

Delegates Report June 2, 2013

Conference Theme: "Our Legacies: The Spiritual Journey of Changing 'Me' to 'We.'" (1)

Music Heart of gold...Skit outgoing Panel (2-4)

I am presenting you now once again with our Conference Goals: (5-7)

Conference Goals:

1. The spiritual tone of the Conference will prevail by the demonstration of mutual respect and acceptable conduct by its members.
2. Conference members will understand the purpose of the Conference, relationships Within the structure, and be able to articulate Conference decisions.
3. Knowing that our Higher Power is present in the expression of our group Conscience, Conference members will presume goodwill.

What a powerful statement and what a powerful Conference we had. All of the activities during the Conference were considered through the lens of our spiritual principles. Those principles— honesty, responsibility, unity, anonymity, autonomy, and many more— continue to guide the Conference just as they did for Lois, Anne, and the pioneers.

These are some of the thoughts about the theme from us outgoing Delegates shared during our three minute talks:

- ✓ Without "we", I cannot help myself.
- ✓ "We" were moving "me" along.
- ✓ "We" have changed "me" into someone I am proud to be.
- ✓ Thank you for letting this "me" become a "we."



At Conference we reached a Group Conscience by answering these three questions:

1. Is it accurate?
2. Does it provide clarity
3. Can you live with it?

Thank you for all your beautiful love gifts which I presented during Conference and again I brought back much of the love and more and stuffed it in the clear bags in front of you for you to take with you and share with your Group.

Thank you for the Flowers, Gifts, Cards and Calls during Conference; this is how my room and the view looked like: I could feel the love, thank you so much! It was my last and memorable Conference (8-10)

The Conference continues to use the Knowledge-Based Decision-Making Process to Reach an Informed Group Conscience.

The discussions that we had at the Conference were rich and full. They took into consideration all sides of an issue.

Being a part of the Conference as we listen to each other with an open mind, as we share without the fear of judgment, and as we presume good will is to see our Legacies in action and to be a part of the spiritual journey of "we."

Throughout this year I am currently working on a Task Force:

Develop a Script or Workshop to Encourage Discussion about the Difference between Principles and Procedures in AI-Anon (11)

Let me know if you are interested in the process

The first day of Conference started with thought and Taskforces, followed by SAH and Opening Dinner, where we gave our mentees the Conference Pins and listened to the Speaker Mary Lou Mahlman, Associate Director of Member Services

On the table where cards with the question: If you had all the Health, Wealth & Time you need....what would you do with your life? (12) Great conversation starters

Monday April 15th we started at 7am with breakfast and sessions at 8am, that time was kept each day and on Monday, our 1st day of Conference we took panel Pictures (13)

(14) After that Opening in General Session Room with seating motion with included an International Representative from Mexico and the Director of Business Services (non AI-Anon member) both with voice but no vote, the Chairman of Executive Committee for Real Property Management with voice limited to ECRPM business, but no vote and a Marketing Information Analyst (non AI-Anon member) with no voice and no vote, followed by roll call and 2 Delegates 3 min sharing

When the incoming Delegates were asked at the end what was the most memorable and inspiring during Conference week an overwhelming amount stated that it was the outgoing 3 min shares of the Delegates.

As I strive to bring some of the excitement from the Conference back to you but since we have limited time I made a play list please vote for one for us to hear today and I will play that one later on.

One of the first discussions we had followed a Policy Committee presentation on Memorial Contributions. (15) This was a continuing conversation on the appropriateness of accepting non-member memorial contributions from family members and friends of Al-Anon members. An extensive timeline regarding the history of non-member memorial contributions was shared as well as how the Traditions apply to this issue. We, the members of the Conference participated in this discussion with respect and open-mindedness to each other that set the tone for the entire week. This topic will come back to the Conference floor in a future discussion to consider how we will move forward with this idea.

