



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

phone: 757.563.1600
fax: 757.563.1656

al-anon.org
wso@al-anon.org

February 2017

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.

STRATEGIC PLAN PRIORITIES

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

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

Dear Al-Anon and Alateen Members,

First things first. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, we would like to welcome our new World Service Conference (WSC) members, Panel 57. Please know we are here to support you as you begin your new journey in service. We look forward to welcoming you in April!

For the first time in a few years, the weather did not impose travel delays or the ability for any of the Trustees to not be physically present during January Board week. There was a lost piece of luggage that finally arrived on our third day.

Board Week began with the Nominating Committee meeting during the morning of Sunday, January 22nd. It was followed by an afternoon meeting of the International Coordination Committee (ICC). Finance and Executive Committees met on Monday along with the Board's Strategic Plan Oversight Work Group. The Policy Committee met on Tuesday morning; Conference Leadership Team (CLT), Board Committees, and Thought and Task Forces met during the afternoon. The Board of Trustees began our meeting on Wednesday morning with a strategic planning session with staff. The week ended with a surprise retirement party for David Zach, Director of Business Services (non-member). The staff planned a special evening celebrating David's years of service to the World Service Office (WSO). David's retirement date is February 24th. Retirement wishes can be sent to David at the WSO.

Finances: The overwhelming news for 2016 was related to contributions. For the first-time contributions reached two million, \$2,098,098 U.S. to be exact. Contributions for 2016 exceeded those received in 2015 by \$448,761 which allowed us to return any transfers from the Reserve Fund back to the Reserve Fund. Our members' response to our appeal letters affirms this year's Conference theme: Our Members: Our Hope for the Future. Please see the attached Finance update for further information.

Road Trip! You and Your Board Connect: Site selection for the 2017 Road Trip! You and Your Board Connect (formerly Meet the Board) was recently announced. We look forward to joining members from Colorado and perhaps a few additional members from other Areas.

Alateen Work Group (AWG): The purpose of the Alateen Work Group (AWG) was to provide guidance for the activities of Alateen by identifying and articulating the needs of teenage members and to assure Alateen interests were considered.

The Alateen Work Group (AWG) was established with the intent that adults would form the Work Group and would engage teens by involving them in task and thought forces. This led to a three-year trial of the Alateen Work Group from 2012-2014. It is currently in a second three-year trial, with a tentative end date of October 2017.

Following an in-depth and nearly year-long review and study of the purpose, intent, and outcome of the Work Group by its parent Executive Committee along with the input of the WSO staff and Trustee members of the Alateen Work Group; it was determined that the current format did not provide any added value to the Alateen services regularly provided by the WSO. The struggle to obtain teen participation was unsuccessful despite the varied methods that were attempted over five-plus years. As a result, the Chairman of the Board asked the Executive Committee to discuss the strategic implication for Alateen services should the trial end. It was determined that there would be no consequence to Alateen services since the WSO would continue to maintain the focus on Alateen members just as they do for all AI-Anon member services including AMIAs and Alateen Coordinators whose voices are heard and acted upon.

A motion came before the Board as follows: *The Alateen Work Group trial period ending in October 2017 not be extended and the Alateen Advisory Committee as described in Concept Eleven be disbanded.*

The Board wishes to assure members that disbanding the Alateen Work Group will not affect current or future services provided by our WSO to or for Alateen which will remain an important and essential area of focus.

2018 International: Plans continue to evolve for our 2018 International Convention, to be held in Baltimore, Maryland on July 5-8th:

**Celebrating One Day at a Time
2018 International Convention**

The Board approved registration fees for the 2018 International Convention as follows:

Before December 31, 2017:	\$130.00 U.S.
Before May 31, 2018:	\$165.00 U.S.
After May 31, 2018:	\$195.00 U.S.

You can stay connected to “breaking news” related to the 2018 International on the International Convention Web site: www.al-anoninternationalconvention.org

Interim Actions of the Board

While the Board of Trustees meets quarterly, the work of the WSO continues on a daily basis. In an effort to allow our staff the opportunity to move forward with proposed projects, the Board has started using technology as a means of sharing information between Board meetings. This allows Board members the opportunity to review, discuss and move motions forward in a timely manner. In turn, proposed projects can begin as needed rather than waiting for Board approval during our quarterly Board meetings. The use of Interim Actions of the Board is in keeping with our legal rights and in support of our Mission and Vision Statements and Strategic Plan Priorities.

