

Delegate's Report
August 2009 Area World Service Committee Report



Hello again to all you trusted servants. How are you liking your service journey? Has the newness worn off? Is that “deer in the headlights” feeling when someone asks you a question lessened some? Do you find yourself spiritually stretching as you continue on this adventurous journey? I certainly hope so.

What follows is news since June Assembly:

The Board of Trustees met in July for the quarterly meeting of the Board. They welcomed four new Trustees nominated after the 2009 World Service Conference and two Executive Committee members. As a reminder, the Conference gives Traditional approval of the nominees and the Board of Trustees elect the Trustees at the Board meeting immediately following the Conference in April.

Listening to the Conscience of the 2009 Conference, the Board formed two Thought Forces and one Task Force. The Thought Forces include, a Thought Force to consider issues related to the revision of the Regional Trustee resume` form. A second Thought Force will also be formed on the Current Conference Structure, to “continue the conversation as it relates to the needs of the fellowship”. A Task Force will also be formed to assist Conference members to place items on the World Service Conference agenda, which relates to feedback at the Conference about the effectiveness of the “Chosen Agenda Items (CAI) process.

The Board also reviewed feedback given to them by Delegates regarding the continuation of Property ownership. More requested information will be forthcoming as it is completed. This discussion will continue at the 2010 World Service Conference.

2010 WSC:

Speaking of the 2010, that will be the 50th anniversary of the World Service Conference. Mary Ann R., Chairman of the Board wrote, "We trust our Higher Power through our informed group conscience. The 2010 Conference Theme reflects that message:

Celebrate! Embrace the group conscience to expand our circle of hope.

—50 years of the World Service Conference

¡Celebremos! Acojamos la conciencia de grupo para ampliar nuestro círculo de esperanza.

—50 años de la Conferencia de Servicio Mundial

Célébrons! Intégrons la conscience de groupe afin d'élargir notre cercle d'espoir.

—Les 50 ans de la Conférence des Service Mondiaux.

This theme will be woven into many of the activities as we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the World Service Conference."

The equalized expense amount of the 2010 WSC has been set at US \$1,200; the full cost was set at \$1,834 US. The 2010 World Service Conference will be held April 11-15, at the Wyndham Virginia Beach Oceanfront Hotel in Virginia Beach, Virginia. Registration will take place on Saturday, April 10, with Thought and Task Forces and Committees also meeting on April 10. The Annual Meetings of the Board of Trustees will be held Friday, April 16.

TEAM:

WSO reported they'd received their first request for a TEAM event, which is planned for October of this year. As we explore together, the possibility of a TEAM event in the future, we will look at others experience as guides for us. WSO does now have the TEAM page up on the member's website and will have it soon on the French and Spanish versions of the members;' website. Forms, questions to consider, and the timeline are there for your information.

ABUNDANT RESOURCES SKILLS SURVEY:

The Board of Trustees reported that The Unlimited Abundant Resources Work Group received over 290 responses from people who participated in the skill survey and were interested in having their information retained in a database so they could be called upon to participate in future projects. Interested members are encouraged to complete this survey, if they haven't yet done so.

MEMBERSHIP SURVEY:

The 2009 Membership survey is now available on the member's website. The WSO members' website address and how to find the survey are in the attached memo. (Attachment 1)

IAGSM:

The next International Al-Anon General Services Meeting (IAGSM) will be held in the Virginia Beach Area in October 2010. The equalized expense amount has been set at US \$1,256; the full cost was set at \$1,675 US.

The Board also voted to approve Ecuador as a trial General Service Office as they have met the necessary criteria.

LE LIEN AND EN ACCION:

The subscription price for *Le lien and en acción* has been increased effective immediately. Please see the attached flyer for details. A copy of this notice is being sent in the next mailing each of the publications along with the new order form. The French and Spanish versions of this notice are also being posted for your convenience. Please let the members in your Area know about the price increase as well as the increase in the number of issues being sent. (Attachment 2)

HISTORY BOOK:

Hopefully you all read about the new history book with a working title, **Tracing Our Growth** on Al-Anon's first 60 years. A Task Force was assigned to create an outline for the project. The Task Force members completed their assignment, concluding in their proposed outline that the piece should be a book combining personal recovery with history, since personal recovery is, in essence, our history. The Board of Trustees approved the outline. Attached you will find a "Sharing Sheet". Please contribute using the Sharing Sheets and encourage others to do so as well about how about how specific events in Al-Anon's history had a profound, positive affect on their recovery. WSO has asked the Literature Coordinators to consider e-mailing the document as an attachment to all the members in your Area. Archive Coordinators might also be a good resource. WSO writes, "Thanks for your help in assuring that our newest book will be an inspiring and hope-filled story of how the growth and recovery of our Al-Anon program is a reflection of the growth and recovery of each of our members, "One Day at a Time." (Attachment 4)

Forum

A Thought Force to increase readership and subscriptions has been formed as well. "The charge for this Thought Force is to propose ways to better integrate *The Forum* into our shared recovery—to have more members share their recovery in its pages and to regularly discuss its content at their meetings and workshops. *The Forum* can help many members strengthen their program, but only if they are aware of what it has to offer.

