

2023 Colorado Area Spring Assembly

Delegate Presentation

Role of the Delegate

- Service Manual – p 150 –
- In General
 - To bring the Area's viewpoint on matters affecting the entire fellowship of the Conference and to return with a broader perspective of Al-Anon as a whole.
 - To be the bridge of understanding that links the groups in the Area with world Al-Anon to help them continue to function in unity
 - To be the servant of Al-Anon as a whole
- At the World Service Conference
 - To acquire a clear and comprehensive picture of our worldwide fellowship to bring back to the groups in the Area
 - To bring issues of concern to him, and the Area, to the attention of the Conference, either through the Conference Leadership Team or directly from the floor in an open Conference session
- In the Area – p 152
 - To give his Conference report to the Area World Service Committee and GRs to carry back to their groups.
 - To meet with the Area World Service Committee often to learn and evaluate the groups' reaction to his report and to hear their ideas on other pertinent matters.
 - To get and report a cross section of groups' ideas and opinions through the DRs and GRs, if between Conferences the WSO needs overall group opinion on some urgent matter
 - To serve as a contact for public inquiries within his Area if the Coordinator is unavailable
 - To send items to be considered for the Conference agenda to the WSO
 - To submit to the WSO no later than August 15 of the regional election year, either the Regional Trustee (RT) résumé or notification that the Area does not have a candidate

Catching Up . . .

January COB Letter

Chairperson Letter

- Road Trip! October 28, 2023 in Southern California
- International Convention
 - June 29th to July 2nd 2023
 - Prior to May 10 \$200 US
 - After May 10, \$225 US
 - Registration Includes:
 - Party in the Plaza (Thursday night)
 - International Big Meeting (Language of Love Parade)
 - Family Big Meeting (Saturday night)
 - Spiritual Big Meeting (Sunday Morning)
 - Optional add-on – Day of Connection (all day Thursday, Speakers & workshops celebrating service, \$55 incl lunch)
 - Optional add-on – Trailblazers Breakfast on Route 66 (Saturday morning, \$75 incl breakfast)
 - Online Option – Includes 4 Sessions - \$145 US
 - <https://al-anon.org/wso-events/2023-al-anon-international-convention/>

Chairperson Letter (cont'd)

- Envisioned Future Work Group (EFWG)
 - Fostering generative, visionary oriented discussions
 - Bring forward discussion topics and questions that will help the Board generate new thoughts, ideas, challenges and opportunities
 - Following topics presented:
 - Board development
 - Abundance
 - Collegiate Recovery Programs
- Diversity Workshop
 - Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity (DEI)
 - Three-hour DEI workshop led by outside consultant
 - Presentation & breakout groups
 - Board participated in a 21-day challenge designed to broaden one's DEI thinking & behavior
 - Rather than a BOD CAI, the WSC will participate in a DEI workshop.
 - Stay tuned . . .

Chairperson Letter (cont'd)

- 2024 WSC Thought & Task Forces
 - Task Force: Personal and Service Sponsorship
 - Task Force: Revitalizing Alateen
 - Thought Force: Eliminating Regional Trustees
- Strategic Projects Update: The Board approved the 2023 WSO Projects Landscape presented by the Strategic Leadership Team (SLT). 2023 will be another busy year for the Staff at the World Service Office (WSO). In addition to the ongoing operations work performed every day at the WSO, below are some of the projects for the year:
 - 2023 International Convention and Day of Connecting
 - Collaborating to improve Conference Approved Literature globally
 - Improvements to the Online Store
 - Transforming electronic groups
 - Alateen electronic group feasibility
 - Regular structure meetings with international structures
 - Zonal meetings
 - Alateen Recertification
 - Road Trip! planning
 - *Al-Anon Family Groups Mobile App* refresh
 - Refining the ebook strategy to reflect international needs

Chairperson Letter (cont'd)

- Nominating
- The list of nominees to be presented to the World Service Conference (WSC) for traditional approval are:
 - **Regional Trustee:**
 - Cindy M., US Southwest, second three-year term
 - Diane B., US South Central, second three-year term
 - **Trustee at Large:**
 - Jeri W., second three-year term
 - Jayme C., first three-year term
 - **Board Officers:**
 - Jeri W., Chairperson of the Board
 - Lynette K., Vice Chairperson
 - Ann Marie Z., Treasurer
- The following resumes will be presented to all World Service Conference members for their information:
 - **Executive Committee:**
 - David B., third one-year term
 - Carol M., second one-year term
 - Norm W., first one-year term
 - **Chairperson of the Executive Committee:**
 - David B., one-year term
 - **Executive Committee for Real Property Management (ECRPM)**
 - Richard S., three-year term
 - **Chairperson of the Executive Committee for Real Property Management (ECRPM):**
 - Sandi C., one-year term