The following Interim Actions were taken by the Board during the time period of November/December 2016:

In an effort to assist in decreasing budgeted expenses, reduce costs and to apply the use of emerging technology and communication options, the Board of Trustees approved the following recommendations from the Finance Committee:

World Service Conference Summary (P-46)

The Board voted to accept the Finance Committee’s recommendation to discontinue the complimentary printed copy of the *World Service Conference Summary (P-46)* to all World Service Conference (WSC) members, past WSC members, and Area World Service Committee members beginning in 2017. A digital copy will continue to be available on-line. Printed copies will be available for purchase for those who desire a hard copy. The *Conference Summary* will be priced to cover the costs of printing and shipping.

Complimentary printed copy of the Service Manual (P24-27)

The Board voted to discontinue the complimentary printed copy of the *Service Manual (P24-27)* in English, French, and Spanish to groups within the World Service Structure beginning in 2018. A digital copy of the most current version will continue to be available on-line to each registered group. Printed copies will be available for purchase. All newly registered groups will continue to receive a complimentary printed copy as part of the registration process.

How Al-Anon Works for Families and Friend of Alcoholics (B-32)

Both as an outreach tool and as a contributor to revenue, the softcover version of *How Al-Anon Works* is considered a success. Based on these facts, the Board

approved to end the trial of selling the softcover version of *How Al-Anon Works for Families and Friend of Alcoholics* (B-32) as a Public Outreach project within the World Service Structure and to adopt printing the soft cover version in English, French, and Spanish for general sales. The price will remain at \$6 per copy and no discounts offered.

The Board is responsible for ensuring that the following, as noted on page 210 of the *2014-2017 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 an At-Large member of the Executive Committee for Real Property Management are:

Regional Trustee:

Joyce B., U.S. Southwest	Second three-year term
--------------------------	------------------------

Trustees at Large:

Terry F.	Second three-year term
John McL.	Second three-year term
Therese M.	First three-year term
Norm W.	Last year of first three-year term

Board Officers:

Debbie G.	Chairperson of the Board
Marilyn M.	Vice-Chairperson of the Board
Elizabeth (Jennie) McC.	Treasurer

Executive Committee for Real Property Management:

Sue C.	Three-year term
--------	-----------------

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.	Second one-year term
Connie H.	Second one-year term
J.P. M.	Third one-year term

Chairperson of the Executive Committee:

Paula B.

Chairperson of the Executive Committee for Real Property Management:
Jeffrey K.

With each Chairperson of the Board letter following the quarterly Board meeting, there is an opportunity for a Delegate/Trustee call. Panel 57 Delegates will be contacted by the Trustee assigned to the respective outgoing Delegate. The purpose is to clarify any questions related to the content of this letter; gain insight on a question that is typically presented; and offer an independent resource for potential Area concerns. If you prefer not to have the Trustee phone you, please let him/her know when the initial contact is made. It is not a venue to advocate a position to the Board of Trustees. Due to the amount of information within this quarter's COB letter, as well as the Policy, Finance, and CLT updates, rather than asking a specific question, we are offering the Trustee call as an opportunity to focus on the content within and an opportunity to respond to any questions or need for clarification.

With the conclusion of each Board meeting, I am filled with gratitude and great hope for our future. Our Board is unified in our work; our staff is moving ahead with new ways to reach new members and keep our current members connected. We place our spiritual principles within every conversation and behind every decision. I have every confidence that we have a bright future ahead.

In gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Debbie G." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Debbie G.
Chairperson of the Board of Trustees

Policy Committee Update

January 2017

Judy K., Chairperson

Donna E., 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

The Policy Committee finalized its work on incorporating spiritual principles into the text portions of the “Financial Matters” section of the Policy Digest, pp. 95-99. This revised, proposed text will be presented to the 2017 World Service Conference (WSC) for consideration.

The Policy Committee also finalized its proposed revision of the text “Conventions and Other Events,” pp. 85-86, and pp. 123-124 of the Policy Digest. The revised text includes core spiritual principles that characterize AI-Anon events as well as suggested criteria by which these activities can be recognized or identified as AI-Anon. Guidelines for announcing conventions and events are also included in the proposed text.