As was evident during Conference week, the Policy Committee has been busy during the past year. Revisions to two different sections of the "Policy Digest" were presented to the Conference for approval. The importance of these sections is apparent not only because of the content, but because they are the first two sections approved with the spiritual principles at the forefront of the policy. The idea behind this change is that the "Policy Digest" is not a rule book, but a collection of guiding principles. These principles will enable each service arm to have the conversations that will help them to make the right decision for their service arm. The new Policy sections voted on at this Conference— "Anonymity" and "Public Relations"— will, hopefully, start some of these spirited conversations.

Changes Service Manual pgs 88-91 Anonymity

Changes Service Manual pgs 107-109 Public Relations Outreach (16-29)

Bonanza/Marlboro (30)

Each day we went over the Conference Rules: (31-41)



Shared Leadership Session Conflict Resolution (42)

Helpful Question: Is there anything I could say to you that would make a difference? Reason things out

Last year the Board of Trustees introduced the idea of an Area, or of numerous connected Areas, changing their service structure to fit their needs. This originally came out of a request from an Area that needed help to service all the groups within its boundaries. In past years, the Conference created three Thought Forces in the hopes that they would come up with a plan for all Areas to use, but at the end, there was no plan. This "out-of-the-box" idea of allowing Areas to make their own decisions, and ask permission from the Conference only if it affects the Conference composition, has offered the Areas a "no-holds-barred" approach to their structures. Over this past year, the Board talked to us Delegates about what each of our Areas has been doing regarding their structure. As you can imagine, the changes range from no changes to adding Delegates and creating new Areas in order to achieve full communication, representation, and participation for all the groups in their Areas. This is a six year trial and there is certainly still an opportunity for us to discuss and/or implement changes to our structure.

Motion #2 (43) One of the changes that numerous Areas formally requested because of the Conference Structure discussion was to change their names to include parts of another Area. At this Conference, a motion was made by the Conference Leadership Team on behalf of four Areas. The motion was to change the names of the following Areas:

1. Alabama to Alabama/Northwest Florida
2. New México to New México/El Paso
3. Manitoba to Manitoba/Northwest Ontario
4. Wisconsin to Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan

Though these changes seem to be very businesslike, it was a very emotional moment for many of our members. It made me remember what it felt like to become a part of, to be recognized, and to be accepted. All of these name changes were approved and embraced by the Conference after hearing the feelings and concerns of those Areas.

Two Regional Trustees— one for their first three-year term and one for their second three year term— along with three Trustees at Large— two for their first three-year term and one for their second three-year term— became, or continued, as members of the Board of Trustees along with the At-Large member of the Executive Committee for Real Property Management for a three-year term after receiving traditional approval at the Conference. Then at the Annual Meeting, all of those Trustees, as well as a member with a one-year Trustee appointment for the Northeast Regional Trustee position, were elected. In addition, the Executive Committee members and their Chairperson as well as the Executive Committee for Real Property member and their Chairperson were elected. Every year our volunteers provide invaluable service to the fellowship of Al-Anon and to Al-Anon Family Headquarters, Inc. We are privileged to have such dedicated, hard-working, spiritually-motivated, and enthusiastic service workers.

Task Force: Create text for a literature piece with criteria to help service arms identify service jobs for Dual Members (44-54)

CAI #2 (55)

Improving the retention of newcomers and experienced Al-Anon members: Explain the importance of this CAI and how it could shape Al-Anon as a whole:

By far, most newcomers do not "stick" in the program. In addition, there is an attrition of older members. A result of this is that Al-Anon is not growing. It would not take much of an increase in either retention rate for Al-Anon to really grow. So, the suggestion is to study the issue and develop a newcomer meeting package that would help improve retention of newcomers. Also, what (e.g. targeted literature) can we do to help "old timers" see the value of staying in the program to continue promoting their growth. Did you receive a newcomer packet? If so, what piece or pieces of literature encouraged you? What encourages you now? Were there older members in attendance? When you left that meeting, what did you take with you from the members' sharing their experience, strength, and hope? Are you, as an older member, the real, "proof of the pudding"?

Retaining Newcomers Sharing's on Conference floor: One Member at a meeting is dedicated to greeting Newcomers (Position Greeter) Greeter hands out a Forum magazine to the newcomer and asks newcomer to bring it back Newcomer also received greeter's phone number and was asked for her number. Member shared later when the Greeter indeed called that made her feel that someone cared. Each time she came back she got another Forum and that kept her coming back.