Conference Leadership Team (CLT) Update

- LOVE GIFTS!!!!
 - Cards and Letters Mailed to (arrive after 4/15/23):
 - Kari O (Hold for WSC 4/20-4/23, 2023)
 - The Founders Inn and Spa
 - 5641 Indian River Road
 - Virginia Beach, VA 23464
 - Love Gifts
 - Mail to arrive before April 15th:
 - << Email me at Delegate@al-anon-co.org for a mailing address >>

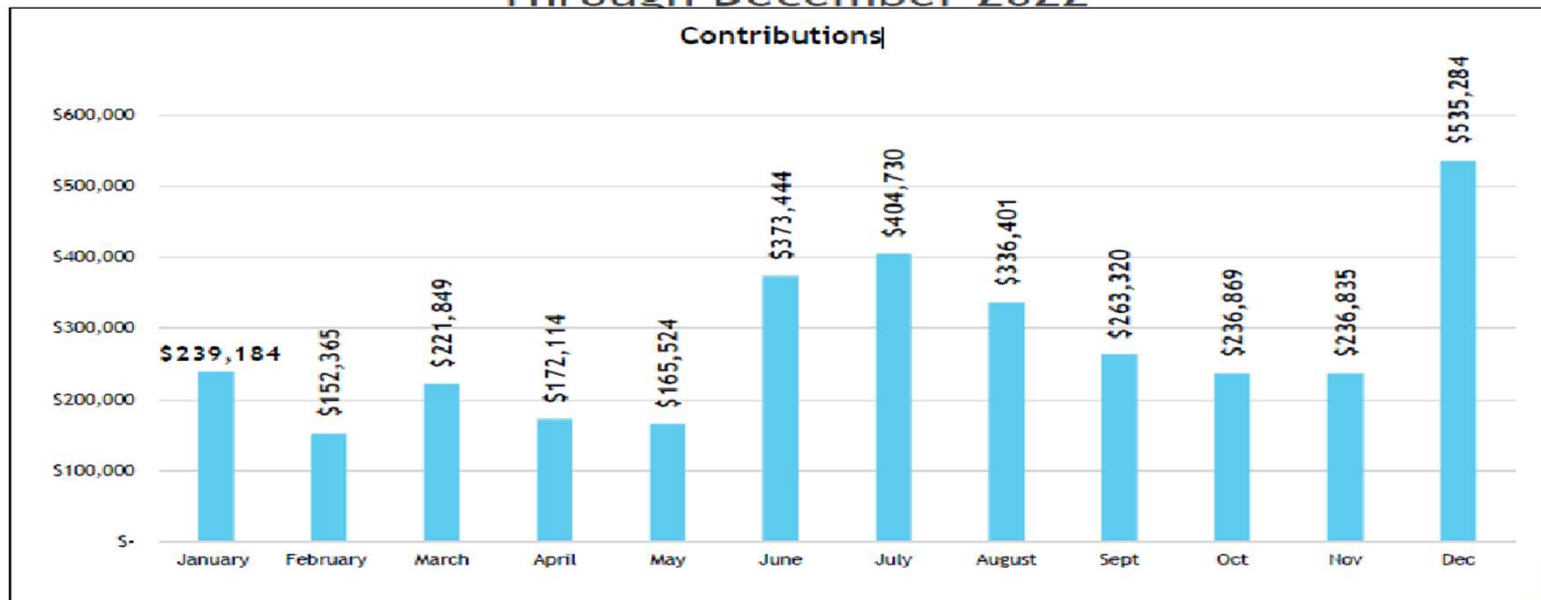
Policy Committee

- Meets quarterly prior to the Board of Trustees Meeting
- Registering Multiple Meetings Thought Force
 - Purpose: To acknowledge which Policy statements represent an appropriate interpretation of our basic guides as they relate to AFG registering multiple meetings
 - Reviewed applicable Traditions, Concepts and spiritual principles as they relate to registering multiple meetings
 - Further deliberation needed
- Local Services Task Force
 - Make minor edits to the “Information Services (Intergroups) section of the “Digest of Al-Anon/Alateen Policies” under Local services
 - Policy Committee made comments and changes to clarify

