

Celebrating One Day at a Time

AI-Anon's International Convention 2018

BOARD VISION STATEMENT

All people affected by someone else's drinking will find help and recovery in every community.

BOARD MISSION STATEMENT

Anticipate the future and AI-Anon's place in it and ensure that the necessary resources are available.

STRATEGIC PLAN PRIORITIES

AI-Anon's spiritual principles permeate our policies and practices; we apply emerging technology and communication options:

- **To increase the visibility of AI-Anon so that it is recognized as the number one resource throughout the world for helping friends and families of alcoholics.**
- **To empower the AI-Anon fellowship to be vibrant, inclusive and flexible.**
- **To achieve a viable future for AI-Anon Family Groups, the Board will be adaptive and strategic in its use of talents, skills, and abilities.**

January 2018

Dear AI-Anon and Alateen Members,

With the start of a new year, we welcome our new Panel 58 Delegates as members of our largest representative group conscience, the World Service Conference (WSC). The 2018 World Service Conference will be held this April in West Harrison, New York. A part of this year's Conference will include a return to the roots of AI-Anon's beginnings with a visit to Stepping Stones, the home of our Co-founder, Lois, and her husband, Bill Wilson. The Board, Executive Committee members, World Service Office (WSO) Staff and your fellow Delegates wish you every success along with the knowledge that we are here to support and encourage you on this new journey in service.

January Board Week began on Sunday, January 21st with a morning meeting of the International Coordination Committee (ICC). The ICC is finalizing plans for the 2018 International AI-Anon General Services Meeting (IAGSM) being held this October in Virginia Beach. This year's theme, "Leading by Example: Structures Supporting Structures" is the foundation for planned workshops and General Sessions and



demonstrates the primary purpose of the IAGSM. The Nominating Committee met Sunday afternoon; Finance and Executive Committees met on Monday; Policy Committee met on Tuesday morning; and the Conference Leadership Team (CLT) met on Tuesday afternoon. Updates from our Finance, Policy and CLT Chairs can be found at the end of this letter.

As part of the Board's ongoing commitment to self-evaluation and improvement, we met on Tuesday afternoon, along with the Executive Committee for a discussion related to characteristics of exceptional Boards. The purpose of this discussion was to build a benchmark of where the Board sees itself today and what steps we need to take related to making informed decisions, discussions of financial stewardship, succession planning for the Board itself along with strategic thinking and planning. The discussion will be continued at our April Special Board meeting and further topics and activities will be developed with the purpose of continuing to move the Board forward towards fulfilling our primary purpose.

Each January the Board of Trustees meets with Regional Trustee and Trustee at Large candidates. The Trustee "interview luncheons" were held on two days this year, with Trustee at Large candidates interviews on Wednesday and Regional Trustees on Thursday. The selection of Trustees is key to the future of our Board of Trustees as a whole, and ultimately the fellowship we have the privilege of serving. Throughout the selection process, we as a Board keep our minds and hearts opened to the collective understanding and guidance of our Higher Power. Each candidate shares a ten-minute talk, followed by lunch and roundtable interview panels. The Board is responsible for ensuring that the following, as noted on page 206 of the *2018-2021 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual* is upheld, "This [Nominating] Committee aids the Trustees in discharging their prime obligation to see that all vacancies within the Board of Trustees or its Executive Committees are filled with those of the greatest possible competence, stability, and industry."

The list of nominees to be presented to the World Service Conference for traditional approval of Regional Trustees, Trustees at Large, Board Officers, and At-Large member of the Executive Committee for Real Property Management are:

Regional Trustees:

Gail G., Canada West	First three-year term
Cynthia K., US South Central	First three-year term
Chéré F., US Northwest	First three-year term
Thérèse S., Canada East	Second three-year term

Trustees at Large:

Norman W.	Second three-year term
Catherine T.	First three-year term



Board Officers:

Debbie G.
Joan S.
Joyce B.

Chairperson of the Board
Vice-Chairperson of the Board
Treasurer

Following traditional approval, the Board may elect the nominees at the Annual Meeting on Saturday following the World Service Conference.