Members are encouraged as a special personal contribution to keep a Box of How Al-Anon works in the trunk of the car to be ready to be given out to newcomers.

Chairperson takes down names of newcomers to thank them at the end of the meeting and to invite them back -Keep eye contact--Members invite newcomers out after the meeting--Give newcomer a job, as a reason to come back-
S13, P7, P13, P32, ODAT, B6-

Suggested: Create a Sheet: Chairperson that mentions the Greeter Position, a Speaker Meeting and place a sticker "Welcome Home" on newcomer package. Here am I sharing myself in front of the Conference (56)



Motion #3 Carried (57) To approve the 2012 Audited Financial Report

Motion #4 Carried

To approve the 2013 Finance Committee Report

Motion #5 Carried

To approve the 2012 Annual Report

Motion #6 Carried

That the 2013 WSC give conceptual approval to develop a new pamphlet to address parents and grandparents whose children (teenagers and young adults) are problem drinkers

Here are some of your responses from you guys I could share with the Conference (58)

I feel very strongly that we should produce a pamphlet for Parents, Grandparents Godparents, Aunts & Uncles of Teenage & other young adult problem Drinkers.

I have notice many people coming to meetings. It would be very helpful to have a pamphlet for them

I spoke to a sponsee who has a teenage son who is an alcoholic. Here are some of his thoughts:

- 1) The paradox of letting go while still parenting
- 2) Mourning for my lost dream for my child
- 3) The embarrassment involved while raising an alcoholic child.
- 4) Resentment that my child chose to abuse alcohol.
- 5) Where did I go wrong that my child became an alcoholic?
- 6) Blaming my spouse that my child became an alcoholic
- 7) Blaming myself.
- 8) We should have seen the signs earlier and so that we could prevent him from becoming an alcoholic.
- 9) The effect on our other children.
- 10) Dealing with my parents and other relatives about the situation.
- 11) The expense and stress of raising an alcoholic child.
- 12) Not being able to function because of the situation.
- 13) Accepting the fact that alcoholism is a disease. (59)

I found that the 2 main differences were that I felt more responsible for the under 18's behavior and thought I should 'do something', and that he lived at home.

There was unmanageable guilt, fear, grief, frustration and anger, and it was 24/7. There was also fear of losing money and possessions. The entire family suffered.

Once we worked up the courage to ask our child to enter treatment or leave, and he left, there were a new set of challenges;

People in the community disapproved, the ACS was called and there was an invasive and lengthy investigation. There was also the possibility we would never see him again.

I needed every one of the steps to deal with this stuff; fear being my biggest 'liability'. Relying on a higher power and understanding that my kids have, and have always had their own journey was crucial.

Support from my sponsor and Al-anon friends was invaluable in enabling me to live with my decisions and their outcomes.

Finally (60-62)



The Finance Committee's Presentation (63-86) gave the Conference insight into all of the activities each of the departments at the World Service Office—Public Outreach, Membership Outreach, Group Services, Fellowship Communications, Administration, and Business Services— perform so that the Al-Anon program is available to everyone, everywhere. Each department works within its area of expertise to ensure that the needed programs and information reach the fellowship, including longtime members and newcomers alike. The financial contributions donated to the WSO support these departments, and ultimately, the fellowship and its work of sharing our program with those still suffering. Equalized expense: All expenses for Delegates: 67 Delegates. The equalized expense is the percentage for the entire fellowship: Areas with only 150 groups pay the same amount for their Delegate to go to the WSC than areas with 500 groups and more. 100% in giving on something -Express Gratitude spiritually, emotionally, physically and financially 67 Areas: 16 areas paid equalized expense \$1280-38 Areas paid the full amount \$1968- 7 Areas paid between the equalized expense and full amount-6 Areas paid more than the equalized expense.

