

Georgia Area 11 Assembly
Business Meeting Part I
Saturday, May 20, 2017

Welcome by Alternate Delegate, Barbara T., standing in for Chairperson, Cathy O. Opening began with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. The Twelve Traditions were read. The Twelve Concepts of Service and the General Warranties of the Conference were read. The purpose and goals of Assembly were reviewed.

Announcements:

Our 2017 Assembly Theme: "Recovery (Sharing Experience Strength and Hope), Unity (Participation is the Key to Harmony) and Service (Carrying the Message)."

Coordinators/Convention Representatives/Liaison Reports

AAPP-Alan D. We have re-certified 36 AMIAS in Georgia Area 11. Five AMIAS have been removed due to moving away or other reasons. According to WSO, 22 Georgia AMIAS still need to be re-certified. Of those remaining, 7 have returned the AMIAS Service Opportunity Checklist and are awaiting background clearance by Bosma Investigative Services. Three new AMIAS have been added to the Georgia AMIAS list and are certified through June 2018. Eleven new candidates have applied to be AMIAS and are in various stages of approval. Two other candidates have begun the application process. Of the 15 Georgia AMIAS who have not yet returned paperwork, all of them must be re-certified by the end of June 2017 or WSO will not list any Georgia Alateen meetings on its website meeting information or through its phone information system.

Of those 15 AMIAS remaining, 7 are group sponsors. If the group sponsors are inactivated/de-certified on June 30th their Alateen Group will be dropped from the WSO website since there will not be any certified sponsor for that group.

Alateen-Lauren M. The AMIAS recertification is underway. The Alateen Conference will be the first weekend in June at Rock Eagle in Eatonton, GA.

Last year I used a pocket projector to display Power Point slides put together by WSO, which really added to the training quality. I am getting ready to train two people via phone who were not able to be here this weekend. I am hoping all goes well and we can introduce this as another training option.

Alateen workshops and AMIAS training will take place this weekend.

Please remember that Alateen celebrates their 60th Anniversary this year.

Help support our teens. Remember the Spaghetti dinner at September Assembly. The proceeds from this event will be a fundraiser to help pay for next year's Alateen Conference.

Reminder: Election for the 2017 Alateen Conference Co-chair who will become the 2018 Alateen Conference Chair will be held this weekend on Sunday.

Archivist-Marie N. Due to personal issues I have not inventoried the Archives.

I have had several requests for copies of Group and District histories. If you have an urgent need, like a workshop coming up, please see me this weekend. I plan to have copies of histories available for everyone at the 2017 September Assembly.

Group Records - Dan M. News from WSO: Location information is important! It is designed to help the newcomer find his or her way from the parking lot to the meeting room.

GRC Digest April 20th 2017: The WSO meeting information automated phone system now provides up to three Al-Anon meetings to people seeking Al-Anon's help. Callers have the option to use the automated phone system, or speak to WSO staff operators during business hours for specific meeting inquiries. Encourage the groups in your Area to verify their meeting information to ensure that complete and up-to-date information is on record, so newcomers and members can find their meeting. 1-888-425-2666

Some of you may remember that in January I informed the Assembly of the WSO policy "Reported as not meeting".

If your group stays in "No Mail Status" your meeting will be inactivated after two years.

Because WSO has no way to verify a groups' existence, it will be assumed that after the two-year period the group has stopped meeting. After two years the group will be inactivated.

Current WSO group concerns in Georgia.

Groups in no mail status: (Mail was returned to WSO from the Groups, CMA)

District 1 - Jasper AFG in Jasper, Ga

District 11 - Lunch Bunch AFG in Augusta, Ga.

District 18 - Johns Creek New Beginnings AFG in Alpharetta, GA.

District 19 - Vive AFG in Norcross, GA.

District 20 - Thomasville AFG

Groups with bounced e-mails: (1)

District 6 - Nahunta AFG in Nahunta, Ga.

If anyone has firsthand knowledge (DR's) about the above groups please e-mail areagrouprecords@ga-al-anon.org.

Please continue to fill out the electronic GR1 form and send it to your DR.

Literature-Philip A. I'm Philip, your Literature Coordinator for Panel 56. My job is to serve as point of contact on Al-Anon Literature for Area 11. One way I can do that is to try and put as much Al-Anon literature in as many of your hands as possible.