The Policy Committee reviewed the Delegate feedback posted on AFG Connects about the “open” and “closed” designations for meetings. It will present the compiled comments to the WSC for Conference members to review and pursue any changes in terminology if desired. The discussion about “open” and “closed” has revolved around Tradition Five, the principle of being welcoming, and Tradition Twelve, maintaining anonymity of members.

The Open Policy Committee meeting at the 2017 WSC will address two topics important to A-Anon’s future: electronic (on-line) AI-Anon meetings and Tradition Four and Warrantly Four, understanding group autonomy.

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 AI-Anon or Alateen. Changes and additions to the Policy Digest are made only as circumstances and our growth require, since anticipating and including every specific situation would be impossible. As always, the Policy Committee welcomes all questions and suggestions from any AI-Anon and Alateen member, group, or Area regarding issues that might need further clarification or interpretation in light of our Legacies.

Finance Committee Update

Jennie M., Treasurer

January 2017

The following update is based on the unaudited financial statements for the period ended December 31, 2016:

The General Fund recorded a gain of \$88,153 for this period, compared to a loss of \$361,025 this period last year. That represents an improvement of \$449,178 over this period last year. This is mainly due to an increase in contributions. Revenue from literature sales was slightly below that of 2015, but exceeded budgeted expectations by almost \$115,000. The General Fund investment income totaled \$17,000 but was offset by currency exchange costs of \$49,000. The big news is that 2016 Contributions for the year exceeded 2015 Contributions by \$448,761 which allowed us to return any transfers from the Reserve Fund back to the Reserve Fund.

Income:

Literature sales were \$3,337,651 for this period, compared to \$3,415,146 U.S. at this time last year. Gross profit on literature sales was \$2,714,877 U.S. (81% of sales), compared to \$2,822,801 for 2015. Contributions were \$2,098,098 for 2016, compared to \$1,649,337 last year—an increase of 27.21% and exceeding budgeted projections by almost 17%! *Forum* subscription income was \$251,900 for 2016, an increase of 9.18%. This reflects the additional subscriptions purchased due to the suspension of the complimentary group copies of *The Forum*.

Expenses:

Actual operating expenses were \$4,945,884 for the year, compared to \$5,115,292 last year and slightly under budget. Expenses were below budget due to some staffing changes and some cost-saving implementations during the year.

Reserve Fund:

The fair value of investments in the Reserve Fund totaled \$5,135,790 at December 31, 2016.

Outlook:

Having exceeded budgeted projections of contributions by such a large margin, we were able to end the year with a surplus without drawing from the Reserve Fund. If we are able to sustain this level of contributions and even increase it a bit each year, Al-Anon Family Groups and the World Service Office will be able to offer services and support those carrying the message in the coming years.

Conference Leadership Team Update

Tina B., Chairperson

January 2017

Our Members: Our Hope for the Future
Nuestros miembros: Nuestra Esperanza para el Futuro
Nos membres: Notre Espoir pour L'avenir

2017 World Service Conference **April 25 – 28, 2017**

Welcome to our new Panel 57 World Service Conference (WSC) members. Our WSC orientation started with the new member conference call in early January. This initial contact allows time for the new members to ask questions about travel, timelines, dress, and a plethora of things they are wondering as they ready to attend their first Conference.

The Chosen Agenda Items (CAIs) submission ended on December 31st. The new survey format appears to have been successful as more CAI's were submitted. The Conference Leadership Team Chair in conjunction with two current Delegates reviews the submissions and groups similar questions together prior to being sent to all WSC members to vote.

Conference members will be touring the World Service Office (WSO) office on Tuesday, April 25th. This is a special time to visit our "home" and meet our dedicated WSO Staff.

The Conference Leadership Team (CLT) has formed a Task Force to look at the having translation at the World Service Conference. They will be charged with looking at not just the pros and cons, but also reviewing new technologies, costs, and potential effects to the Conference, the World Service Office, and Al-Anon's International structures.

Last but not least – no more binders!! The big Conference binders and bags will be replaced by a more cost saving and space friendly model. Look to AFG Connects for communication of which documents will be provided for all Conference members at Conference and which you may choose to print on your own, download on a flash drive, or your technology device.

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.