

2024 Spring Assembly Delegate Report

Hello Family! I am so excited for our FIRST Assembly of this panel, as the Delegate for Florida North, Panel 64:

“In Service, We SOAR!!!!”

What an incredible journey this has been! Preparing for and attending the 64th Annual World Service Conference!!!

Thank you to Area 9 for your trust in me to represent you at Conference and for all your support.

I felt you with me all the way!!!

So, let’s get into it!!!

2024 World Service Conference Theme Poster

“Our Path toward Grace, Unity, and Understanding”

First time in the Conference Room: “Welcome to the 64 Year Conversation!”

- **Welcome to the 64-year conversation!!!**
 - I have heard multiple times to go into the Conference room the day before. Several of us headed off to the Conference Room after dinner. “WOW! There IS something spiritual about this place (as tears filled my eyes)!”
- The room is set up a lot like our Assembly room, with rows of tables, assigned seats, Al-Anon Legacies for all to see!
- Flags from all the countries Al-Anon is in!!!

Who votes at the World Service Conference?

- 68 Delegates from the US, Canada, Bermuda, and Puerto Rico
- The Board of Trustees
- Executive Committee
- World Service Office Staff
- 2024 Total Voting Members: 91

Panel 62, 63, 64...What???

- Why was the last Delegate panel number 61 just last year and this year I'm on panel 64?
 - Of the 68 Delegates who are part of the World Service Conference, each year, one third are first year, one third are second year, and one third are third year.
 - So, this is Panel 62's last year, Panel 63's second year, and this is my first year...Panel 64!!!
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First Day of Conference

- Orientation Meeting for New WSC Members
 - "If no-one has told you today that they love you, let me be the first to say: I love you" – Geri W. Chairperson of the Board
 - "This is your place, and these are your people" – Geri W. Chairperson of the Board

- Sharing Area Highlights was actually a “Spiritual Walk”
- Opening Luncheon

Opening Luncheon Pinning Ceremony

A custom at the Conference Opening Luncheon is to pin the new delegates by their Conference Mentor. What a special time!

Literature Update

- We have new piece of Literature that is near completion!!!
- Healing in our Alcoholic Relationships: a collection of insights from our collective journey
 - 48-page booklet and will sell for \$4.00
 - Will be released this fall: no date yet.
- Sharings are now being accepted for the new book on Sponsorship; Personal and Service.

How do new pieces of CAL come about?

Suggestions come in often to the WSO for new pieces of literature. These suggestions are stored in a data base and when a minimum number are received then the Literature Committee discusses if this topic should be brought to the Conference for consideration. After extensive discussion at the WSC the idea will be brought to a vote.

Literature Committee Discussion for Potential Conceptual Approval for a new piece of Literature: Finances in Al-Anon Recovery

- Al-Anon literature states that the disease of alcoholism impacts us physically, emotionally, spiritually, and financially

- While the topics of personal and group finances are discussed throughout Al-Anon's Three Legacies, Al-Anon does not have a single piece of CAL exploring our relationship with finances in recovery
- Financial responsibility is often not taught in alcoholic homes, but it can be learned.
- We practice these principles in ALL of affairs (Step 12)
- Member's Experience, Strength, and Hope helps other members
- **The piece of literature received Conceptual Approval**

Policy on Choosing a Group's Name

- Task force charge on reviewing the current policy
 - Did you know our Service manual is 4 books?
 - Policy Digest changes are approved/ revised by the Conference. Groups at Work are approved/ revised by the office staff. There is a small task force in the office staff that work to match these two based on what is in the Policy Digest.
 - Any policy approved needs to be translated in Spanish and French first, then we update the electronic version. Then, the policy will be in place.
 - In choosing a new group's name the guidelines are being simplified.
 - A couple of suggestions:
 - Is the name welcoming and clear to the new comer?
 - Does the name exclude certain members or new members?
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Second Day of the Conference

Delegate Participation in the Conference Leadership Team (CLT)

- For the past several y, Delegates have not been a part of the CLT thus not participating in creating the WSC Agenda
- Two questions were posed:
 - What would having a Delegate on the CLT give you that you're not getting now?
 - What is missing on the agenda the Delegates would like to include?
- After discussion, it was resolved that a task force will be formed of the CLT including a minimum of 3 Delegates charged with how Delegates could be selected and participate on the CLT to contribute to the WSC agenda development.