Our newest publication is the Paths to Recovery Workbook, Pamphlet P-93. The price is \$10. It is also available along with the Paths to Recovery book for \$25, meaning you save \$4 over buying the two books separately.

WSO continues to seek sharings for our new Daily Reader, our new pamphlet on Sexual Intimacy and on our new pamphlet aimed at grandparents. See the Members section on the WSO website for information on how to submit your sharing. We have sets of posters with the Steps, Traditions, Concepts and Warranties. They're great for your group meeting space or clubhouse. The set of 4 posters is \$20 (framing not included).

A great deal is available in the Pamphlet P-24/27, Groups at Work. It's the first 75 pages of the Service Manual and contains wonderful information. Some groups give a copy to every member, to expose them to a wealth of basic Al-Anon information.

Newsletter-Anne M. Georgia on Track Rocks! I believe the newsletter is a vital link between groups, districts and officers across our Area. What could you find in the latest newsletter to support you in your recovery?

Area history from the archives, public outreach ideas and efforts, Alateen and AMIAS news, convention flyers, news and needs and local experience strength and hope.

Our last publication had an abundance of public outreach ideas from our Public Outreach Coordinator and also from Districts 3, 4, 10, 13, 18 and 21.

Updates from Georgia Alateen were also shared and flyers were provided for several Georgia Area Events.

I set out to encourage people to help create a newsletter that can be used as a tool for recovery for our groups and districts. If you have not checked it out, I encourage you to do so and share it too! So many members from all over the area took the time to share their experience, strength and hope about Al-Anon service work. You may find terrific ideas for your group.

The newsletter is published three times a year (March, July and November) and can be found on the member's page of the Georgia Al-Anon website.

Public Outreach-Debi S. Sixty-seven radio and TV stations across Georgia have received the Portraits VI Public Service Announcements. The stations cover markets in over half of our Districts. GRs with receiving stations in their markets should have received a list from me in April with a suggested call script and an appeal to have local members reach out to the stations to request they play the PSAs. There are two PSAs and they are powerful. The PSAs are on the WSO website. If you don't have a station in your District, you can also contact local stations and ask if they would be willing to play them. You can play the PSAs for them from the website. If they agree, please contact me so I can arrange for them to receive broadcast quality copies. Equally important, if members see or hear a PSA please contact the station to thank them and encourage them to continue playing!

Please support Outreach in your Districts by ordering and distributing Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism – AFAs. The 2018 first printing, if ordered by 5pm on July 5, 2017, will be shipped before September 1, 2017. You may notice there is a new design for 2018 based on members' recommendations. The heading will not include the year so that they will not appear to be out dated when left in public locations. The date is still there, but moved to the bottom. The bottom right corner now shows "FREE" so the public knows they can take them home if they like. The tagline is now "Help and Hope for Families and Friends of Alcoholics". Again, order by July 5th to receive AFAs in September. Otherwise, you will not be able to get them until April of 2018 during the second printing.

I am urging each group and District to fund Public Outreach efforts by purchasing AFAs and other Outreach literature. Please don't rely only on old Forums or on individual members to purchase Outreach literature. Area 11 recognizes some groups and districts are not financially able to fund Outreach efforts. To support those groups in need, the Central Services office has established a \$500 budget line for materials for Outreach. We have created a new order form specifically for this purpose, replacing the previous version of the Public Outreach form. The form can be obtained by request from the office at orderlit1@gmail.com. or by contacting me. The office will now copy me on requests so I can be aware of and share Outreach activities. Shipping charges will still apply.

WSO has also created new graphics on the Members' Web site under "Public Outreach". These include "Road Sign" designs that can be adapted with local information. The graphics offer regional and seasonal images in a range of sizes and resolutions and include two designs for Alateen. Service arms are able to choose a design and add local contact information without asking for WSO review or approval. Service arms can also submit their own images to WSO for review, to include national as well as local contact information.

Members all over the Area are catching the "Public Outreach" bug! I've loved hearing about treatment center informational meetings in Dalton, at Penfield, at Gran Recovery and at Blue Ridge Mountain Recovery. The Public Outreach Committee has been sharing Experience, Strength and Hope to inspire each other to carry the message to our membership. Districts are building their outreach tools – including table banners, posters, meeting lists and more.