Finance Committee

AFG's Main Sources of Income - Contributions

Through December 2022



Finance Committee

Year to Date (YTD) December 2022

	YTD Actuals	YTD Budget
Revenue		
Literature Sales- net	\$2,099,850	\$2,156,210
Contributions	\$3,337,919	\$2,917,980
Other income	\$247,738	\$546,600
Total Revenue	\$5,685,507	5,620,790
Total Expenses	\$5,729,984	\$5,953,516
Net Increase/(Decrease)	(\$44,477)	(\$332,726)

Reflections and Insight

- We hit a new record for contributions — \$3.3M — came within \$4,000 of our Literature Sales budget, and exceeded our magazine sales and *Mobile App* subscription budgets!
- We also were below budget in total expenses by over \$200,000, which means we spent less than planned.
- The only unfavorable item was the YTD loss in the Reserve Fund. The market has been up and down over the last few years, so this year's loss was last year's gain. We still have an overall unrealized gain over the original cost of our investments.

E-Books Update

- E-Books rollout has been temporarily on hold due to International Issues
- Discussions underway to determine how to proceed

2023 Southwestern Regional Delegate Meeting (SWRDM)

March 10-12, 2023

More important than the outcome of any business we do here, is how we treat each other in the process . . .

2022 Colorado Area Highlights

2022 Colorado Area Highlights

- Encouraging Service Participation by studying spiritual principles and Legacies during Assemblies. An ever deeper understanding . . .
- Each Assembly, we include one or two workshops in our agenda. 2022 workshops included:
 - A new Past Delegate led Orientation for new AWSC members which was very well received
 - Conflict Resolution using the Spiritual Principles
 - Who Do I Call?
 - Concept 3 & 4 workshop which grew out of a traditional Sunday after-Assembly GR meetings that was taken from a WSC Workshop on The Concepts
 - Spiritual Principles in our Legacies
 - Service Inventory - From WSC
 - Shared Leadership Workshop with our Regional Trustee
- Colorado leveraged our newly revised guidelines to avoid amassing wealth beyond the ample reserve. Colorado had amassed an ample reserve surplus of over \$22,000, largely because our Guidelines did not contemplate specifically how to calculate the surplus or what to do with a surplus. We revised our Guidelines in the previous panel and have been able to put them in action beginning in 2021 with the 2020 budget.

2022 Colorado Area Highlights (cont'd)

- Implemented new AMIAS required training on a 3 year trial basis.
- Commissioned Task Force on Electronic Meetings in Colorado
- Our Regional Trustee, Cindy M, spoke at Assembly.
- We returned our Weekend in Al-Anon to profitability after the event struggled to be financially self-supporting for many years.
- One of the coolest things I have seen in Al-Anon . . . Our lunchtime speaker at Winter Assembly was Tiffany M, a member from Inside Job AFG which is located at Denver Women's Correctional Facility. Hers was an amazing story of recovery and hope. Her story was pre-recorded and shared with us at Assembly.
- In Colorado, with the support of our trusted servants, we are learning about the value of hard conversations. I learned here that we can't be afraid of hard conversations, and Al-Anon is a safe place to learn to have them.

SWRDM Business

SWRDM Highlights

- Banking Thought Force
 - Begin the process of creating a SWRDM Board of Directors, Bylaws, etc.
- Thought Force – Considering Virtual Component for SWRDM
 - SWRDM elected to not pursue hybrid SWRDM further
- Thought Force – Revision of SWRDM Guidelines
 - Included agreeing on a fixed rotation for SWRDM host Area

SWRDM Chosen Agenda Item (CAI)

- Topic:

Based on the spirit of the WSC Charter and the Conference Goals, should the Delegates have a more active role in setting the Conference Agenda?

- Rationale:

“The Conference is a vehicle by which Al Anon can express its views on policy and note deviations from Traditions.” WSC Charter 3b. The purpose of the Conference is “To be the guardian of both Al-Anon’s world services and its Twelve Traditions” WSC Charter 1a. The Conference provides guidance to the WSO & BOT on services and as guardian of the Twelve Traditions. BOT Goal 2, & WSC Charter 1a and 3a.