The Thought Force's charge is NOT to make suggestions about how to change the format or content of the magazine. These changes would be noticed only by those members who already make the magazine a regular part of their program. The more relevant challenge is to find a more vital role for the magazine to play in our shared recovery.

The Thought Force would have five members. It would meet several times by telephone conference call. If you know anyone who might have some ideas to contribute, please ask them to contact the WSO *Forum* staff for a résumé.

We would like the Thought Force to be up and running by Oct. 31 and expect the work to be concluded by Dec. 31” (Bob Schneider, WSO).

Al-Anon Information Services (AIS) ECOMMUNITY:

WSO has created a new ecommunity for Al-Anon Information Services. Attached you will find the details of how to get connected to ecommunities for valuable and timely information. (Attachment 4)

Conference Summary On-Line:

The 2009 Conference Summary is now available on the Members’ website. There are order forms for members, and the cost of the Summary is only \$3.

TEAM WITH SOUTH FLORIDA:

I have had two conversations with the Delegate from South Florida regarding our doing a joint TEAM event. They had their AWSC meeting a couple weeks ago and are reportedly in favor of doing a combined Area TEAM event. They have formed a committee representing their Area, and wanted me to ensure our AWSC that South Florida is open and flexible regarding planning. I will give you more specific details later today of ideas they are considering. Please have questions and comments and possible ideas this afternoon.

TRUSTEE VISIT UPDATE:

I have had much email communication with our two Trustees who are coming in October. They seem warm and helpful. Laurie K. is coming from St. Louis and Harriet T. is flying in from Dulles. They will be coming early Friday, October 9th, and staying for the entire Assembly. We’ve planned to keep them busy when they’re here. So, encourage folks to come to assembly, meet our trustee visitors, enjoy the new hotel but get cozy together if cost is an issue.

I’ve been doing a lot of thinking regarding the service you do, the enthusiasm and creativity many of you model, the struggles some are having, the dilemma of whether one is a “wanna be” or a “worker bee”, and tearing down of the barriers to help you do your jobs effectively. As we continue on this journey, and learn and grow together, open communication, willingness to do our jobs as best we can, and “embracing of the group conscience” remain vital. Let us all remember to “talk to each other and reason things out” and to “assume good will” as we “share leadership and responsibility” to North Florida Al-Anon and Al-Anon Family Groups.

Love in service,

Terry Follett
Delegate
Panel 49

Memorandum

RE: 2009 Membership Survey

Action: Let members know that they can participate in meetings and in your reports!

This memo is to inform you that the 9th triennial U.S. and Canada Membership Survey is now open for participation. The English link can be found on the English version of the Members' Web site on the Survey for Members page. The Spanish and French links will be available on their respective pages next Wednesday, August 19th.

To get to the Members' Web site, type www.al-anon.org/members in a web browser. Enter your group's name followed by the letters afg. Click on the "Surveys for Members" tab in the orange side bar on the left side of the screen, and then click on the link "2009 Membership Survey."

Participation in the survey and instructions on how to find the survey will also be included in the Inside Al-Anon section of the September *Forum*. French-speaking and Spanish-speaking members will be notified through an insert in *Le Lien* and *Al-Anon y Alateen en acción* mailings in mid-September.

Please feel free to share this with any members in the U.S. and Canada that you come in contact with. The survey will be open for participation until midnight EST, October 16th.

Flyer:

Al-Anon and Alateen Le lien and en acción

This newsletter, now published five times per year, features sharings from members in *The Forum*, sharings on each of our three Legacies, an Alateen page, and includes *Inside Al-Anon*. Due to an increase in postage and handling costs, the subscription price of this publication has been increased effective immediately. The new rates are as follows:

US, Canada	- \$10 US
Other Countries	- \$13 US

Each registered French-speaking group in US and Canada is currently receiving a free copy of *Le lien*. Members can also download the newsletter, at no cost, from our Members' Web site at: www.al-anon.alateen.org/members.

The new subscription form is available on both the Members' Web site and the Public Outreach Web site. We hope that you will continue to enjoy this publication- either on-line or by subscription.