

Delegate Report      2 Day Fall Assembly    October 12-13, 2024

Hello Al-Anon family!

Since I reported to you at Spring Assembly, we've welcomed 3 new groups to our Area!

- Phoenix AFG in Columbus, Oh – GR None/CMA Susan H.
- One Book at a Time in Columbus, OH – GR None/CMA Julie G.
- Together in the Valley (Electronic Group)-Warren, OH-GR/CMA Nichole S.

I have noticed that there seems to be several groups in different areas that are experiencing difficulties with dominance, safety and just general overall uncomfortable situations happening in their group. I urge you to contact your DR's and try to visit and support groups in your area. Be a guiding force for the Legacies of our program so that this message of Al-Anon recovery can reach the others out there that need us. Experienced members are always a great way to show the newer groups how our Traditions and Concepts work and help our groups to grow!

Lots of things are going on at WSO and I'd like to share some of them with you today. Hopefully a good number of you took part in the Membership Survey that ended on July 31<sup>st</sup>. In the highlights of the World Service Conference Summary, it talks about one of the Chosen Agenda Items (CAI), "Does It Work If You Work It" and the importance of taking the Membership Survey. The dissertation presented to the Board of Trustees by Jayne Kenny, a PhD candidate, showed how the relationship between Al-Anon attendance, other recommended activities, (such as sponsorship, service, getting in touch with a Higher Power) aids to overall better mental health, happiness and well-being. These surveys are such an important aspect of getting the message of help and hope to families that seek counselling.

One of the items brought up at the end of the Conference, Delegate Participation on Conference Leadership Team (CLT) for Agenda Development has been brought up on AFG Connects and we (Delegates) were asked to take the Survey and communicate our desire to be on the Team. 14 Delegates responded; I was not one of them as I had no desire to plan the WSC agenda. WSC was so overwhelming this year that I felt in order to best serve our Area, planning the agenda was not in my best interest. Out of the 11 who responded with interest, 1 Delegate from each Panel was selected to serve on the CLT.

Finance report from WSO

Revenue consists mainly of literature sales and contributions. Other revenue sources include magazine sales, Al-Anon Family Groups Mobile App premium subscriptions and

investment gains or losses. Literature sales for June were \$244,254. Contributions for June were \$210,581.

The largest categories of expenses consists of WSO Staff salaries and associated costs (payroll taxes and benefits), technology support, Conference costs (including interpretation), and office expenses (postage, telephone, stationery, supplies, printing, Canadian office). Expenses for the month of June 2024 were \$552,515.

See the information below for YTD actuals from January 2024 – June 2024

YTD Literature sales (January - June 2024) were \$1,579,837

Contributions \$1,342,395, Other income \$578,810 for a total revenue of \$3,501,042.

Total expenses were \$3,012,633

Net increase/(Decrease)

The change in net assets has resulted in an operating surplus of \$488,409, which is higher than the projected budget.

The message from WSO to the fellowship has been and continues to be one of gratitude and consistency. The WSO's role of providing services to the fellowship can only be carried out with consistent contributions, the purchase of Conference Approved Literature (CAL), and subscriptions to our Mobile App premium content and our magazine (The Forum).

It seems that sometimes it's all about the "money". We need to remember that anytime we reach out to others and spread the message by our actions and behaviors, we attract more people to join us and therefore, will see our groups grow. Ohio Donations from 36 Districts was \$16,978.93. I do have the breakdown by District if you would like to see where your District stands. Keep in mind that this is a 6-month period.

The Finance Committee also presented to the Board a recommendation for the Equalized Expense and the full cost for Delegates to attend the 2025 World Service Conference in New York. The Equalized Expense will be \$2,532.00 and the Full Cost will be \$3,617.71, due to the higher hotel, food, and travel costs in the New York area versus Virginia Beach. These amounts include the cost for Delegates to visit Stepping Stones on the day following the WSC. Since we have \$3,000.00 budgeted and approved an additional \$1,000.00 for the once every three-year panel Delegate to attend and visit Stepping Stones, we are good with the funds to pay. Thank you all so much for making it possible for the Area Delegate to experience this wonderful trip.