This panel's focus, related to Outreach, is on the Professional Community. This year we will have a presence at the three large training sessions where counsellors earn their continuing education and certification credits. The first event was in April at the Georgia Addiction Counsellors' Association training at St. Simons. One hundred twenty-five treatment centers and independent counsellors received AFAs as well as other literature. We had the opportunity to speak with most of them and share how our program aids in recovery as well as the effects on family members. The next event is the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Certification Board of Georgia training in Marietta in June where we, again, will have an Outreach table and access to 400 Professionals. September is the Georgia School of Addiction Studies in Savannah where District 3 is leading this Outreach effort. I believe, with these three large events, we will have delivered the message to the majority of counsellors dealing directly with alcoholism within the state of Georgia.

Finally, if you or your members are hesitant about Outreach, WSO website reminds - We are *attracting* people to Al-Anon and Alateen when we tell them why we are, what we are, what we do and how. We let them know that we are available *if and when*

help is needed. I would like to add that each sentence begins with "We" for a reason – you never have to do this alone! Please join us on this journey of carrying the message!

Webmaster-Mike L. Recent fliers submitted for inclusion in the website have been posted. The events page for Assemblies has been updated with new FAQs. Please send PDF fliers for events via our Area 11 website <http://www.ga-al-anon.org/contacts>. I will ask you to confirm that the posting is correct after it is posted.

Public Outreach received approval by WSO for flyers that can be localized for each meeting. We will be providing a separate tab in the members' section once they're approved and available.

A Delegates Corner will be added in the members' section. WSO will provide us with a link to FAQ memos. In addition, we will add a function so that the delegate has the ability to post pertinent information.

The Technology Work Group is still working to resolve the following:

The Area 11 telephone hot-line service.

Can telephone service volunteers offer information about meetings with children?

Completing the effort for event registration and payment.

There is a wealth of information for members on our website: <https://www.ga-al-anon.org>. You can find upcoming events and download flyers, contact area officers and read assembly minutes as well as other documents. More information becomes available if you sign onto the member page first. The password is AFG.

2017 Georgia State A.A. Prepaid Convention - Jenny C. The 64th Georgia State A.A. Prepaid Convention will be held October 12-15, 2017 at the Macon Marriott City Center, 240 Coliseum Drive, Macon GA 31217. When making hotel reservations, request the Georgia Prepaid Convention room rate. For more information and registration go to www.aageorgia.org/georgia-prepaid-convention.html.

2017 Alateen Conference-Peter U. The 2017 Alateen Conference will be held June 1-4 this year at Rock Eagle.

Teens must use a new permission slip that is currently being written and will be issued as soon as we have it finished.

The new permission form is specifically for the 2017 Alateen Conference. It will list all of the activities our teens will be participating in. The new permission slip is necessary in order to be certain that our liabilities insurance covers the teens as they participate in the events we have planned.

This year we will have an AMIAS event on Saturday of the Conference. Come and see the teens in action, have lunch with us and stay for dinner. You can stay for a swim, the writing workshop and bonfire. Information and registration can be found on the website. Cost for the day is \$20.00. \$31.00 includes dinner.

2017 Al-Anon/Alateen Convention-Joyce T. The 39th Georgia Al-Anon/Alateen Convention will be held August 11-13, 2017. The theme is *Sharing Recovery in the Gardens*. The Convention will be held at the Mountain Creek Inn at Callaway Gardens, Pine Mountain, GA. Registration now through July 30th will be \$35.00. August Walk-in Registration will be \$45.00 and Alateen Registration Free. Rooms are \$131.56 per night (including tax and fees). We are guaranteed the same price for 2 days before and 2 days after convention. Meals are not included. When making your reservations, mention that you are with the GA Al-Anon/Alateen Convention. We have 125 rooms allotted to us. We have a total of 159 registered to date.

MAIS-Julia K. A total of 62 groups contributed \$5,921.00. Thank you, to all who have contributed.

We have sold \$17,608.00 of literature, ending with a Gross Profit of \$9,316.00. The operating expenses totaled \$7,321.00.

