

Spring Assembly 2024 / Delegate Report

I want to begin by saying that all my fears of inadequacy and my anxiety were unfounded! Surprised? I really don't need to be because every time I take a service position, those fears ramp up and every time they are false! What a magnificent experience I had and I know it will only get better. I have to say to never, never let anyone convince you Service is not for you or you can't do it because that is FEAR - False Evidence Appearing Real for certain!

Slide 1 thru 8

Today I want to share with you what happened at the 64th Annual World Service Conference (WSC), which was held April 18-21, 2024 at the Fountain Inn, in Virginia Beach. The Conference was attended by over 100 members, which included 68 Delegates from the US, Canada, Bermuda and Puerto Rico, the Board of Trustees, At-large members of the Executive Committee, and World Service Office (WSO) staff. The theme for this year's Conference was, Our Pathway to Grace, Unity and Understanding. I want to thank you for all of the beautiful cards, letters, and heartwarming notes I received while I was at the Conference. It was very encouraging and exhilarating to know that you all were beside me during this four day experience. Please let your group members know how much it was appreciated! There was an overabundance of "love gifts" that everybody brought. I tried to pick up as many different ones as I could fit in my suitcase to bring back to share with you all. Please check the back table and help yourself!

Slide 9

My journey started at 7 AM when I left for Detroit. I actually survived the directions to the parking lot, pick up by the shuttle, tagging my luggage and getting through security! I wasn't alone as I imagined because my HP was right beside me.

I was fortunate to have reached out to the only other person on my flight via text and we met up at the boarding gate. We became S.I.S. Sisters In Service immediately! Joan K. from Kansas will be forever my partner in this next 3 year journey and I am so blessed to have met her first. Like I said - HP right beside me! Once we landed in Norfolk, we connected with other Delegates from Panel 64 and shuttled to the Hotel. After settling in my room, it was time to begin to "mingle".

Slide 10 thru 13

I met up with a few more Delegates from Texas, West (BJ) and East (Anna) and invited myself to dinner with them. We had a wonderful sunset walk (hike!) and had an amazing dinner on the beach.

There's so much to share and because of all the information, I'm only going to highlight certain things today. We have so much cover for Assembly in all areas such as reports, motions and other important business. I will give more detail @ AWSC and Fall Assembly. Of course, if anyone has questions on the information presented please let me know and I would be more than happy to answer them to the best of my ability.

Slide 14-15

The first day of the Conference began @ 6 AM with an Al-Anon meeting which I made it a point to attend each day having been encouraged by my Service Sponsor and my Delegate Mentor, Linda H from MN North or MN nice as she likes to say. It was definitely a good thing even though it was very early. It helped me to get to know those that attended in a special way that I wouldn't have had an opportunity to do otherwise.

One of the early meetings was chaired by a wonderful person, GW. The meeting was on JOY.

Also during all 4 days of Conference the outgoing Panel 61 Delegates were sharing their experience, strength and hope with 3 minute talks. They were wonderful and a great way to break up the "business" of the long days which lasted till around 9 PM with another Al-Anon meeting @ 9:30.

Breakfast was at 7 and then off to the business of why we were all there.

Slide 16-18

The meeting room!! (16) I was seated at the very front by the Dais. Which I found out was another word for podium or "Throne". (17)

Flags and languages from all the Countries that have Al-Anon!!(18)

Who votes at the WSC? (19)

68 Delegates

BOT

Executive Committee

WSO Staff

Total of 90 Voting members

I'm going to take a moment to explain the Panel 64 label as I was very confused with it myself. (20)

This years outgoing Panel is 61. The 68 Delegates are split up by thirds for rotation purposes. Each year, one third are first year, one third are second year and one third are third year. This is Panel 62's last year, Panel 63's second year and my first year...Panel 64.

(21) Orientation for us "newbees" was next and the warm welcome our Panel received made us all a bit more comfortable. Many had the same concerns as me so I felt much more at ease!