The following résumés will be presented to all World Service Conference members for their information:

Executive Committee:

Paula B.
Connie H.
J.P. M.

Third one-year term
Third one-year term
Third one-year term

Chairperson of the Executive Committee:

Paula B.

Chairperson of the Executive Committee for Real Property Management:

Tom B.

2018 World Service Conference: is quickly approaching. All Conference members are encouraged to keep a watchful eye on AFG Connects for fast-approaching deadlines and need-to-know information.

In order to assist Conference members in future planning, the Conference Leadership Team (CLT) is providing dates and site locations for the 2019 and 2020 Conferences. Please refer to the CLT Update at the end of this letter for specific dates and locations.

Trustee Visits: As part of the Boards ongoing commitment and strategic goal of “*raising the fellowship's awareness of the Trustees' relationship to the Al-Anon groups and WSC, while articulating and expressing the ‘why’ of the Board's work*”, the Board reviewed our WSO (World Service Office) visits and contacts with Areas over the last several years. These visits were either through a TEAM event, Road Trip! You and Your Board Connect, or through a WSO Staff member or Trustee volunteer visit to the Area. In review of these contacts the Board realized we had not had an opportunity to connect, in person, with 14 Areas throughout the US and Canada. Because the Board believes communication is mutually beneficial, we have established contact with these 14 Areas and offered an opportunity for a member of the Board of Trustees to make a personal visit. The Trustee's transportation, meals, and lodging will be financially supported through the WSO. Letters have been sent the respective Chairs and Delegates within all 14 Areas. The Board is looking forward to scheduling about six



Area visits in 2018 and updating you on where we will be visiting in the April COB Letter.

2019 TEAM Events: As in past practice, TEAM Events were not held this year in order to allow for the planning of our International Convention. TEAM Events will again be held in 2019. Areas can now begin making plans for submitting your 2019 TEAM requests. The Board and Staff are reviewing the current TEAM Event program. Any updates will be shared through AFG Connects and future COB Letters.

Road Trip! You and Your Board Connect: Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 20th when Texas East will host the 2018 Road Trip!

Location: Houston Marriott South at Hobby Airport. Flyers and registration information will be made available in the near future. Information related to hosting the 2019 Road Trip! You and Your Board Connect will be made available to Delegates during the 2018 WSC.

**Celebrating One Day at a Time
2018 International Convention
July 6–8, 2018**

Our 2018 International Convention, in Baltimore, Maryland is fast approaching. I had the recent privilege of spending time with members on the Eastern Shore and can personally attest to the enthusiasm and excitement members from the host and surrounding Areas are exhibiting in anticipation of the upcoming International Convention. They are ready and willing to welcome us to Baltimore!

Registration Fees for the 2018 International Convention as follows:

Before May 31, 2018: \$165.00 USD
After May 31, 2018: \$195.00 USD

You can register and stay connected to “breaking news” related to the 2018 International by clicking on the link located at the top right-hand corner of our al-anon.org website.

Conference Reunion Luncheon: has a new name, **WSC Homecoming**, and a new setting. The **WSC Homecoming** will take place aboard Baltimore’s own Inner Harbor Spirit Cruise! This will be an opportunity to catch up with old friends and make new ones on a luncheon cruise around the Baltimore harbor. Past and current Conference members are welcome to attend. The **WSC Homecoming** will take place on Friday, July 6, 2018. Space is limited, tickets will be available for purchase at the International Convention website link beginning late February for \$70.



Commemorative edition of *One Day at a Time in Al-Anon (ODAT) (B-6)*: This special edition of the *ODAT* will be available at the 2018 International Convention and for the remainder of 2018 until supplies are gone. The commemorative edition will include a ribbon bookmark and front cover indicating “50th Anniversary.” The commemorative edition will be available in English, French and Spanish for sale starting at the 2018 Al-Anon International Convention, with a bookplate to be offered only at the Convention. A limited number of books will be printed and available for a purchase price of \$15 US each.

