

## Delegates Report

PreConference Assembly

April 1, 2017

Dear Friends, welcome to PreCon! I am glad to be here today. Thank you to Districts 1 and 4 for your generous hospitality in hosting us here. You are amazing and your service is so appreciated.

Let me start my report today with a reflection about this year's World Service Conference theme which is - Our members: our hope for the future. I've been giving a great deal of thought to our theme and I took an evening to look through our literature on the topic of hope. I found that our Service Manual begins with hope. Page 7 begins with: *"The message of the AlAnon Family Groups, AlAnon and Alateen, is one of hope."*

The work we do today ensures that the Al-Anon message of hope is carried forward to our current and future members.

## World Service Office News

### 2017 World Service Conference

As I mentioned in my report to you last year, my big responsibility as your Delegate is to represent WA Area at the World Service Conference. Simply put the World Service Conference is Al-Anon's annual business meeting. Or on page 80 of the Service Manual it says: *"The WSC is the permanent body for the expression of the conscience of the Al-Anon/Alateen fellowship in the light of our Traditions."* Please come to the Summer Seminar Assembly (SSA) in May because there I will give you a report about what happened at the World Service Conference.

### Conference Agenda

Here are the things that I know of that will be motions or topics of discussion at the World Service Conference. There may be more motions or discussion topics that occur at the Conference and I am just not aware of them yet, but I will share with you what I know now.

### Motion to Update Financial Matters

- The WSO Policy Committee is presenting a motion to update the Financial Matters section on pages 95-99 in the Service Manual. The new language adds spiritual principles like abundance to the text, updates the language to be more clear and accurate and adds the new policy of allowing Memorial Contributions from family members that are non Al-Anon members. The new Memorial Contributions policy passed at last year's Conference and I reported on that in my Delegate's report at the Summer Seminar Assembly (SSA).

### Motion to Update Announcing Events and Meetings

- The WSO Policy Committee is presenting a motion to update Announcing Events and Meetings in pages 85-6 and 123-4 of the Service Manual. The new language mainly clarifies that Al-Anon events are connected to an Al-Anon service structure. It also clarifies that if there is Alateen participation at an event, the event must be in compliance with the Area's Alateen Safety and Behavioral Requirements.

### Motion to Update the Handbook Section

- If you look at your Service Manual, there are tabs on it. One tab says Handbook. Back in the day, these tabs all used to be separate booklets until they were combined into one spiral bound book, the Service Manual as is today. A Task Force of Trustees and WSO staff are

presenting changes to this section which include: the order has been modified to improve the ease of use by members; and the language which has been updated to be more current.

#### Motion to Approve the Finance Comm Report (2017 Budget)

- The WSO Finance Committee will be presenting the 2017 Budget.

#### Discussion Item for Removal and Replacement of Prayer for Today

- The WSO Literature Committee asked for a second year of discussion on removal or replacement of the Prayer for Today (otherwise known as the Prayer of St. Francis) from our Conference Approved Literature (CAL). If you recall, I reported at PreCon and SSA that we had a discussion item at last year's WSC on this matter. The original proposal was to remove the prayer from the *Just for Today* bookmark and to replace it in *How Al-Anon Works for Families & Friends of Alcoholics* with the last paragraph of *When I Got Busy, I Got Better*. Again, this is just a discussion item this year, and I am not anticipating a decision being made on this matter.

If you have any input about any of the motions or discussion items I mentioned, please email me at: [delegate@wa-al-anon.org](mailto:delegate@wa-al-anon.org). Otherwise you will get a full report on these items in my Delegate's report on the World Service Conference at SSA.

#### World Service Conference Details

The World Service Conference will be held from Monday, 4/24 thru Friday, 4/28 in Virginia Beach, VA.

Cards or letters of encouragement will be greatly appreciated! If you want to send me some mail, please put my name and address as the return address in case the mail is not delivered to me in time.

#### Return Address:

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#### Mail To:

#### Other news from WSO

#### Interim Executive Director

As you may recall Ric Buchanan retired last year. We have a new Interim Executive Director at the WSO. Her name is Mary Gregory. Mary has 40 years in Al-Anon, 39 of them as service. She has served in many service positions including Delegate and Trustee. The Board will post the Executive Director position description and qualifications to all members in the fellowship when appropriate.

#### 2018 International Convention

The next Al-Anon International Convention will be held in Baltimore, Maryland, July 6-8, 2018. The theme will be: *Celebrating One Day at a Time 2018 International Convention*. Part of the festivities next year will be celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the One Day at a Time daily reader. The International is only 1 year, 3 months and 5 days away. Are you making plans?