International Coordination Committee (ICC) Report

- In 1978, the ICC was formed as an avenue of communication to support the international growth and to perpetuate worldwide unity of Al-Anon and Alateen.
- Ever wonder how many languages we have translated Conference Approved Literature into?
 - 37 distinct languages

Request for Conference Approved Literature Translation and Reprint

- One significant responsibility of the ICC is to consider requests from international structures to translate and print literature. Internationally, even a single group registered with the WSO can request to translate literature into a new language provided no other service structure exists in their country. More typically though, new language translation requests are made by Al-Anon Information Services.

- If granted permission, the group or AIS becomes the *only* legal distributor of the translated CAL in their country, and they may only sell this literature within their country boundaries. The WSO usually grants permission once the group or AIS has built adequate membership to financially sustain the translation and publication processes.
- First-time translation and reprint permission:
 - Bulgaria (Bulgarian)
 - Latvia (Latvian)
 - Mongolia (Mongolian)
 - Romania (Romanian)
 - Thailand (Thai)
 - Paraguay (Spanish Reprint)
 - Kuwait is just starting the process
 - Countries usually start with the pamphlets and build from there

Financial Report:

Statement of Activities: 2023 vs. 2022

Revenue	2023	2022	\$ Change	% Change
Gross profit from literature sales	\$ 3,217,630	\$ 2,099,846	1,117,784	53%
Contributions	2,916,398	3,337,918	(421,520)	-13%
Magazine sales	262,050	247,368	14,682	6%
Subscription income	54,634	48,174	6,460	13%
Convention income - net	187,468	-	187,468	0%
Noncash contributions	244,657	125,939	118,718	94%
Investment income	1,109,188	(1,647,728)	2,756,916	-167%
	<u>\$ 7,992,025</u>	<u>\$ 4,211,517</u>	<u>3,780,508</u>	<u>90%</u>
Expenses				
Program Services	\$ 3,184,174	\$ 3,333,424	(149,250)	-4%
Literature distribution services	890,741	904,405	(13,664)	-2%
General administrative services	1,715,345	1,352,031	363,314	27%
	<u>\$ 5,790,260</u>	<u>\$ 5,589,860</u>	<u>200,400</u>	<u>4%</u>
Change in net assets	<u>\$ 2,201,765</u>	<u>\$ (1,378,343)</u>	<u>823,422</u>	<u>60%</u>

- **Our new reader sold almost 1 million copies in the first 6 months. A record for any piece of Al-Anon Literature.**
- **If anyone wants a full report of the finances, please email me.**

Stepping Stones-Beyond the 2025 WSC

- Continues a conversation started at the 2023
- 2 Questions were posed:
 - Do the groups in your area believe it's important for the Delegates to visit Stepping Stones?
 - If so, how does it Benefit your Area?
- The question isn't about visiting Stepping Stones rather the cost of holding WSC in the NY/CT area.

- After the discussion, the comments will be assessed by the WSO
- Delegates were invited to submit comments from their Areas to WSO via email after Conference
- More will be revealed

Area Support-Electronic Groups

- 56 geographic WSC Structure Areas now support electronic groups
 - Majority have integrated electronic groups into geographic Districts
 - Remaining 11 are in progress developing their Area procedures
 - Any frequent challenges?
 - Groups temporarily meeting online are registering new meetings instead of changing their meeting location
 - If your group is temporarily meeting online and decides to go back to in-person/hybrid, a simple group change with the location from online to your physical location is all that is needed.
- **If your group is a temporary online meeting and you decide to go PEG, you will need to register with WSO with a new name.**
 - If the group does not choose, they will become an unregistered group
 - If a group meets one day in-person and another day virtually, do they have to make a choice of one or the other? YES
 - Target Date: 6 month-1 year after notifying WSO the area is accepting PEGs, temporary electronic groups need to decide to go back to in-person/hybrid or become PEG.
 - TX West Target Date would be November 2024

International Conventions-WSC 2024 Update

- 2024 Post-Convention Update
- How many attended?
 - 3387 Al-Anon
 - 47 Alateen
 - 293 AA
 - 57 Guest
 - 3776 In-person
 - 741 Virtual
 - 4517 Total Registered (A record!)
 - 7 Professionals
 - 127 paid with their own currency outside the WSC and would not have been able to attend otherwise
 - 1400 attended the Trail Blazers Breakfast
- A.A. International Convention-2025
- Vancouver, BC---July 3-6, 2025
 - 90 years AA celebration
 - Registration opens Sept. 2024-\$160
 - Al-Anon will have meeting/workshops in English, Spanish, French
 - Approximately 60,000 will attend
- 2028 Al-Anon International Convention-June/July
- Would you like to know where the 2028 International Convention will be held?
 - 14 bids were submitted
 - 400 volunteers are requested
 - Soon all the bids will be reviewed
 - May 23 three cities will be selected
 - June---visits to these cities will begin
 - October---a selection will be made