SWRDM Chosen Agenda Item (CAI) cont'd

- PERTINENT SECTIONS OF CONFERENCE CHARTER (2022-2025 Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual, Pages, 227-230)
- 1. Purpose
 - a. To be the guardian of both Al Anon's world services and its Twelve Traditions
- 3. Relation to Al-Anon
 - a. The Conference acts for Al Anon in the perpetuation and guidance of its WSO services.
 - b. The Conference is a vehicle by which Al Anon can express its views on policy and note deviations from Traditions.
- 10. Board of Trustees: Composition, Jurisdiction, Responsibilities
 - b. The Board is the chief service arm of the Conference, which is guardian of Al-Anon's Twelve Traditions.
- 11. Conference Procedure
 - b. Delegates and WSO members take under advisement all matters affecting Al Anon as a whole, engage in debate, appoint necessary committees and pass suitable motions for the direction of the Board of Trustees and the WSO.

Enhanced Delegate Participation

Topic: Delegates have expressed a concern about their ability to help decide what will be on the agenda at the World Service Conference.

Question: *When did the conference committee which had Delegates on it change to the Conference Leadership Team (CLT) which has no Delegates on it and why was this change made? If no information can be found on this topic, why not and where could it be? What would the process be to allow Delegates to be on the CLT? What would be the advantages?*

Resources:

- Conference Summaries
- Service Manuals (current and past),
- History books like Many Voices, One Journey
- Chosen Agenda Items that have been submitted this year for consideration by the SWRDM members could all be helpful in the research and discussion of this subject

What is the Conference Leadership Team (CLT) and How Has It Evolved?

Conference Leadership Team - Evolution

- The seven-member Conference Leadership Team includes:
 - Chairperson and Co-Chairperson of Conference (both Trustees)
 - Associate Director—Conference (Staff)
 - Chairperson of the Board of Trustees (Trustee)
 - Executive Director (Staff)
 - Director of Programs (Staff)
 - Training & Project Specialist (Staff, ex-officio, non-voting)

NOTE: The current make-up of the Conference Leadership Team is five past Delegates out of six voting members (and seven total members).

Conference Leadership Team - Evolution

- Primary Purpose: Prepare a World Service Conference (WSC) agenda that facilitates the active voice and effective group conscience of the fellowship
- The Conference Committee was restructured to form the Conference Leadership Team (CLT) in July 2007 on a trial basis [2008 Conference Summary], which ended in 2010
 - As part of the 2007-2008 Strategic Plan:
 - Goal: “to help the Team focus on a coherent schedule and goals for the Conference at an earlier date”
 - “Representation from WSO volunteers and staff is providing for more successful communication and providing clarity”
 - It was felt the CLT would be more efficient as a smaller size made up of 7 key people

Conference Leadership Team – Delegate Participation

When did the conference committee which had Delegates on it change to the Conference Leadership Team (CLT) which has no Delegates on it and why was this change made?

The Conference Committee did not have Delegates serving on it directly – Delegates participated on subcommittees: Agenda Committee & Admissions/Handbook Committee

- Agenda Committee – (merged w/ Admissions/Handbook; disbanded in 1989)
 - Requested Delegates to ask their Areas to submit agenda topics then reviewed the topics, questions, and suggestions before forwarding on to the Conference Committee for review.
 - Ultimately, the Board of Trustees approves the Conference Agenda.
- Admissions/Handbook Committee: Subcommittee of the Conference Committee chaired by a Trustee with Delegate participation (Disbanded 2009)
 - Admissions: Made recommendations for seating motions at the World Service Conference.
 - Handbook: Made recommendations for updates to the World Service Conference Handbook portion of the *Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual*.

Delegate Participation in Agenda Setting Today

Delegate Participation In Setting Conference Agenda

- Chosen Agenda Item (CAI) Submission
- Topics Submitted Prior to or at Conference

Chosen Agenda Items – Selection Strategy Evolution

Delegate participation in CAI Submission:

[2008 Conference Summary – Claire R.]

- CAIs part of WSC for 32 years
- Original intent and vision for WSC to have open discussions on topics of interest and affecting AI-Anon as a whole
- Executive Committee, Voting Staff and Trustees also submit topics in 2022, accounts for about 24% of the total
- Interesting contributions:
 - Same topics over and over
 - “I don’t know why submitting topics can’t be a Thought Force or a Task Force. That way we keep Delegate involvement.”
 - “Part of how we identify topics that affect AI-Anon as a whole is to do our homework, study, and use our own big thinking. We don’t have to wait until we come to the Conference to think.”