## WA Area News

### Bid for 2023 Al-Anon International

I have found out that 12 other Areas besides WA have made bids to host the 2023 International Convention. We all will be making presentations directly after this year's WSC. The representative from the WA State Convention Center and I are putting together a presentation that includes the really awesome video that we shot at the Fall Assembly. Thank you, Ralph H, for putting together the video! I'll let you know how the presentation goes during my report at SSA.

### WA Area Speakers Convention

Did you know the WA Area Speakers Convention is an Area event? It was founded to bring us recovery, fun, fellowship and be an Area fundraiser. Katharine and District 17 are branching out to bring us a Tree of Recovery. I've heard some of the details and they are amazing! Let's all get in the car and spread our roots in recovery!

### TEAM

I am thrilled to report that we have a joint TEAM event with OR happening this year! The TEAM event will be held on November 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> in Portland, OR. TEAM is an opportunity to learn more about our wonderful program, grow in service, spread our roots in the legacies, meet some WSO staff and Trustees and make new friends in fellowship. Our WA TEAM Chair is Cherè, stay tuned for her report.

### NW Regional Delegates Meeting

I would like to thank WA Area for sending me to the NW Regional Delegates meeting. This year it was held in Helena, MT. The NW Region consists of nine NW states Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota and Nebraska. The purpose of the NW Regional Delegates meeting is to prepare new and returning Delegates for attending the World Service Conference and to keep Past Delegates informed.

The Delegates are a great group of people and I was really impressed with our new incoming Delegates for Panel 57. There are 5 new Delegates from our region this year!

### NW Regional Trustees Report

At this meeting, the NW Regional Trustee, Donna E, gives us a report on the activities at the WSO. Here is some of the information from her report.

- In January of this year, the WSO literature sales are \$64,000 up over this month, last year. Most of that though was from the new Paths to Recovery workbook.
- In January of this year, the WSO donations are \$42,578 up over this month, last year.
- The WSO also received one birthday contribution in January that was for \$14,000. This was roughly the same amount as all the birthday contributions from last year combined!
- The Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism second printing broke another record with 33,000 more copies ordered than in the previous run.
- The Trustees do a traveling board meeting one time a year. One of the days they meet with local members. This year the event titled "*Road Trip! You and Your Board Connect*" will be held in Aurora, Colorado, Oct. 21, 2017. All Al-Anon members are welcome to attend.

- The NW Regional Trustee also informed us that she has decided not to continue for a second term. So, what does this mean? We will need to nominate a candidate from our Area to be considered along with candidates from the other 8 Areas in our region for this position. The term would be for the remainder 2 years of her 3 year position and would start next April, after the World Service Conference. Some of the requirements to be a Trustee include: 10 years of continuous Al-Anon membership, cannot also be a member of AA, be available for 28-60 days a year for meetings, be able to travel anywhere in the world, be eligible and willing to be an AMIAS (Al-Anon Member Involved in Alateen Service). I have made copies of the requirements and put them into the DRs mailboxes. I will send out the resume application to your DRs via email as the WSO requests the application be filled out electronically. Please encourage members in your District to stand for this position! According to a motion made at the 1989 PreCon, the Trustee nominee selection is done at an AWSC meeting. The next AWSC will be the first weekend in August. So please fill out the resume electronically and send it back to Dale by July 15<sup>th</sup> so he can get it on the agenda for the August AWSC meeting.

There were a lot of other really cool things that we discussed at the NW Regional Delegates meeting. Here are a few of the highlights:

- Policy is the What; Procedure is the How
- Those that are happy are those who've learned how to serve
- ANTS = Automatic Negative Thoughts
- South Dakota decided to take the closed meeting designation off their website.

I reported on our upcoming joint TEAM event with OR and the 2023 International bid. The Delegates from the other NW Areas seemed very excited to hear this news. A Past Delegate from Alaska said she is coming to our TEAM event!

Finally I'll end with this story. When arriving at the Helena airport I decided to rent a car on my own dime. The young guy behind the counter was so nice he said he'd pull the car around for me. There was a group of about 6 or 8 of us standing around waiting for him. The shuttle for the hotel pulled up but not everyone could fit, so some folks were going to go with me in my rental car. I pulled out my wallet to give him a tip as it was really nice of him to get the car for me. Well my wallet fell out of my hands and it was really windy. I had over \$200 in cash and froze as I saw all of it blowing in the wind. I thought some kid was going to have a really nice Easter and find a whole bunch of cash in the fields by the Helena airport. Well that is not the case! I am happy to report that we Al-Anon's are quick and they grabbed my wallet contents while I stood there frozen. I think I actually ended up with more cash than what I brought with me!

Love in Service,

Julie Painter  
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