2018 Day of Connecting: plans are finalized and Trustees and Staff are excited to meet you at the Day of Connecting being held on Thursday, July 5th in Baltimore. Please keep in mind that the Day of Connecting registration is a separate fee of \$40 and will increase to \$45 after May 31, 2018.

Forum Articles — *Trustee Letters from the Heart*: The Board sends our thanks and gratitude for those members who took the time to respond to the online survey requesting your input regarding the Trustee articles which appeared throughout the past year in *The Forum*. Your honest input will assist the Board in gaining a greater understanding of how the fellowship views the work, composition of and process involved in becoming a member of the Board of Trustees. We look forward to the continued opportunities to reach out to the fellowship and share of ourselves along with the work of the Board as a whole.

Delegate Calls: Two weeks following the posting of this letter, the Trustees will begin making contact with their assigned Delegate. The purpose of this contact is to serve as a resource for clarification or questions from this letter, if desired. If you prefer not to have the Trustee phone you, please let him/her know when the initial contact is made.

Define ways in which the Board of Trustees can support you in your role as Delegate?

In closing, on behalf of the Board and the Staff of our WSO, thank you for the \$1,972,931 in contributions received in 2017 and literature sales of \$3,523,843 (based on unaudited financial statements). The 2017 contributions reflect our second highest year of contributions. Literature sales reflect an increase of \$186,192 from 2016. More importantly your contributions and literature sales reflect the resources necessary for our Staff to develop and provide the following new programs and services in 2017 and beyond:

- Completion of the newly designed al-anon.org website
- Completion of the newly designed Members link on the al-anon.org website
- Ability to hire and retain Staff versus the expense of outside consulting
- Completion of the new meeting search
- Ability to not only look to the future but the continued commitment to our primary purpose of reaching families and friends of alcoholics.



This past year has been one of change, some challenges but mostly gratitude beyond expression for the many ways in which we as members ensure that those affected by someone else's drinking continue to find help and hope in every community. Whether it is through the action of opening the meeting door, setting up chairs, chairing a meeting, answering phones, sitting with a newcomer or long-term member seeking hope, we are all part of the collective pieces that form our fellowship. I look forward to 2018 and the possibility of meeting you along the way.

With much gratitude and respect,



Debbie L. G.

Chairperson

Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc. Board of Trustees



Jennie M., Treasurer

The following update is based on the unaudited financial statements for the period that ended December 31, 2017:

The General Fund recorded a loss of \$67,213 for this period, compared to a gain of \$78,821 this period last year. That represents a net negative of \$146,034 over this period last year. Revenue from literature sales was \$53,583 ahead that of 2016 and beat budgeted expectations by \$68,460. The General Fund investment income totaled about \$49,000. We have transferred \$189,600 from the Reserve Fund to the General Fund, as budgeted.

Income:

Literature sales were \$3,523,843 for this period, compared to \$3,337,651 at this time last year. Gross profit on literature sales was \$2,768,460 (81% of sales), compared to \$2,714,877 for 2016. Contributions are at \$1,972,931 for 2017, compared to \$2,098,098 last year—a decrease of 6% and falling short of budgeted projections by \$127,000 for the year. *Forum* subscriptions exceeded budgeted projections by an impressive \$14,000 in 2017, an increase of 5% over last year.

Expenses:

Actual operating expenses were \$5,276,835 for the year, compared to \$5,142,217 last year and slightly over budget. There were no surprises in any of the expense categories. Intense scrutiny of the expenditures throughout the year ensured that we would end the year close to budget.

Reserve Fund:

The fair value of investments in the Reserve Fund totaled \$5,855,854 at December 31, 2017, an increase in value of almost \$734,000 for this year reflecting the overall increased value found in the equities market.

Outlook:

Although we fell short of our budgeted amount for contributions, literature sales were unexpectedly strong and allowed us to end with a relatively small deficit. We are encouraged that members understand the need and will continue to support the efforts of the World Service Office.