(22-24) After orientation was Sharing Area Highlights, and the opening luncheon where our Delegate Mentor's pin the new incoming Delegates. It was an honor and a very emotional experience to receive my Delegate pin.

There were 8 motions voted on and carried out at Conference this year. Motion #1 was approval for seating and voting, Motion #4 was approval of the 2023 Audit Report, Motion #5 was approval of the 2024 Finance Report and Motion #7 was approval of the 2023 Annual Report. These motions are explainable by their description. The motions mentioned throughout my

report are the remaining ones carried and discussed. I've tried to add some of my notes taken during the motion discussions for them.

(25) How does a new piece of CAL (Conference Approved Literature) occur?

Suggestions come in often to the WSO for new pieces constantly and are stored in a database. When a minimum number is received the Literature Committee (which I get to be a part of this year) discusses if this topic needs to be brought to WSC for consideration. After extensive discussion at the WSC the idea will be brought to a vote.

(26) Staff is in the final stages of publication for the new booklet *Healing Within Our Alcoholic Relationships* approved in 2021. This booklet will be released in the Fall of this year at a cost of \$4 each.

In 2024, the WSO will finalize and launch the guides for collecting member sharings for the new piece on sponsorship approved by the 2023 WSC. Look for requests for member sharings online, In The Loop and The Forum.

MOTION # 2: Finances in AI-Anon recovery piece. - CARRIED

(27) To approve the creation of a piece of literature, possibly a pamphlet or booklet, about our relationship with finances in AI-Anon recovery. **Yes (84) No (4) Abstain (2) Void (0)**

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

While topics of personal and group finances are discussed throughout AI-Anon's Three Legacies, AI-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.

How do we create a good, solid foundation for contributing to our financial welfare within our home, group, District and Area?

Member's experience, strength and hope helps other members.

This piece of literature received Conceptual Approval

MOTION #3: Choosing a Group's Name—improve the clarity of the wording.- CARRIED

(28) To accept the revisions made to the “Choosing a Group’s Name” section of the “Policy Digest” in accordance with the changes recommended by the Policy Committee and adopted by the Board of Trustees. Yes (81) No (6) Abstain (3) Void (0)

As a part of the bi-weekly meeting of the Staff Policy Implementation Round Table (SPIRiT), its members review any new group registrations containing names which AFG Records Staff is concerned may not adhere to Al-Anon policy. If SPIRiT agrees there is a concern with a group name request, a letter is sent to the member who submitted the registration informing them the concerns raised as to how the name did not adhere to Al-Anon Policy, Traditions, or Concepts. SPIRiT brought the topic to the Policy Committee because Staff had seen a growth in the volume of names which were:

- *considered potentially not welcoming to the newcomer,*
- *reflected affiliation, and/or*
- *focused more on identifying differences than similarities and Al-Anon principles*

The language being changed is found in the Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual at the bottom of page 85-86.

CAI (29)

Membership and Unity of Purpose. When is something diverting us from our purpose or spiritual aim? We discussed ways to keep Al-Anon focused including chairing meetings on Al-Anon tools, the importance of Sponsorship, and avoiding outside influences. To protect and encourage group conscience meetings. What spiritual principles must Al-Anon strengthen or even rediscover to fulfill its primary purpose? Kindness, open mindedness and understanding where the newcomer is coming from. Asking the newcomer to help with the meeting, offering our numbers instead of waiting for them to ask. Keeping the focus on our principles of recovery.

Day 2 of Conference

(30)

MOTION #8: Delegate Participation on CLT - CARRIED

To form a task force of the Conference Leadership Team and a minimum of three Delegates charged with proposing how Delegates could be selected and participate on CLT to contribute to WSC agenda development. Yes (84) No (2) Abstain (4) Void (0)

Until now, Delegates have not been a part of the CLT

The agenda for the World Service Conference is set by the Conference Leadership Team (CLT), which is made up of Trustees and WSO Executive Staff, just as the agenda for this Spring Assembly is discussed and set by your Area Officers and District Representatives (DR's). Some Delegates want a broader voice on what is discussed at the Conference and want Delegates included in the agenda process.