Lois quote: "There is no romance in paying the rent"

You support what you do not govern-Giving is Receiving-When each group would give \$200 a year to WSO that would be an increase of 62%- We do have a responsibility in being self supportive for those who cannot give

Here you see me in front of the shoe display for the new Individual Contribution Envelope (87)

I ordered one of each for you to take and use (Birthday/Memorial/ Individual Contribution) (88)

They are free and can be found on the members website to order just pay shipping

Plane song leaving on a jet plane (89-90)

Vancouver is almost here— the International is only two months away! Plans for the Day of Connecting are complete; the parade is being organized; speakers are being chosen. If you have not registered yet, there is still a place for you. If you have registered, I am sure you are ready for a meaningful, spiritual experience of a lifetime.

Starting July 1 the International Convention Site will be up: Al-Anoninternationalconvention.org

During the past year, members of the WSO staff and numerous Trustees had the privilege of visiting numerous international structures. The International Coordination Committee (91) along with the Canadian and US Delegate traveled to South Africa for the International Al-Anon General Services Meeting (IAGSM) in Cape Town. There were 16 structures, including the WSC structure attending the IAGSM. Its theme— No Structure is Ever Alone: IAGSM— certainly works with the WSC theme of "changing 'me' to 'we.'" The members who attended shared their experiences with the Conference, the most important being that no matter where in the world

Al-Anon is the members have the same issues and concerns. Immediately following the IAGSM, the Executive Director visited Columbia as a guest. It was the first time he was invited and Columbia paid for the trip WSO paid only for a translator. Then he and a Trustee went to Mexico City in March, 2013 for their 40th National Service Conference, with the theme "Al-Anon— Shared Responsibility." Their first Group was established 1965 now there are 3662 groups and 460 Alateen groups. It is the second largest structure in Spanish with 1 registered Service Seminar and a similar Structure as WSC with 5 Regions

-----luggage rollers..... (92-99)

The Board of Trustees would like to visit your Area one Saturday in July 2014 for a "Meet The Board" event. An invitation was given to every Area through their Delegate at this WSC. If we are interested in being a part of the initial event, we need to send in our request by September 15, 2013 to the World Service Office to be considered as the setting for this opportunity for your local members to meet and interact with the Board of Trustees and the Executive Committee. Cost is free to Area besides Registration Fee and meals. Submit 3 choices of Hotel. The Format is freestyle
22 Board members and Staff.

New PSAs (100) voice and people are Non AI-Anon members

Thought Force on How to Strengthen Personal Connections (101-119)

Task Force on Importance of CAL in Meetings (120-143)

CAI #4 (144)

How can we get districts without DRs and few GRs to become re-involved in participating in Assemblies and AWSC? How do we reach out to registered groups who do not attend Area events? We had a vital discussion and it boils down to doing the footwork, attraction, personal involvement. Attend the groups-Speak about the importance of each groups voice and spark interest about current topics on the agenda-Isolation did not and does not work

Usage of electronic devices during Conference (145-151) Numerous issues-Distraction-Anonymity-Spiritual principles

E Literature Patience required due to:

Vendor workload, Nook Waiting line, Kindle data process between test cycle, I tunes takes very long

Soft cover Trial

Extended Trial for additional three years at \$6 per copy with May 1. Increase

Three months comprehensive marketing Campaign to ask the fellowship to get the idea of given this book out as gratitude

3 languages electronic version \$11.99

Audio version digital of How AI-Anon works \$24.99

Now till the end of Summer Amazon.com and I tunes Audible.com-

Next Daily Reader Soft cover : Hope for Today

Alateen Group Records are now online -AAPP can now see their groups and run records-58 areas have now used application for annual recertification due 7/1-Submit by 6/15

Write Stories to the Forum on Steps, Traditions and Concepts

Team event request forms are accepted for 2014

Treatment Facilities Outreach Projects are on the rise and can be part of Public Outreach

This year let us all continue to use our Legacies to succeed in our journey of "changing 'me' to 'we.'" In our fellowship, as each "me" recovers, that "me" becomes a part of the "we," helping the next "me" to recover. This is what makes the fellowship what it is. Our one primary purpose of helping friends and families of alcoholics is never far from our thoughts and actions.

With Love and Gratitude in AI-Anon service

Petra L, NYS 51

