

### **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 Al-Anon's place in it and ensure that the necessary resources are available.**

July 29, 2016

Dear Al-Anon and Alateen members:

The purpose of this Chairperson of the Board letter is to share highlights from the 2016 July Board of Trustees meeting. You will also find updates from our Policy Chair and Co-Chair, our Treasurer, and the Conference Leadership Team (CLT).

The WSO Administrative Team joined Board and Executive Committee members in a Board development activity related to the Board's Duty of Foresight: looking continuously toward the future. We had the opportunity to consider ways in which we can change our thinking; how to remain focused on forward thinking while the world around us is constantly in change; why foresight is vital and critical to our future; and what societal transformations confront Al-Anon at this time, and how these transformations necessitate foresight. The Board and staff are only beginning to consider how we can work together in developing a clear-eyed and focused discipline on our future. A Strategic Planning session followed, with the Board and staff working together in clarifying the forward direction of the WSO. The conversation is ongoing, with a focus on clarifying how current work is meeting the Strategic Plan priorities.

The Board, Executive Committee, and staff participated in a “*Meet and Greet*” to introduce staff, Board, and Executive members to each other. Everyone enjoyed the food, laughter, and an opportunity to get to know each other. The “*Meet and Greet*” will continue as an annual July gathering.

The Board continued our review of suggested language changes to the World Service Handbook. The Task Force has been diligent in their review and in bringing suggested changes to the Board for approval. Our goal is to complete the revisions for presentation during the 2017 World Service Conference.

The 2017 World Service Conference will be held April 24-28 at the Wyndham Oceanfront in Virginia Beach. The Conference Leadership Team reported 2016 WSC evaluations were positive, with highlights being the Finance presentation and subsequent breakout sessions. Evaluations reflected a noted relaxed and congenial atmosphere throughout the conference. Of special note were comments reflecting appreciation for the opportunity to participate in offering suggestions for the 2017 Conference theme, along with a new title for the Meet the Board Event. The Board enthusiastically approved the 2017 World Service Conference theme:

**Our Members: Our Hope for the Future**  
**Nuestros miembros: nuestra esperanza para el futuro**  
**Nos membres : notre espoir pour l’avenir**

The International Coordination Committee shared information related to the 2016 International Al-Anon General Services Meeting (IAGSM) being held October 5-8, 2016 in Rome, Italy, with the theme, “*Sharing Worldwide Diversity: Strengthening Our Growth*”. The following structures have indicated their plans to participate: Argentina, Australia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, India, Italy, Mexico New Zealand, Paraguay, Poland, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, and UK & Eire, with an additional two structures considering. India will be attending for the first time.

The ICC recommended, and the Board, within its legal authority, gave approval to Southeastern Ukraine, which is the registered Al-Anon Information Service (AIS), to reprint Al-Anon/Alateen Conference Approved Literature. Approval was also given to consider Slovenia as a Trial General Service Office.

Anyone interested in traveling to Fayetteville, Arkansas? The 2016 Meet the Board will be held in Fayetteville on Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>. Members of the Arkansas Area are enthusiastically preparing for your arrival. Details on how to register will be posted in the near future on AFG Connects. The Meet the Board Work Group reviewed the suggested name changes received during this year's Conference. The Board approved the following as the new title for Meet the Board:

### **Road Trip! You and Your Board Connect**

Consider this your personal invitation to "get in the car" and connect with your Board.

As part of the Board's oversight responsibilities, we meet at least yearly with the Web Architect to gain a broader perspective of how technology assists our members and potential members. We are excited to share that the Meeting Search Web Application is allowing visitors to the Public Outreach site to find meetings quickly based on up-to-the-minute data from the WSO database. Since the beginning of the year, there have been almost 400,000 visitors to the Al-Anon page, 40,000 for Alateen, and 40,000 for phone meetings. Since the release, the office has added an update to improve the search for addresses that include words that can be spelled or abbreviated in different ways, such as: Saint and St., North and N, etc.

Areas have been busy planning TEAM events for 2017. As of this writing, the following TEAM events have been approved for 2017: Minnesota South, Florida North, Saskatchewan, Montana/Idaho, and Nevada. When considering possible TEAM events for your Area, please keep in mind there is a cap of nine TEAM events per calendar year.

With each Chairperson of the Board letter following the Quarterly Board meeting, we offer an opportunity for a Delegate/Trustee Call. As a reminder, the purpose of the call is to: clarify any questions related to the content of the COB letter; gain insight on a question that is typically presented, and offer an independent resource for potential Area concerns. The question for this call is:

**Is your Area currently planning on hosting a Team Event in 2017?  
If yes, what are the proposed dates and location?**

If you prefer not to have the Trustee phone you, please let him/her know when the initial contact is made. To assist the Board in reviewing the Delegate comments at the October Board meeting, please respond to the above question before **September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016**.