Operating expenses plus literature costs = Total Expenses of \$23,529.00. The Net Profit = \$1996.00.

Our Board Chair, Keith, brought copies of a survey to fill out about new website enhancements we hope to be able to accomplish this year.

Tonight is a premiere! I invite any of you who are interested in learning about MAIS-to join me for dinner, especially the GRs, ALT DRs and DRs in the MAIS area within area codes: 404, 770, and 678.

The current issue of CenterPoint is posted on our website: www.alanonatl.com that has a beautiful article by our new Alateen coordinator, Christina P. I hope you will read her article.

Currently there are 4 vacancies at MAIS: MAIS Secretary, Archivist, Office chair and Committee chair. The MAIS Archives is currently being put on display in the main office.

It is important to me to meet with you, hear your concerns and your ESH about MAIS and enjoy fellowship during the Assembly weekend. So please join me for dinner tonight in the private dining room here at the Marriott.

Georgia Area Central Service (GACS) Restructuring Task Force –Survey (2017) - Lucille S.

The Restructuring Task Force is currently studying the GACS office and its operations and is seeking input from all Georgia Al-Anon members. We are especially interested in feedback from those whose groups are serviced by the GACS office. The Task Force asks for your participation, observations, ideas and suggestions to help guide the future of the GACS office by filling out a survey that we ask you hand in before leaving this weekend.

Business Meeting Part II

Sunday, May 21, 2017

Welcome by Chairperson, Cathy O. Opening began with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. The Twelve Concepts of Service and the General Warranties of the Conference were read. The purpose and goals of Assembly were reviewed.

Using the Area 11 Policy and Procedure Manual for Assembly, the following information was shared: Who has voice and vote, along with the Assembly Operating Protocol.

Roll Call - Secretary - Kathy W. There were 20 Districts represented and 105 voting members in attendance.

Minutes - Secretary - Kathy W. The January 2017 Assembly Minutes were approved as presented by unanimous consent.

Motion 1

Officer Reports:

Delegate-Renelle M. Thank you, to all who sent cards and love gifts while I was attending conference. They were greatly appreciated by me and all other Delegates.

The 2017 World Service Conference began with the reading of Warranty Five, in its entirety, from the Service Manual, page 225.

In April 2016, Mary Gregory accepted the role as Interim Executive Director for Al-Anon's World Service Office and this has brought about a re-organization within the WSO, changing some roles and responsibilities. This report will outline some of the responsibilities of the Board of Trustees to help bring understanding of the different roles and responsibilities that create an atmosphere of mutual respect and organization.

Overall Administration

The Board of Trustees of Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc. (AFG, Inc.) is responsible for:

- Carrying out the mandates of the World Service Conference (WSC).
- Establishing business policies of the World Service Office (WSO).
- Estimating revenue.
- Administering services to the membership.
- Publishing and distributing Conference Approved Literature (CAL).
- Approving the annual reports.

Our Board members are also Al-Anon members just like you and me. They serve our fellowship with the same love and dedication that each of us has towards our fellow members, home groups, Districts and Area. They are a unified body dedicated to the future and well being of Al-Anon worldwide.

Concept 8: The Board of Trustees delegates full authority for routine management of Al-Anon Headquarters to its executive committees.

The Executive Committee is empowered to:

- Act on behalf of the Trustees between Board meetings.
- Has legal authority bestowed by the Board of Trustees to have oversight of day-to-day affairs of the WSO.
- Receives monthly service updates from the Directors and the Executive Director.

Our very own J.P. Martinek will be on the Executive Committee at WSO for a third one-year term.

Concept 11: The World Service Office is composed of selected committees, executives, and staff members.

The Executive Director is responsible for:

- Overall supervision of the WSO staff (currently about 49 full-time employees).
- Administration of the organization's policies.

A new organizational structure is in trial. In the new structure, the Director of Programs and the Director of Finance supervise day-to-day operations of the office.

An Administrative Team including the Associate Directors, the Controller, the Digital Strategy Manager (this is a new position), the Employee Resources and Organizational Development Manager serve as a resource to the Executive Director. They share information with one another and are consulted on office wide projects.

