

Delegate Report / Area World Service Committee (AWSC) March, 2025

Warm and grateful greetings family.

January 2025 was Board Week at the World Service Office and I have some updates from the Policy and Finance Committees as well as the Conference Leadership Team (CLT).

First the Panel 65 Delegates were welcomed. It's their turn to be "newbies" and my Panel 64 to be the experienced ones. If I ever needed my Higher Powers help, it's now!!

The Board Meeting started on January 14th and the Board spent two days interviewing before determining which Trustee nominees to put forward to the World Service Conference (WSC) for affirmation. The affirmation process usually takes about 2 ½ hours during the Conference and the Delegates from all three panels were presented with the option to do this virtually. This was so the Delegates can have a little more time for rest and fellowship while at the Conference. We all voted unanimously to do it that way unfortunately, it is taking place on March 29th, which is why I am not able to attend in person with you all today.

At this time, I'd like to mention that our North Central Region is in need of a Regional Trustee for the remaining 2 years of a 3 year term. Is there anyone here or maybe someone you can think of who has been an active member of Al-Anon Family Groups for at least 10 years, has served beyond the group level, and has a passion for the Al-Anon program? I urge those of you who feel the need to serve to go to the WSO website and search for the Board of Trustees. There you will find the role description and qualifications for this service position. There is an Area Process which needs to be brought to the Spring Assembly in May for approval. Applications will need to be submitted by August of 2025.

The Board discussions were as follows:

1. A better definition of "service beyond the group level:" During the Board meeting members became aware that it was using the phrase "service beyond the group level" on its applications without a consistent definition. The topic was added to the agenda in January and after further discussion it was determined that this phrase is not defined in the current *2022-2025 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual (P-24-27) v4*. What was hoped to be a relatively short conversation confirming common understanding turned instead into a thoughtful discussion reflecting a diversity of perspectives. As a result, the Board reached a consensus to ask the nominating committee to define the service requirements necessary for each position so that the term "beyond the group level" can be replaced by specifics in the requirements section of each of its applications.
2. Past A.A. Membership requirement for WSO service: The Policy Committee recommended that the Board revisit the requirement that applicants "cannot have ever been" rather than "are not" members of A.A., as the policy states. After considering key themes, such as the original intention of the Policy and the spiritual principle that each member decides for themselves whether they are a member of Al-Anon or A.A., the Board reaffirmed its commitment to honoring the Policy Committee group conscience by deciding to revise its requirement related to A.A. membership on its applications to read

“Cannot be an Al-Anon member who is a member of A.A.” (Keep in mind, this is only to serve as WSO volunteers and At Large committee members.)

3. Road Trip! Announcement: **The Road Trip will take place October 25th, 2025 in Omaha, NE. Hotel information and more details to follow.**
4. A.A. International Convention with Al-Anon participation is taking place July 4-6, 2025 in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. The Area Welcome Committee is in place and actively seeking members registered to attend who are interested in helping onsite. More news will be shared in the coming months about opportunities for members of Al-Anon who register to be of service.
5. The Envisioned Future Work Group (EFWG) brought forward the topic “fellowship and what it looks like” after noting the observation some members shared about fellowship in the program, including informal gatherings before or after meetings, that seems to be missing or at least not as prominent as it once was. Thoughtful questions led to a discussion regarding what the fellowship will look like in the future. What are the barriers? What are the opportunities? How can this crucial connection and community between members be maintained and flourish in the digital age?
6. 2025 WSO Projects Landscape:
 - WSO Core Systems Overhaul
 - Electronic Alateen Validation & Implementation Planning
 - eBooks Globally-WSC & International Structures
 - WSO Risk Mitigation Strategy
 - 2025 A.A. International Convention with Al-Anon Participation
 - CAL Globally (Two Scenarios)
 - 2026-2029 *Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual (P-24/27)*
 - Refresh *Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism* Magazine
 - 2028 Al-Anon International Convention with A.A. Participation
 - Passing It On (Initial Planning)
 - AFG, Inc. Branding Guideline for Trusted Servants
 - Outreach to Professionals - Young People

As you can see, the dedicated staff at WSO will be busy this year as they complete these tasks along with the ongoing operations work and fellowship support performed every day.

As I mentioned in my report at the 2-Day Fall Assembly, the Conference Leadership Team (CLT) has been meeting since July 2024 to develop a plan for Delegates to contribute to the development of the WSC Agenda. This Task Force will be presenting their ideas to the 2025 WSC.

The Public Outreach Committee continues to be busy looking for ways to reach the families and friends of alcoholics and those who work with them. The committee currently has two work groups, which complete regular reviews of social media statements and submissions for the Public Outreach Toolkit. Additionally, the committee has several task forces evaluating new materials needed for public outreach.

