geographic restrictions. They do not have a Group Representative and are not part of any [service] structure (2018-2021 Service Manual, p. 89). WSO has been registering “meetings” that meet electronically since 2004. Prior years, members that met electronically were registered as “meetings” vs “groups” which is connected to an Area Service Structure.
- **Electronic groups:** Groups who have an electronic meeting location (source: Al-Anon.org/electronic group registration). Currently there are over 700 groups who meet electronically.

New WSC Area!

MOTION #1 – (84 yes, 2 no, 0 abstentions, 0 voids) – CARRIED

To admit the Non-Panel Global Electronic Area to the World Service Conference (WSC) Structure, whereby the Area’s elected Delegate will serve as a voting member of the 2022 WSC as a member of Panel 62.

Global Electronic Area: What is it? It is a newly formed Area under the WSC structure that is comprised of electronic groups worldwide. Ozzie C Amador was seated as the first Delegate of the Global Electronic Area, Panel 62. The new Area was admitted into the Al-Anon/Alateen WSC Structure! What does this mean?

First, this was an historic vote since this will be the first new WSC Area without an identified Area/State location! Also, it means **new electronic groups** who only meet electronically and want to be part of an Area structure, can register to be a member of the GEA. If new electronic groups form in physical Areas, e.g., GA, and the Area has voted to admit electronic groups into their Areas’ structure, new groups have the option of registering with the GEA OR the physical Area/State. GA, like many other WSC Areas are in discussion on what is best for their Area.

Existing Physical/Online/Phone Groups Updates

Since the beginning of the Pandemic, groups first met online and via phone. Since the Pandemic slow-down, some groups are beginning to meet back in person, but many have voted via their group conscience to meet either all online or a combination of online and in-person. The term “hybrid” emerged to describe when groups met both in-person and via online platforms, such as Zoom and/or via phone, in-person and online on at the same day/time and same location. This topic generated a great deal of discussion at conference. Here are some things that were clarified; keep in mind this is still evolving as WSO and Areas continues to sort through this new reality.

WSO only registers two types of groups: Physical (in-person) and Electronic. “Hybrid is not a “type” of meeting that WSO registers. If an Area has not voted to admit electronic groups into their Area’s structure and a group wants to be a part of an Area structure, they have the option to register with the new Global Electronic Area, (GEA); to register with the GEA they can do so on the WSO site directly: (al-anon.org –members- group resources- group records. At Conference, 11 Areas mentioned they are in discussion and/or in the process of admitting electronic groups.

Alateen Re-certification Process

In 2021, eleven Areas failed to recertify. This meant those groups cannot use the Alateen name and must restart the entire process to include consulting with legal counsel for State guidelines. Since State laws change, it was suggested Areas do regular updates to Alateen guidelines and get guidance from an attorney. The deadline for Areas to recertify is June 15th 2022. After this date, WSO will not be entering recertifications into the system. During the discussion on this topic, many Delegates reported a major drawback to meeting this deadline was AMIAS not submitting forms by deadlines to their Area AAPP.

Thought Forces Who Met at Conference:

- Maintaining a Sustainable Future Using Abundant Thinking
- Encourage Service Participation
- Diversity Today; Maintaining a Sustainable Future Using Abundant Thinking

Task Force Who Met at Conference:

- Encouraging Service Participation

Chosen Agenda Items

Submitting CAI topics for discussion has been an important tradition of the Conference for many years. The purpose of the CAIs is to give *all* Conference members (Delegates, members of the Board of Trustees and Executive Committee, and voting members of the WSO administrative Staff) an opportunity to select topics and issues of concern that affect Al-Anon groups and members worldwide. Each year two topics are “chosen” to discuss at World Service Conference from all Delegates who submitted. At this year’s conference, three items were chosen for discussion from over 30 that was submitted; two in the area of “increasing service” and one related to “rebuilding Alateen.” It’s important to note, the majority of items submitted fell into these two discussion areas indicating these are important conversations taking place throughout the service structure.

- *Helping Members Recognize that Service Participation is Vital to Personal Recovery and to the Future Availability of Al-Anon to Family and Friends of Alcoholics*
- *Rebuilding Alateen Meetings after the Pandemic and Alateen's 5th Tradition*
- *Attracting members into Service. What works? What doesn't work? What are the barriers for new Service members?*

Other Exciting News:

- Associate Director-International position. This could be you! Deadline to submit a resume has been to June 20, 2022.
- 2022 Board Road Trip – Cleveland, OH
- 2023 Al-Anon/Alateen International Convention, Albuquerque New Mexico
New daily reader “*A Little Time for Myself*” will be released at 2023 International Convention. Reader will reflect the diversity of the Fellowship.
- 2022-2025 Service Manual in hard copy *hopefully* will be available in print later this summer; digital copy is available on the Al-Anon app. Groups at Work hard copy is available to purchase via Area literature service

centers or via WSO website. Check out the revised graphic of the WSC service structure in the 2022-2025 SM.

- My Service Inventory. Good resource to reason out with a service sponsor
- Al-Anon App. 3.0 upgrades and new features, i.e., personalize features such as adding local contacts, meeting locations
- For the first time ever, a new PSA that originated in Spanish with English subtitles was released.
- Members are encouraged to reach out to markets WSO currently does not distribute to, e.g., Christian stations, Colleges, Local TV stations. Send any contacts to: media@al-anon.org

As I mentioned in my earlier reports, one of my primary goals during my term as your Delegate is to strengthen the communication links between groups, districts to the Area structure. After attending conference, the “communication link” focus has become even clearer, specifically in two areas: encouraging every group to have a GR and every district to have a DR and encouraging the growth of Alateen groups. I hope to be a resource and a “bridge of understanding that links the groups with the Area and world Al-Anon so they can continue to function in unity” (SM p.146-147). Most of all, I will be a *cheerleader* as we reach these goals together!

I close this report as I began, with thoughts of gratitude for our co-founders. It was because of their willingness to respond to the needs of an evolving Fellowship that we left the 2022 WSC evolving, growing once again with the inclusion of a Global Electronic Area. I left with confidence that GA Area 11 will continue to lead the way through all of the changes now and those to come. I’m continually grateful to each of you for entrusting me as your Panel 62 WSC representative from GA and offering me the opportunity to serve and continue my recovery.

In grateful service and recovery,
Char Green Fareed
Panel 62 GA Delegate