The Director of Programs works with many departments to service our members and provide information to the public and professionals about who we are and what we do.

Board of Trustees: The Trustees, along with members of the Executive Committee, direct business operations of the World Service Office, by observing the By-Laws of Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc. The Board acts as the chief service arm of the World Service Conference as it guards the legal rights of the Al-Anon fellowship, such as our copyrights, and controls the finances. The Board serves as guardian of our Twelve Traditions, our Twelve Concepts of Service and the Al-Anon World Service Conference Charter.

To aid in members' better understanding of the actions and duties of the Board of Trustees, it is important to know that Trustees, Executive Committee members and employed staff have a fiduciary duty to the organization of AFG, Inc., including duties of Care, Loyalty, Obedience and Foresight. In short, this means they are required to act reasonably, prudently, in the best interests of the organization, to avoid negligence and fraud, to avoid conflicts of interest and to look continuously into the future.

They do this by:

Duty of Care

- Exercise ordinary and reasonable care in performance of duties
- Exhibit honesty and good faith
- Make decisions based on information, not opinion
- Act in the best interest of the fellowship

- Listen to experts, if needed
- Be knowledgeable about the fellowship
- Show up and ask questions.

Duty of Loyalty

- Undivided commitment to the fellowship
- Faithfulness
- Obligation to be accountable
- Interest of AFG as a whole, not as region or group

Duty of Obedience (adherence to)

- Laws and regulations
- Financial responsibilities
- Legal issues
- Articles of incorporation
- By-Laws

Duty of Foresight

- Strategic legitimacy
- Board Stewardship
- Readiness to learn

The current Strategic Plan of the Board of Trustees of AFG, Inc. is: **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 and 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. Under Strategic Plan Priority three, the Board had formulated a goal with objectives in 2015. The goal is: The AFG, Inc. Board of Trustees will raise the fellowship's awareness of the Trustees' relationship to the Al-Anon groups and WSC, while articulating and expressing the "why" of the Board's work. The current objectives are: To empower Trustees to use existing tools to articulate the "why" of the Board (Blogs, Skits, Webinars).

Increase members' understanding that Trustees are Al-Anon members.

Increase the personal connection of Trustees with the fellowship in order to increase Trustee role education; demystify the role: why BOT meetings are not open, etc.

As members we began seeing evidence of these strategic plans and goals in October 2016, when the Forum began a year long series of articles written by members of the Board of Trustees, providing an inside look at the work the Board does for our fellowship and reinforces that they are regular Al-Anon members. These types of articles will continue in the Forum through September 2017.

Road Trip! You and Your Board Connect: This was formerly known as "Meet the Board".

Policy Committee

The Policy Committee addressed the following issues in 2016

Open and closed meetings

Designating contributions for non-profits through on-line retailers

Handbook changes-Announcing Meetings at Events, Financial Matters, Policy section pages 131 – 165.

KBDM vs. Minority Appeal

The Open Policy Committee meeting at the 2016 WSC gave Conference members an opportunity to hear discussion on Al-Anon's practice of referring to meetings as either "open" or "closed" and how those terms are interpreted by the interested public, potential Al-Anon members and current members. After discussion, the Conference members decided to ask the Policy Committee to review the comments and make a recommendation on how to move forward, considering if there is still need to define meetings that are only open to Al-Anon members or potential Al-Anon members. It came to the attention of the Policy Committee, that individuals who order on-line from a major retailer could designate their favorite non-profit, charitable organization. In turn, the retailer would donate a percentage of the amount spent by consumers as a donation to that organization. The retailer listed Al-Anon as one of many charitable organizations.

The Policy Committee affirmed that Al-Anon does not accept contributions from any program of this type because it is impossible to know whether or not the donations come from Al-Anon members. Furthermore, accepting donations from any merchant charitable foundation program, an outside entity, is contrary to Al-Anon's Traditions. The conference approved to amend the text recommended by the Policy Committee on

Pages 95-99 in the "Financial Matters" section in of the *2014-2017 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual (P-24/27)*

Pages 85-86 and 123-124 in the "Membership and Group Meetings/Conventions" section.

Pages 131-165 in the "World Service Handbook" section.