After the discussion, it was decided to form a task force with the CLT and a minimum of 3 Delegates charged with how Delegates could be selected and participate on the CLT to contribute to the WSC agenda.

(31- 34)

In 1978 the ICC (International Coordination Committee) was formed as an avenue of communication to support international growth and to perpetuate worldwide unity of Al-Anon and Alateen. We have translated CAL in 37 distinct languages! One of the responsibilities of the ICC is to consider requests from international structures to translate and print literature.

First-time translation and reprint permission:

- Bulgaria
- Latvia
- Mongolia
- Romania
- Thailand
- Paraguay (Spanish)
- Kuwait is just starting the process

Countries usually start with the pamphlets and build from there. One point made during the presentation is how a lone member from the Dominican Republic requested CAL and Al-Anon information. When they were contacted again the group had grown to 10 people. I found this committee to be an amazing service tool and who knows? Maybe someday.....

(35)

Statement of activities 2023 vs 2022

Next came the Auditor's report and I must say Niketa W. made it very interesting. It may be because she loves her job and not many people ask her to make presentations.

Our new daily reader sold almost one million dollars in the first 6 months. A record for any piece of Al-Anon literature. We had a 60% increase in net assets mostly because

of this and also group contributions. Our area's total contributions were \$15,705. I have a list of the breakdown of Districts and can let you know how much your District donated. You can email me if you are interested in that amount. I also have a download of the full financial report for 2022 and 2023 that can be emailed to you if you would like to see that.

(36-38) The Stepping Stones conversation was spirited and positive. Due to rising costs of holding WSC in the New York area there are plans to decide how to continue to visit our Founders home site and continue to try and keep costs at a minimum.

Questions posed were;

- Do the groups in our area believe it's important for the Delegates to visit Stepping Stones?
- If so, how does it benefit your Area?

After discussions WSO will access all comments shared

One of the Delegates had this information to share:

Holding Conference in New York resulted in a net Conference cost to the WSO operating budget of \$110,708 in 2022. Holding Conference in Va.Beach resulted in a net Conference cost of \$45,333 in 2023. The net Conference costs each year to host the WSC are paid from the WSO General Fund. The remaining costs to host the WSC are paid by the Areas. The gap between the cost of hosting the event in New York and Va. Beach post-pandemic is continuing to increase, and initial estimates for 2025 suggest it will do so again.

Using the figures provided, in 2022 \$110,000 compared to Va.Beach \$45,000 in 2023 is a difference of about \$65,000. Since it is once every 3 years, a way to fund this trip could be: Delegates equalized expenses; $\$65,000 / 68 \text{ Areas} = \$956 / 3 \text{ years} = \$318 / 365 \text{ days} = \$.87$ a day per area. I believe more will be known after next year's WSC as we will have a better awareness of the costs of a Conference in the New York area.

Area Support Electronic Groups (39-40)

- 56 geographic WSC structure Areas now support electronic groups
- The majority have integrated electronic groups into geographic areas
- Remaining 11 are in progress of developing their Area procedures

Current challenges

- Groups temporarily meeting online are registering new meetings instead of changing their meeting location which is all that's needed
- 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.
- If your group is a temporary online meeting and decides to go PEG (Permanent Electronic Group) it needs to be registered with WSO under 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 unless they register each group separately
- Target Date: 6 month-1 year after notification to WSO the Area is accepting PEG's, temporary electronic groups need to decide to go back to in-person/ hybrid or become PEG

International Convention Updates (41-47)

2023 Attendees

- 3387 Al-Anon
- 47 Alateen
- 293 AA
- 57 Guest (7 professionals)
- 3776 in person
- 741 virtual
- 4517 total registered (1400 attended Trail Blazers Breakfast)

AA International Convention 2025

"90 Years-Language of the Heart

Vancouver, BC July 3-6, 2025

- 90 years AA celebration
- Registration opens September 2024 \$160
- Al-Anon will have meetings and workshops in English, Spanish and French

2028 Al-Anon International Convention

- 14 Bids were accepted
- 400 volunteers are needed
- Bids will be reviewed soon and May 23rd 3 cities will be selected
- Visits to the three cities in June

- October a selection will be made
- Announcement may be made at 2025 WSC or before!