This seems like a good place to announce the new Public Outreach Toolkit to Professionals for Alateen! I attended the presentation on February 12th via Zoom for this new piece of outreach. It can be found on the WSO website under; Members, Public Outreach Toolkit and then scroll down to “Public Outreach to Professionals – Alateen. Check it out! It's free and awesome information for Health Fairs or any platform where we can reach out to Counselors and any other professionals that work with our kids.

Financially the period ending 12/31/24 was very good once more. Revenue actuals compared to the budget were above average. Literature sales netted \$2,929,412, Contributions were \$3,022,844 with Other income of \$400,869. A total of \$6,353,125.

Expense totals were \$5,891,481 leaving a net increase of \$461,644.

YTD Literature sales were slightly above budget by \$75,892 (3%). The new pamphlet *Healing Within Our Alcoholic Relationships* (P-95) sold over 38,000 copies by the year-end inventory cut off. The holiday book bundle, consisting of *Blueprint for Progress: Al-Anon's Fourth Step Inventory (Revised)* (P-91), *Reaching for Personal Freedom: Living the Legacies* (P-92) and *Paths to Recovery Workbook: A Companion for Studying Al-Anon's Steps, Traditions and Concepts* (P-94), sold 2,219 copies (1,971 English, 211 Spanish, and 37 French).

Members continue to respond to the message about consistent donations with our YTD contributions being above budgeted expectations by \$379,144 (14%)

Our Ohio Area total donations were \$16,978 from January 2024 - June 2024. A total of 176 Groups donated.

The Policy Committee meets quarterly prior to the Board of Trustees meeting and had a few updates on future projects:

1. The “2024-2025 Concept Study Task Force” presented the third installment of the Policy Committee Concept Study which has offered Policy Committee members the opportunity to study the Concepts together throughout this year. It has been an impactful way for the committee members to launch Policy discussions in a spiritual, legacy-based direction.
2. “Thought Force: Dilution of the Al-Anon Program Policy Digest Text Review.” This Thought Force has been charged with bringing a discussion to the Policy Committee reviewing the “Dilution of the Al-Anon Program” section of the “Digest of Al-Anon and Alateen Policies” on page 135, specifically 1) “Labels” 2) “Professional Involvement”, 3) “Drugs/Narcotics/Prescription Medications.” The Policy Committee was provided with an extensive KDBM as a basis of the discussion. Members were encouraged to identify the spiritual principles as well as the Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts of Service as they relate to each of the three sections.
3. Choosing a Group's Name Policy Appeals Discussion. Following the 2024 WSC decision to approve the amended text to the “Choosing a Group Name” Policy, the World Service Office (WSO) Staff began discussing how to implement the Policy as adopted. Consistent with their carefully defined service authority and responsibility, Staff presented their suggestions for implementation to the Policy Committee for review at its July 2024 meeting. Committee members considered suggestions related to new group

registrations, existing group updates obtaining new names, and existing groups more broadly. After thoughtful discussion, the Policy Committee confirmed the suggested implementation for new group registrations and existing group updates containing new names was in alignment with the new policy and supported Staff going forward with implementing the approach. The Policy Committee also confirmed that the Policy approved by the 2024 WSC applied to both new and existing groups; however, it agreed that further conversation with the WSC was required before any action was taken toward applying the new Policy to existing groups. Shortly after the COB letter and Policy Committee update was posted, the WSO and Policy Committee began to receive multiple member appeals to this new Policy. After consideration and in the continuing spirit of Concept Five, "The rights of appeal and petition protect minorities and ensure that they be heard", the Policy Committee concluded at that meeting that the appeals needed to be brought to the 2025 WSC as it was the decision-making authority which approved the Policy in 2024. This will be discussed in April when I attend the Conference so I am asking you all to go back to your Groups and get me your feedback on how members feel. Please get your concerns/comments to me before April 10th and I will be sure to voice them on the Conference floor during discussion of this issue.

I sent a submission for Area Highlights to the Delegate Committee for presentation before the WSC. This is a gathering of all the Delegates before the Conference begins where we can share our Area's accomplishments and struggles. I sent a copy of this to AWSC Officers and District Representatives.

The World Service Conference is being held in Windsor, Connecticut on April 24-27, 2025 with a visit to Stepping Stones on the 28th. I would love to hear from all of you during this busy time. Prayers and support are always welcome!

With everything starting to arrive in my emails, I can see WSC will be very busy and full again this year. I'm looking forward to it much more than last year because I know what to expect. I pray that I can bring back all the information in a way that encourages service and creates excitement for our program and Legacies. Only in this way can we offer hope to all those still suffering from this disease.

Love to you all and gratitude for this opportunity to serve,
Rose Rollins
Ohio Delegate
Panel 64 In Service We Soar!