The Executive Director clarified for an Area when to use KBDM and when to respond to a minority appeal. KBDM is used to address a new question, but to reconsider a previous action is a minority appeal. Issues that were previously discussed are not appropriate for a minority appeal unless new facts not previously stated are contained in the appeal.

The Interim Executive Director-Mary Gregory, appointed by the Board of Trustees, began in April, and has contact daily with staff via technology and in-office visits to conduct business. At an initial all-staff meeting, she shared the message that her intent was to forge an open and collaborative office environment and explained her management style.

Structural Transition of the WSO Staff-A new position titled Magazine Coordinator was created and filled. This position will produce *The Forum* and *Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism*. Another new position titled Digital Strategy Manager was created and filled in September. This position is intended to assist the organization to move forward in all aspects of technology, including public outreach through social media.

Project Based Environment-To assist us in both the structural transition and the change to a more project-based environment which would use talents and expertise across the organization, the Human Resources Manager provided training for the Associate Directors and other staff members in cross-organizational planning and project based approaches.

Tagline-In working on our website, we discovered that our tagline, "Strength and Hope for Friends and Families of Problem Drinkers", used on our stationery, pamphlets, etc., which was adopted in 2008, is not the most helpful to people searching the Internet for the help Al-Anon offers. We therefore returned to an earlier tagline: "Help and Hope for Families and Friends of Alcoholics."

Website-The WSO has been working with a Web design agency to update our Web site, al-anon.org. The site will be made more effective for use on a mobile device and the pages will be structured to make it easier to find newcomer content as well as member content. Additionally, podcasts and blog content will be merged into the new Web site.

"Contribute Now" Button-This button was added to the Members' Web site and has resulted in a high degree of usage. It allows for one-time and recurring contributions with a receipt and is also accessible by mobile phone. In its first six and a half months of usage, it brought in nearly \$38,000 in member contributions. It has been accepted by the membership as easy and useful to them. Individual contributions may be tax deductible.

Board Mission Statement-Anticipate the future and Al-Anon's place in it and ensure that the necessary resources are available.

Social Media-Our social media pages have engaged audiences in 125 countries, 6 continents, speaking 98 different languages. We have a total of 55,057 followers as of the end of 2016.

Facebook and Twitter are being successfully used to expand exposure of Al-Anon to the public. The fellowship has come to understand that by sharing and liking the messages, they are doing Twelfth Step work while maintaining their anonymity, since those two actions do not indicate membership.

Facebook-In 2016, we have seen substantial growth in our Facebook pages. In November 2015, we had a total of 28,968 "likes" or followers. At the close of November 2016, we had 50,420 total "likes." This is a 74 percent increase over 2015. The growth of our pages has allowed us to reach over four million people in more than 90 countries.

Twitter-Twitter In 2015, we had 1,914 followers. We currently have 4,539 followers, a 137% increase. Three hundred sixty-nine tweets rendered more than 780 thousand impressions, and almost 14 thousand engagements.

Our Instagram account went live in November, and it is hoped that through it, we will be able to reach a younger demographic. We continue to seek ways to reach those who need and want our message of hope.

Trademarks-A thorough review of our trademarks as used in the U.S. and around the world was undertaken with the assistance of a Trademark and Copyright attorney who conducted the research and provided us with a timeline and a financial plan for ensuring that our logo and trademark registrations are accurate and up-to-date. Registering our trademarks in other structures and re-registering those that are expiring may be a multi-year project, which will be budgeted and planned for based on prioritization.

We are finding that our trademarks are being used inappropriately on social media and on the Internet as apps, etc. and that it is difficult to get to the groups' organizers to engage in conversation. We are working to seek a monitoring solution. In at least one case, a staff member managed to reach one of the Facebook groups and after a discussion, the group agreed to make itself a "secret" meeting thereby avoiding anonymity breaks of its members on the Internet. The group also chose to register as our first social media group. Other groups we have reached are not willing as yet and so we will move forward in another way to protect our name.

Archives: Lois's Story DVD and Lois W. & the Pioneers translations-In June 1982, Lois W., Al-Anon's cofounder, met with Henrietta S., the first General Secretary of the Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, and Margaret D., the first Editor of *The Forum*. They shared their recollections of Al-Anon's early years in an interview that was later excerpted in the *Lois W. and the Pioneers* DVD (AV-24).