- A location announcement will be made at the 2025 WSC or before!!!
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Budget Presentation

- 100 percent of the groups are using Services
 - 61 percent of the groups contributed in 2023
 - What are the services used?
 - Getting your group registered
 - Reading CAL at meetings
 - Calling WSO to find a meeting
 - Using the Mobile App for a Zoom meeting
 - Public Service Announcements playing on TV stations
- The Power of \$1.00
 - In 1952 the value of a dollar was \$1.00
 - In 2004, compared to 1952, the value of a dollar was \$7.13
 - In 2024, compared to 1952, the value of dollar is \$11.58
- The cost per Group per year is: \$330.09
 - Is your group contributing your fair share?
- If each group is not contributing their fair share...
- Consider:
 - How do we continue to carry the message?
 - How do we continue to reach new members?
 - We do that by continuing to provide services, such as:
 - Public outreach and community awareness
 - Connecting with our International Structures
 - Increasing access through technology
 - Increasing communications in all 3 languages

- If each group that contributed in 2023 contributed the cost per group of \$330.09 in 2024, we would reach our contribution goal for the year
- The message is that the budget requires consistent continued giving all year in order to provide continuing services
- **The Bottom Line: 2024 Operating Budget**
 - Total Estimated Revenue: \$6,198,330
 - Total Estimated Expense: \$6,078,780
 - Net Increase: \$119,550
- **Florida North contribution 2023: \$47,746**
- **Ample Reserve Fund (Warranty 1)**

“In April 1970, the Board of Trustees funded the Reserve Fund in an initial amount of \$80,000, the purpose of which was to set aside sufficient funds to ensure the continuation of the Organization’s essential services and the funding of special projects. The objective for the fund was to maintain an amount equal to one year’s operating expenses. Effective July 1, 1999, the Board of Trustees redefined one year’s operating expenses to include all expenses of the Organization except for unusual, nonrecurring items in excess of \$100,000. At the same time, the board stated that the Reserve Fund’s assets would be measured against the objective using the lower of cost or fair value. Transfers between funds are reviewed by the Board on a year-to-year basis. Due to net transfers and retained income during the years, the Reserve Fund balance was **\$7,438,171** and \$6,314,781 at December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively.” (Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc. Financial Report December 31, 2023 and 2022)

Task Force: Personal and Service Sponsorship

- Three Workshops created on Sponsorship

- 5 Topics with handouts and skits
- One Day, 1/2 Day, 30 mins-1 hour in length
- I will send out in a separate update

Upcoming Delegate Updates

- Changes to the Service manual
- Sponsorship Task Force Workshops
- WSC Task Force: Revitalizing Alateen
- 2024 Membership Survey
- 2024 Road Trip: Meet the Board
- Next Generation AFG Records
- And more....

Memorable Quotes from the WSC

- “If no-one has told you today that they love you, let me be the first to say: I love you”
- “This is your place, and these are your people
- God is with you!
- God waits patiently for me to listen!
- ODAT: If the only prayer you say is “Thank you,” that would be enough!
- YOU are in the RIGHT place at the RIGHT time!
- Say what you mean, mean what you say, and don’t say it mean!
- I can see someone standing behind you; supporting you?
- The Guidelines are The Spirit of the Law; not the Letter of the Law
- We come to a meeting for relief and we come to service for recovery.

- The way we treat each other while doing business is more important than the outcome

South East Region Panel 64

- Consists of: Alabama/NW Florida, Florida (N), Florida (S), Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, Puerto Rico, North Carolina/Bermuda, South Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Tennessee

Translation!

- Three Languages: English, Spanish, French with Live Translation!
- This year there was live Spanish translation as the French speaking Delegate did not want translation services

WSO Staff, Volunteers (Trustees), Executive Committee:

The Concepts Come to Life!

- How I came to understand the difference between WSC and WSO!
- WSO Staff, Volunteers (Trustees), Executive Committee
- When you read the Conference Summary, pay attention to who is in each service position

Final Thoughts

- This experience was Wonderful, Amazing, Incredible, Exhausting, and at times, Overwhelming!!!
- I would have not traded it for the world!!!

- Thank you to Florida North Area 9 for your trust and support. I am truly honored to have been your representative at the World Service Conference.
- Thank you to all who send cards of support to me at Conference.
- THIS is my place and YOU are my people!