

Conference Leadership Team Update

April 2019

Jennie M., Outgoing Chairperson

Rosie M., Incoming Chairperson

Action Is Attraction – There Is No Growth in the Comfort Zone
L'action, c'est l'attrait – Il n'y a pas de croissance dans la zone de confort
La acción es atracción – No hay crecimiento en la zona de comodidad

The 2019 World Service Conference (WSC) was held at the Sheraton Oceanfront Hotel, 3501 Atlantic Ave., Virginia Beach, Virginia 23451. Our 2019 Conference theme indicated above was derived from the suggestions made by 2018 Conference members. It set the tone and agenda for Conference. Registration opened on Saturday, April 13, and was followed by a task force presentation, Sharing Area Highlights, committee and task and thought force meetings, and an opening dinner talk by our Executive Committee Chairperson. Conference officially opened Sunday, April 14, and ended on Wednesday, April 17, with a closing dinner to acknowledge outgoing Conference members' service and dedication to Al-Anon Family Groups.

Conference members actively participated in Al-Anon's annual business meeting and were well prepared and informed, thanks to all the work done by our Associate Director—Conference, who, with the support of the Administrative Assistant, posted numerous documents on AFG Connects prior to the Conference. We are grateful to the World Service Office Digital Strategy Team, who provided us with our Conference app, which was used by Conference members to view the agenda and hotel information and participate in the very lively social stream. This year, a voting app replaced the clickers. For the first time ever, our trilingual World Service Conference Structure hosted a trilingual World Service Conference; simultaneous interpretation was offered in French and Spanish during the event. This allowed our non-English-speaking Conference members and international guest to fully participate. Conference members were supportive and excited as they witnessed this valuable resource and the contributions it created.

The New Member Orientation Session relayed a warm welcome. It focused on Al-Anon's Twelve Concepts of Service and how they define our World Service Structure and members' participation at Conference. The full WSC agenda covered financial information, topics critical to Al-Anon's future, news of our international outreach and updates, and two Chosen Agenda Item (CAI) breakout sessions, which were voted on by Conference members, along with one Board of Trustees CAI. The WSO Staff provided updates about their current work at the WSO.

Planning has commenced for the 2020 World Service Conference. Once again, it will be held at the Sheraton Oceanfront Hotel, 3501 Atlantic Ave., Virginia Beach, Virginia 23451. Delegates are scheduled to arrive on Sunday, April 19, 2020 and depart on Saturday, April 25, 2020.

The Conference Leadership Team members will collaborate and review the 2019 Conference evaluations, which will assist them in establishing the 2020 World Service Conference agenda. Our next Conference will continue to facilitate the active voice and effective group conscience of our fellowship. This is our primary purpose. There is no growth in the comfort zone!

To each and every Conference member, we relay a heartfelt thank-you for your active participation in this year's WSC agenda and in all discussions that were held over the course of the Conference. This week you conveyed your dedication, joy for service, and application of the spiritual principles. Your hard work and dedication were evident and present. We would like to

thank all Area members who abundantly took the time to send cards and love gifts. Your time and energy in doing so reflected your amazing loving support. It was greatly appreciated.

The six members who serve on your Conference Leadership Team include the Associate Director—Conference; the Chair and Co-Chair of Conference, both Trustees; the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees; the WSO Executive Director; and the Director of Programs.