

*FALL ASSEMBLY
OCTOBER 23-25, 2009
DELEGATES REPORT*

Dear Al-Anons/Alateens,

In the last few months, I have been busy serving on the Task Force: Resolving Conflict Resolution. We are developing a Power Point Presentation, a Skit and working diligently on how we can apply the Traditions to Conflict Resolution at the Group, District and Area Level.

I'm happy to report that Rick Buchanan, our Executive Director of the World Service Office (WSO), has just returned from the 15th International Al-Anon General Services Meeting (IAGSM). I will share in my presentation about the IAGSM that was held last year. World Service Staff and Trustees are continuing to visit, when asked, around the globe to bring the message to Al-Anon as in our Al-Anon Declaration. "When anyone, anywhere reaches out for help let the hand of Al-Anon and Alateen be there and Let It Begin With Me".

The Excess Bequest Procedure (in excess of 10% of the total revenue of the WSO General Fund) was approved at the World Service Conference. The WSO may accept a one time bequest from an Al-Anon member in any amount, provided its use is not restricted by the donor, here is the time schedule:

- ▶ *September 30 Conference members are notified of the amount of money in the excess bequest funds to date and will be asked to submit ideas for projects that support the Strategic Plan, using the amount of funds available as a guideline*
- ▶ *Nov 30 The deadline for projects to be submitted*
- ▶ *Prior to Jan board: The Finance Committee will research the costs associated with the proposed projects*
- ▶ *February: The findings and priorities will be sent to all Conference members*
- ▶ *April: The Conference members will accept or adjust the prioritized projects at the WSC. Once accepted, the projects will follow the normal process of staff implementation and volunteer oversight.*

We have begun the process of selecting a SE Regional Trustee, for the 3 year Term beginning in May 2010. The Delegates in the SE Region, after

reviewing the resumes voted by a scoring sheet of whom they thought were the best candidate. There were 5 Resumes that we reviewed. In December, the SE Regional Delegates will notify our chairperson if we have any objections on either of the 2 Nominees who have received the highest score. It's very exciting to be part of the process and to see the Concepts come alive.

At Conference, the Fourth Triennial Report on Real Property Ownership was made. It is important to explain the impact of this. But a little history first. In 1994 the WSC passed a motion which empowered the Board of Trustees to purchase property for Al-Anon Family Headquarter, Inc. This purchase of real property is for a trial period of fifteen years and contingent on several conditions. One condition of the motion was that during the trial period, the Board of Trustees "establish a Separate Executive Committee in order to insure that the management of the real property be done in a prudent manner and not interfere with the day-to-day operations of the spiritual parts of the program. In 1995 the Executive Committee for Real Property Management was created. This is the last report before we have to vote on our continuing to own the Land and Building in Virginia Beach. There was a lot of dissension back in 1994-5 as many people in the program were not comfortable with owning property as they felt Tradition 6 would be violated. Tradition 9 gave us the ability to appoint this special committee. Anyway, at Conference the Committee reported that the ownership of property has been a very good step financially. Al-Anon Family Groups Headquarters, Inc received tax-exempt financing and thus a lower rate of interest due to non-profit status. It also received a tax exemption so that no real property tax is paid on either the land or the building. A savings of at least \$250,000 a year has been realized by owning property in Virginia vs leasing it in the Hampton Road area. The gap between ownership and leasing is expected to widen as costs of ownership decrease and costs of leasing increase. They also reported that the need for staff to be concerned with the frequent search for office space and to deal with the day-in and day-out maintenance of commercial property has been eliminated as this committee oversees this work. It was also reported that as management is kept separate from the primary spiritual aim of AFG and it is separate from the work and business of the WSO, the primary spiritual aim of the fellowship has not had any negative impact. Now is the time for you to give me YOUR

QUESTIONS IN REGARDS TO OUR PROPERTY AND IF WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO OWN OR NOT. Please email or mail me questions you might have. This year when I go to conference I will be able to get the answers to all YOUR questions and be able to report back to you at the Spring Assembly. At the following Conference (my last Conference) we will vote on this issue. In the spirit of the 4th Concept.....PLEASE PARTICIPATE. You can email me at delegate49fls@comcast.net

Please tell me why only 10% of our fellowship perceives the 'Forum' as an enhancement to their recovery: What can we do to change that perception? Tradition Seven reminds us to be self-supporting. But what we support remains our choice. Does the 'Forum' have a place in the future of Al-Anon? The next time you say the Al-Anon Declaration, would you think of the 'Forum' and what you can do to make it more vital? Please ask your group to support the 'Forum': take a subscription; donate a subscription from your group for a Gratitude Dinner raffle or give a subscription to honor your sponsor or sponsee on his or her Al-Anon Birthday. Would you subscribe if the 'Forum' were in audio format vs a printed format? Please send your ideas to me.

Al-Anon's I am asking you to "Picture yourself in Vancouver". This city, which is one of the safest and cleanest, is also one of the most multi-cultural cities on the planet. In eight city blocks there are 92 restaurants with a variety of cuisines. Rumor has it that an Alaskan Cruise before or after the Convention is in the works. Just a reminder, you will be required to have a passport, so plan early and start saving NOW, you won't want to miss this exciting event! I will give you more information as it becomes available.

The Trustees and Staff of the World Service Office would be happy to make a presentation for us or if you wanted, to tell their personal story, so we can get to know them better. They are very approachable and willing. I hope a motion is made today, for us to invite someone to our Spring Assembly. Remember, the choice is yours----YOU HAVE THE ABILITY TO MAKE THAT DECISION as trusted servants.

This is your opportunity, as a Group Representative, to go back to your group and discuss Concept 4. Challenge them to write something for

"Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism 2010" and stress the importance of sharing their Al-Anon story. They are asking for submissions to be 500 words or less addressing one or more of the following points:

- *How did you learn that you needed help in dealing with the effects of someone else's drinking or did a professional refer you to Al-Anon? How did this referral influence your decision to attend a meeting?*
- *What were your reactions to the first few Al-Anon meetings you attended?*
- *What Al-Anon recovery tools were most helpful to you when you first started attending meetings?*
- *How have you benefited from the Al-Anon program?*

The 2009 Conference Summary (P-46) is available for free. There is a \$3 charge for shipping and handling. Within the Summary you will read highlights of the discussion from the topics that were discussed at the 2009 World Service Conference (WSC). As an example:

- ❖ *How can we use the Legacies as empowering tools rather than barriers to expand the future?*
- ❖ *Will Alateen Chat meetings become a reality in 2009?*
- ❖ *Will there be another Division or Consolidation of Areas?*

Also, you will see the Leadership Workshops that were made available to me, as your Delegate, which, if asked, I would love to bring to your District.

I thank you, as always, for allowing me to serve as your Delegate.

In Service,

Linda S.

Florida South Delegate - Panel 49

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