Delegate participation in CAI Selection:

- CLT can create Task Forces to fact-check/consolidate topics
- Some CAIs can be answered with the Service Manual and are omitted

Delegate Participation In Setting Conference Agenda

- Chosen Agenda Item (CAI) Submission
- Topics Submitted Prior to or at Conference

**Review & Comparison of
Conference Procedures –
Rev. Jan 2019 / Dec 2020 / Jan**

2022 NOTE: 2021 Conf Summary had a section describing the changes to the Conference Procedures Document revised December 2020; 2022 Conf Summary did not have a similar review.

2020 p9/ 2022 p11, Conference Member Participation:
• "If any Conference member other than the Conference Chair initiates a significant deviation from the agenda, a two-thirds vote of the Conference is required in order to proceed."

*There seems to be a distinction made in the text between a Topic and a Motion. Motion is defined in the document; Topic is not defined.
Q: Does there need to be a distinction?
Q: If so, is there a better way to highlight that distinction?*



Topic

Motion

2020 p9/ 2022 p11, Conference Member Participation: Last bullet:
• Any conference member may propose a **topic** for discussion on the Conference Floor."

2020 p10/ 2022 p11, Process for Proposing a Topic for Conference Discussion: After discussion of the topic submitted to the Conference Chair, Item 1: ". . . prior to conference or directly at Conference . . .", Item 6: "If the Conference chooses to pursue a **motion**, a second to the **motion** must come from a voting member of the Conference. -- so motions can come from topics presented at Conference.

NEW TO 2020 p10 - Item 3, under "Process for Proposing a **Topic** for Conference Discussion", the words ". . . before introducing the topic" were replaced with ". . . with enough advance notice . . .".
• Question: Who defines "enough advance notice?"
• Question: As the new issue could be a "significant deviation" from the conference agenda, should the WSC members not decide by 2/3 vote?

NEW TO 2020 p10 - Item 3, under Other factors . . . "The CLT may exercise its traditional Right of Decision and after consideration determine not to pursue a proposed discussion **topic** . . ."
• Question: What about the 2/3 vote on p11?

2020 p8 (Ninth bullet) / 2022 p10 (Tenth bullet) – Role of the Conference Chairperson: "If a **motion** is presented from the floor, the Chair - at his/her discretion and time-permitting - may choose to ask the Conference members, by show of hands, the wishes of the Conference: to discuss or not to discuss."
• The words ". . . following a full discussion . . ." were added in 2022 and the words "to discuss or not discuss" were changed to "to move to a motion" in 2022

NEW TO 2020 p10 - Item 3, under Other factors . . . ". . . The Process for Presenting a Floor Motion" section of the Conference Procedures document has been omitted from this update."
• Question: Even if a potential **significant deviation** arrives as a **motion**, the Conference can discuss after a motion is made and before voting. Why was the process removed from this version?
• Question: Should a floor **motion** enjoy the same 2/3 vote consideration as a **topic**? The language above on "significant deviation" makes no distinction between **topic** and **motion**.

2022 p13 - Policy **motions** & BOT **motions** -- Conference member review period reduced from "several weeks" to "a couple of weeks, *when possible*"

The text is contradictory: The option to bring a motion to the floor remains while the process was removed.

The new language appears to be limiting and indefinite.

The new language appears to be limiting and indefinite.

The new language contradicts the 2/3 vote language.

Southwest Regional Delegates' Conference Agenda Item (CAI)

Chosen Agenda Item (CAI)

Topic:

Enhancing unity by allowing the groups a greater voice through their Delegate at WSC by having Delegates serve on the Conference Leadership Team.

Rationale:

How do we encourage involvement in Al-Anon at all levels? Often through participation and conversations. Having Delegates serve and actively participate on the CLT ensures that Area perspectives are presented. It also encourages more participation & conversations with WSO, Board of Trustees, Areas and groups, thus creating more awareness among all Al-Anon members. Through awareness and conversation, there is more inclusivity, connection, being part of Al-Anon as a whole.

2023 Colorado CAI

Role of the Delegate

Service Manual – Concept 3 – Right of Decision –

As indicated in Concept Three, if the groups, sensing their great power, should try to overexercise that power by directing their Delegates how to vote at the WSC, those Delegates would feel they were neither participants nor trusted servants.

2023 Colorado CAI

- Topic:

With waning service participation at all levels and critical to our survival, how does our increasing number of members of other 12 step programs become relevant to the diversity discussion?

- Rationale:

With 30% of Al-Anon members being in other 12 step programs, including AA, what spiritual principles and benefits are we missing when we limit members' service opportunities? By limiting a member's opportunity to serve at all service levels are we stifling the spiritual principle of diversity?

Discussion . . .