After hearing discussion at the 2024 WSC, the Board held a generative discussion from the perspective of Al-Anon Family Groups as a whole on whether a visit to Stepping Stones

needs to be incorporated as part of Conference activities once every three years. Following the discussion, the Board approved holding the WSC in the New York area for a six-year trial starting after 2025 to allow for the Conference members to attend Stepping Stones once during their panel.

The Board also gathered information from the Delegates at WSC to help evaluate the effectiveness of a four-day WSC week three-year trial. While a few benefits were expressed, Conference members generally described the increased demand placed on participants by the shorter Conference week, with tightly packed workdays providing less time for fellowship and discussions during sessions. It's quite grueling and leaves little time to decompress from one day and prepare for the next day. Conference members also generally felt that, despite the intention to increase accessibility for working and younger Al-Anon members, in practice scheduling the Conference over the weekend required similar amounts of time off work. After thoughtful discussion at the Board Meeting the Board voted to end the four-day WSC week trial and return to hosting the WSC across five days, beginning with the 2026 WSC, while continuing to seek opportunities to hold appropriate sessions virtually so gaps are available for fellowship and breaks. In addition, the Board voted to end the trial of holding the WSC over a weekend and return to scheduling the Conference agenda to occur over the week starting with the 2026 WSC, with the flexibility to shift onto one weekend day if necessary to accommodate holidays while ensuring the WSC occurs in the month of April.

Policy Committee update:

One of the changes you will see in the V4 of the Service Manual (which should be online before this report is presented) will be the Choosing a Group's Name Policy. Through this process, the WSO was directed to:

- Register new groups and update existing group names only when their name does not contain community-identifying designations.
- Guide groups seeking to encourage community-specific participation to use the "Participants" designation

The Committee directed Staff to communicate widely through the links of service so that existing groups with names containing such designation would be encouraged to practice "obedience to the unenforceable" by aligning their group name with the new policy. All changes and updates that the Policy Committee has approved will be posted on the WSO website and will have pages to print to replace the pages in the current Service Manual. New Service Manuals will be updated and available in January 2026 and will be dated 2026-2028.

The complete Conference Summary will be on the WSO website sometime in the Fall and will be available for sale.

In August, I was scheduled to serve on the Regional Committee on Trustees (RCT) for our Region. Our Region (US North Central) has 9 Delegates from Panel's 64, 63 and 62 and we were to review resumes submitted by Trustee applicants. Unfortunately, our region didn't have any applicants for Trustee, so we weren't needed.

The Board reviewed the work of Eliminating Regional Trustees Thought Force and feedback from Conference members. The Thought Force was not asked to make recommendations; however, the Board recognized more work was required, as it continues to be faced with few or no Regional Trustee resumes from each Region. The Board decided to form a thought force to define strategies for overcoming the barriers to applying to become a Regional Trustee.

Noting that another big concern expressed by Conference members was that eliminating Regional Trustees could possibly lead to loss of Regional representation (even though Regional Trustees do not represent their region), the Board agreed to form a task force to develop ideas to discuss with the WSC about a process for creating a Board consisting only of Trustees at Large that:

- Identifies criteria that would address the concerns about representation of diverse perspectives of members from across all the WSC Structure (e.g. Canadian representation, representation of primarily rural communities, etc.) and
- Ensures Area input on candidates is considered.

Some of the areas of this are just as confusing to me as they are to you all but, as I get further into my journey as your Delegate, I will understand more. I'm a bit more confident of that the further I go.

My gratitude for your confidence in me to inform you of what's going on is overflowing and again I must thank you all! I will continue to learn on this journey, and I will, of course, bring you all along with me!

Love in Service

Rose / Delegate

Panel 64 – In Service We Soar!