Day 3 of conference (48)

The second CAI (chosen agenda item) discussed received 42 votes:

Concept 9 and 10 - What spiritual principles help define good personal leadership? Bill W's essay on leadership in our Service Manual (p. 200) was read in part and discussed. How can I participate and be part of the solution when leadership ceases to function well? What can we do about bullying and ignoring Traditions, guidelines and Concepts in our meetings? Do we use our CAL to help with conflict? Suggestions of a leadership workshop were discussed.

Budget Presentation (49-52)

100% of groups are using services: 61% of groups contributed in 2023.

A few of the services used by our groups:

- Getting registered
- Reading CAL at meetings
- Calling WSO to locate meetings
- Using the Mobile App for Zoom meetings
- PSA's airing on TV stations

This is the part we see at every Assembly included in the Delegate's report. The only difference is that the cost goes up every year. Please notice the difference just from 2004 to 2024!

Cost per group is now \$330 per year. That's 27.50 per month. If every group donates their part just imagine how we can reach those in communities that need the hope Al-Anon gives!

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 a three languages

If each group that contributed in 2023 contributed the cost per group of \$330 in 2024, we would reach our contribution goal for the year.

The message is that the budget requires consistent giving all year in order to provide continuing services.

I have a full copy of the budget report for emailing if anyone would like to see it.

(53) Thought Force: Personal and Service Sponsorship.

- 3 workshops created on Sponsorship
- 5 topics with handouts and skits
- 1 day / ½ day / 30 min-1 hr in length
- As soon as presentations are posted by WSO I will have more information

Day 4 of Conference

How many of you took the 2021 Membership survey? I took it because I saw it when I read In The Loop, our monthly communication from WSO. The results were actually pretty amazing.

(54) The WSO facilitates the membership survey once every three years. The survey documents the benefits of AI-Anon from the perspective of members who have seen the quality of their lives improve after participating in the AI-Anon program.

(55) Background Information

- Doctoral dissertation completed in 2023
 - Based on 2018 AFG Membership Survey
- Presented to the BOT @ 2023 July Board meeting
- Benefits of working the AI-Anon program
 - Longevity in AI-Anon is a key component to better mental health
- AI-Anon's "therapeutic elements" associated with positive change:
 - Attending meetings
 - Being spiritually motivated
 - Working with and serving as a Sponsor
 - Engaging in service

(56) Applying Our Spiritual Principles

- Tradition One
- Tradition Five
- Tradition Nine
- Concept Four

(57) Members complete surveys, WSO publishes results, Professionals use survey data to publish findings.

Members confirm and carry the message

All this was presented as a lead up to the next survey which will be taking place this June and July. Please take the time to take the survey and participate in the information that is so very useful in how professionals can offer help to people out there still suffering. It takes about 15 minutes and it makes such an impact on who hears the message of recovery. It's also a great way to be of service!!

(58-59)

2024 Road Trip! You and Your Board Connect

October 26 @ 9:00 am - 5:00 pm EDT

The 2024 Road Trip! You and Your Board Connect will be held on
Saturday, October 26, 2024
9:00 am to 5:00 pm
in South Carolina at

Courtyard by Marriott Columbia Downtown at USC

630 Assembly Street Columbia, SC 29203

Registration will open in September!

Panel 64 Group (60)

Tom and I (61)

(62) Final thoughts

This was a spiritual and amazing service experience. Most days were filled with lots of information and I'm sure I didn't capture all of it. I have 2 more years to get it right! Thank you for your faith in my ability to communicate back to you all what is happening around the Worldwide Fellowship of Al-Anon.