Policy Committee Update

January 2018

John M., Chairperson

Bruce F., Co-Chairperson

The purpose of the update sent each quarter by the Chairperson of the Policy Committee is to report progress and provide information on the following:

- Topics that are generated by the fellowship and discussed by the Policy Committee, issues or concerns that need clarification or interpretation in light of the Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts of Service
- Policy motions to be presented to the World Service Conference (WSC)
- Policy motions passed by the WSC

During the January 2018 Policy Committee meeting, we began discussing revisions to the “Digest of Al-Anon and Alateen Policies.” We are beginning with the sections titled “Membership and Group Meetings/Conventions” and “Alateen Policy.”

We heard a report from the Electronic/Virtual Meetings Work Group who will be leading a discussion at the WSC about Electronic/Virtual meetings.

Our discussion about revising the Alateen Preamble led to the decision that the WSO Staff will draft the Alateen Preamble and present it to the Policy Committee.

The Open Policy Committee meeting at the 2018 WSC will address two topics important to Al-Anon’s future: meditation meetings and Policy Committee Interim Action procedures.

Policy statements are interpretations of our basic guides, the Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts. They help clarify how a Tradition or Concept might apply to a new or confusing situation that arises in Al-Anon or Alateen. Changes and additions to the Policy Digest are made only as circumstances and our growth requires, since anticipating and including every specific situation would be impossible. As always, the Policy Committee welcomes all questions and suggestions from any Al-Anon and Alateen member, group, or Area regarding issues that might need further clarification or interpretation in light of our Legacies.



Conference Leadership Team (CLT) Update

January 2018

Judy K., Chairperson

Teri M., Co-Chairperson

The purpose and responsibility of the Conference Leadership Team (CLT) is to prepare a World Service Conference agenda that facilitates the active voice and effective group conscience of our fellowship. We are keeping the 2018 Conference theme “**Al-Anon – There is no standing still!**” forefront in our minds as we continue preparations for the annual Conference in West Harrison, New York, not far from Stepping Stones.

All Conference members will visit the home of our Co-founder, Lois W., on Wednesday morning, April 18, 2018. This visit is a special time for Conference members to gain a glimpse into the history of our fellowship and the life of Lois W. In the memoir *Lois Remembers* (B-7) Lois shares her personal story of early struggles, some heartbreaking and some hilarious, all from a unique perspective. She recounts how the Twelve Steps and the Twelve Traditions were later adopted by Al-Anon. Lois’ story remains timeless. Check out that book!

Chosen Agenda items suggested for Conference discussion were due February 1st. That means the topics are now being compiled and fact-checked by a Task Force that includes two Delegates. Two other Delegates are working with the Conference Chair to group the submissions into similar topics for posting to AFG Connects. All Conference members vote on the topics they prefer to discuss. Another Task Force of ten Delegates is preparing presentations on our Conference Etiquette, Conference Theme, Conference Goals, and Conference Voting Procedures.

In order to assist Conference members in future planning, CLT is providing dates for future Conferences:

2019 World Service Conference

Delegates are scheduled to arrive on Friday, April 12, 2019 and depart on Thursday, April 18, 2019. The Conference will be held at the Sheraton Virginia Beach Oceanfront Hotel, 3501 Atlantic Ave., Virginia Beach, VA 23451.

2020 World Service Conference

The 2020 World Service Conference will also be at the Sheraton, and Delegates are scheduled to arrive on Sunday, April 19, 2020 and depart on Saturday, April 25, 2020.

As these updates reveal, CLT is not standing still! For this year, however, we look forward to seeing you soon at the Renaissance Westchester Hotel, 80 W. Red Oak Lane, West Harrison, NY 10604. Registration for Conference begins on Sunday, April 15, 2018. The Conference ends Friday, April 20, 2018, with the Annual Open Board Meeting on Saturday, April 21st. All Delegates are invited to attend.



With all Conference members contributing in some way to make the 2018 WSC agenda productive, we are definitely not standing still! New York, here we come!!

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



Al-Anon Family Groups
Help and hope for families and friends of alcoholics