In closing, the Board would like to thank our members for the overwhelming response to the last appeal letter. Updated financials are included within the attached Financial update. We also want to thank those members who have taken advantage of the updated "Contribute Now" button on our member's Web site. You can now set up recurring contributions with a simple click. The new on-line contribution feature was enabled on May 24<sup>th</sup>. As of June 30<sup>th</sup> we have received \$5,800 in contributions. That is comprised of 102 contributions; 17 of which have signed up to be recurring contributions.

In gratitude,



Debbie G.  
Chairperson of the Board of Trustees

## FINANCE UPDATE

Jennie M., Treasurer

July 2016

The following update is based on the unaudited financial statements for the period ended June 30, 2016: The General Fund recorded a gain of \$341,930 for this period, compared to a loss of \$54,971 this period last year. This is due in part to higher than budgeted literature sales and lower than budgeted expenses. Revenue from literature sales was below 2015 revenue by \$51,494. The investment income and transfer from the Reserve Fund totaled \$130,722 compared to \$25,255 in 2015. 2016 Contributions for the first six months exceeded 2015 Contributions by \$191,428.

### **Income:**

Literature sales were \$1,845,798 for this period, compared to \$1,851,530 at this time last year. Gross profit on literature sales was \$1,495,171 (81% of sales), compared to \$1,546,665 at June 30, 2015. Contributions were \$918,718 for the first six months of 2016, compared to \$727,290 this period last year—an increase of 26.32%! *Forum* subscription income was \$118,964 at June 30, 2016, an increase of 3.16%. This reflects the additional subscriptions purchased due to the suspension of the complimentary group copies of the *Forum*.

### **Expenses:**

Operating expenses were \$2,321,645 for the period, compared to \$2,469,500 last year – a decrease of almost 6%. Expenses were below budget, due to some staffing changes and some timing differences for purchase year over year.

### **Reserve Fund:**

The fair value of investments in the Reserve Fund totaled \$4,864,883 at June 30, 2016.

### **Outlook:**

As you can see by the revenue numbers, our members have responded, just as our cofounder Lois said we would. We have a long way to go to meet our budgeted projection of \$1,800,000 in contributions. We are more than half way there due to our collective efforts. June 2016 was our biggest month ever for contributions, far outpacing our previous best month. If we continue to express our gratitude and financial abundance in like manner for the rest of 2016 and beyond, the World Service Office will be able to support us well in our efforts to carry the message and reach out to those still suffering from the effects of someone else's drinking. As part of our duty to keep a watchful eye on expenditures, the Finance Committee continues to find places to cut expenditures while not affecting core services to the members.

## Policy Committee Update

July 2016

Judy K., Chair

Donna E., Co-Chair

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

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

The Policy Committee continues its work on incorporating spiritual principles into the text portion of the 'Financial Matters' section of the "Policy Digest," as well as revising the text of 'Convention and Other Events' formerly title 'Conventions,' pages 85 and 86, of the *2014 -2017 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual (P-24/27)*. The 'Conventions and Other Events' policy was presented in a motion to the 2016 World Service Conference (WSC); however, a consensus affirmed that the language be re-worked and brought back in 2017.

The Policy Committee continued its discussion of the terms "open" and "closed" meetings using KBDM, and considered strategies that might eliminate any confusion these terms cause for the public and even for Al-Anon members. At the Open Policy Meeting in April, the Policy Committee first discussed this topic in light of Tradition Five, the principle of being welcoming, and Tradition Twelve, maintaining anonymity of members.

More than one Al-Anon member has asked the Policy Committee whether or not the WSO accepts money from a program in which individuals can sign up to support their favorite non-profit organization. The Policy Committee unanimously agreed that Al-Anon does not accept contributions from any program like this because it is impossible to know whether or not the donations (percentage of the amount spent by the consumer) come from Al-Anon members. In addition, the proceeds donated are from outside entities, e.g., the charitable foundation of a business. Accepting any contributions of this type violates our Traditions.

The WSO Policy Committee appreciates members inquiring about matters that affect Al-Anon as a whole. We welcome all inquiries and suggestions from Al-Anon and Alateen members regarding issues that need clarification or interpretation in light of our Traditions and Concepts.

## **Conference Leadership Team – July 2016 - Tina B., Chair**

*The purpose of the Conference Leadership Team (CLT) update is to communicate the agenda planning activities for the World Service Conference. Planning begins at the close of the prior Conference with review of the evaluations and insights offered by WSC members at the conclusion. The agenda topics are determined by the World Service Conference's request for more information, for Thought Forces and Task Forces, and direction to the Committees.*

It was very inspiring for the Conference Leadership Team to have input from the 2016 World Service Conference members on the theme for the 2017 conference. Although sticky notes are small, they can carry a very spiritual message! From those little notes and our Higher Power's guidance, we came together on the 2017 theme quickly and the BOT heartily approved. As reported in this COB letter, the theme for the 2017 World Service Conference is: "Our Members: Our Hope for the Future".

Thank you to all of the Delegates who contributed their thoughts to the question posed during the last round of Delegate/Trustee calls with regard to the Thought Force working on Delegate contributions to the WSC agenda. Your responses were compiled and given to the WSC Agenda Thought Force to include with their efforts. We look forward to the Thought Force's presentation at the 2017 WSC.