

Delegates report for March 18-21, 2016 Assembly

Our Area sends the Delegate, and immediate Past Delegate to the Southwest Regional Delegates Meeting (SWRDM). Our Area also provided funds for the Alternate Delegate and Area Chair to attend SWRDM this year. California South was our host Area. There are eight areas that attend the annual event. This includes Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, Nevada, Arizona, California North, California South and Hawaii. The purpose of SWRDM is to help prepare the Delegates for the World Service Conference.

Hawaii has a tradition of presenting leis to the incoming delegates. Hawaii presented the Arizona Delegate and me with a lei as we were welcomed into our new service positions. My lei is intricately woven ribbons of blue and white.

What I really want to tell you about is what I observed at SWRDM. Teri M., one of our past delegates, was the Chairperson for the weekend. She put an agenda together that included some business, workshops, and breakouts. Our Area assemblies follow the same model I saw at SWRDM. Most important was the spirit of the people at SWRDM. They come with a spirit of humility, gratitude, inclusiveness, helpfulness and love. They want you to succeed. They are willing to provide new delegates the resources they have discovered in our spiritual principles. This is a fellowship where we share our tools, our spiritual principles with each other. The SWRDM attendees are very passionate about the discussions and workshops over any issue. We are encouraged to invite the God of our understanding into these conversations. When it comes to a vote, everyone votes according to their understanding. Then they all support the outcome of the vote. I saw our Steps, Traditions and Concepts in action.

That is the same spirit I want to bring to the World Service Conference (WSC) and the same spirit I hope to bring back to our Area. "Realizing Our Spiritual Potential" is the theme for this year's World Service Conference. Registration will start Sunday, April 10th, New Delegate Orientation is April 11, and WSC begins April 12-16. I was asked about a month ago, "What is your Area doing to celebrate 65 Years of Al-anon?" Perhaps this is also a question for our Districts, Groups, and members to consider.

I have received several e-mails from the World Service Office (WSO) regarding some of the discussions we will be addressing at the WSC. One item is a review of Conventions and Events as detailed in our Service Manual. I have been asked to read this portion of the Service Manual and be prepared to participate in the discussion.

Another item is Memorial Contributions. I think the discussion is centered on questions like "How do we balance tradition seven and letting someone who is not a member of Al-Anon honor the memory of their loved one who was a member of Al-Anon?"

The descriptive text to Concept 11 in our Service Manual is also up for review. What I have received so far seems like a language clean up and does not change the spirit of Concept 11. Also, I have been assigned to the Literature Committee. I will participate in a conference call this coming Wednesday and we will have time at WSC to meet face to face and discuss literature needs for our fellowship.

I will have more to report on all these items at our July Assembly.

I received a letter from the WSO Treasurer, Jennie M. She addressed the fact that we will be talking about a deficit budget again this year. I have a brief power point to share with you that provides more detail (I will post this presentation to the Area's website).

In 2014, the General Fund recorded a loss of \$16,195. In 2015 the General fund recorded a loss of \$361,033. Between the same two years, Literature Sales dropped significantly by \$446,424. There may be other items that contributed to the loss in both years. Contributions were up by \$127,949 over the same two years.

As a grateful member what can we do? What can I do? Perhaps consider buying a book. The General Fund does profit with the purchase of our literature. Another thought is "Does your group have a budget?" What are some of the expenses associated with an Al-Anon Group? Rent for your meeting place, expenses related to getting your Group Representative to Assemblies, literature and other expenses make up a group budget. Does your Group Budget also include a regular and consistent contribution to our Area and WSO? Does your group receive the Quarterly Appeals letter from WSO and does your group understand the importance of their contribution?

AS a grateful member of Al-Anon, do I have a budget that includes regular and consistent giving to WSO? This year we are celebrating 65 years of Al-anon. One dollar in 1961 purchases about \$9.61 worth of product in today's economy. One group in my district includes language in the opening that suggests a one dollar contribution no longer meets the group's needs and invites members to consider a more generous contribution.

Money is always a difficult thing to talk about. Perhaps the most important thought in this discussion is how our spiritual awareness impacts the way we give. What spiritual principles apply here? It is not my intention to make fear, shame or guilt part of this discussion. Rather to present the budget in such a manner to cultivate and promote a spirit of abundance, generosity and gratitude for what Al-Anon has done for our personal recovery. Perhaps our Districts, Groups, and members can incorporate this thought as we consider how we will celebrate 65 years of Al-Anon Family Groups.

Finally, I need to admit a couple of things to you. Today, I am tired. There is some drama at my work place and within my extended family. I am a fixer and want to resolve these matters in my way and time. That isn't how this program works. I am grateful for a program that gently reminds me to quit trying to fix things that aren't mine to fix.

The second thing I want to admit is my gratitude for all you have entrusted to me as I serve as your delegate for our Colorado Area. I promise to do my best at the World Service Conference for our Area. I intend to arrive a day early to be as best rested as I can be to fulfill my duties and participate in the discussions, workshops, breakouts, presentations and in all matters to the best of my ability. Thank you for all you have entrusted to me as your trusted servant.

Respectfully submitted,

Colorado Area Delegate
Eloy Martinez
Panel 56