Now available from the WSO website for free download is an audio version of these interviews that is far more extensive and detailed than the DVD versions. At a running time of 110 minutes, the recording is far more extensive and detailed than the 22-minute DVD version, and is presented in two parts. Part I is 56 minutes long, in which a 91-year old Lois talks about her early life and the eventful years that led to Al-Anon's beginnings. Part II is 54 minutes long, in which Lois, Henrietta, and Margaret describe the early days of the WSO Clearing House.

Subscribe to AFG Announcements for news from your World Service Office (WSO). Sign up today on the Al-Anon.org Members' website. This communication system for individual members will deliver announcements from the World Service Office (WSO) right to your inbox. All that is needed is your email address.

Literature: Anyone wishing to submit a sharing may do so by going to the Members Website. There you will find writing guidelines and the ability to submit your sharing.

Electronic Literature: This year the WSO introduced e-book and audio book versions of *Courage to Change*, bringing the total number of available e-books to four and audio books to three, as well as an electronic version of *The Forum*.

The names of the electronic vendors through which these products are available may be made available in announcements and listings, provided a disclaimer is included regarding affiliation.

Literature Revisions: This year, revisions recommended by the Literature Committee were included in

- Alateens Share with Adults in Their Lives (formerly titled *Dear Mom & Dad*).
- Information for the Newcomer.
- Lois Remembers, which had changes to the historical timeline in the back of the book.
- Al-Anon: Then and Now, which is posted on the Members' Web site and the Al-Anon On-line Store.

New Literature: The WSO received a member's request for a workbook made up of the questions from *Paths to Recovery*. The 112-page *Paths to Recovery Workbook* became available in January 2017 for \$10, with a set of the book and workbook available for \$25.

Literature Being Developed: NEW DAILY READER (working title): This reader will cover a wide range of topics from a variety of members throughout our fellowship. The WSO has received more than 960 sharings from the fellowship so far for this book in progress. However, many more sharings are needed.

INTIMACY IN ALCOHOLIC RELATIONSHIPS (working title): Selection of a freelance writer/editor who is an Al-Anon member has been selected. The first draft is expected to be available in May for the Literature Committee to review. If the book is completed on schedule it will be available in English at the 2018 Al-Anon International Convention in Baltimore.

PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS OF YOUNG PROBLEM DRINKERS (working title): The writer/editor has completed the first draft and the Literature Committee is in the process of reviewing and providing feedback. The goal is to introduce the pamphlet at the 2018 World Service Conference.

THE FORUM BOOK (working title): This piece of Conference Approved Literature will be based on member sharings published in past issues of *The Forum* (2005 – present). The piece is intended to compile thoughtful sharings that are important enough to be read for years to come.

So far, members have sent in over 270 titles and publication dates of *Forum* articles they consider the best of recent years. The WSO welcomes additional suggestions.

Forum Legacy sharing shortage: The *Forum* is in serious need of submissions about each of the Steps, Traditions and Concepts of Service for use in the back pages of the magazine. Notices were included in *The Forum*, Group e-News and the Announcements community of AFG Connects. Also needed are sharings from Alateen members.

In January 2017 a new and exciting change was added to the *Forum*. It is an instant meeting on the step of the month, which gives a short sharing, followed by questions that can be used for a meeting.

Prayer for Today Discussion: Discussion continued at Conference regarding the Literature Committee's recommendation to remove the "Prayer for Today" from the *Just for Today* Bookmark (M-12) and Card (M-10), as well as from page 101 of *How Al-Anon Works* (B-22). After hearing from the different Delegates from the U.S. and Canada, the conference decision was to stop the discussion for now and remain open for new information or ideas to come forward at a later date. Nothing changes for now.

Group Services

Special Needs: As a result of an increase in requests from hearing-impaired Al-Anon members for American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters at Al-Anon meetings, several Areas and Al-Anon Information Services (AISs) began compiling lists of current Al-Anon members in their Areas who are skilled in ASL and willing to assist hearing-impaired members at meetings. I hope this is something MAIS or the Area Office might be willing to do. Hearing-impaired members are also directed to the Al-Anon Public Outreach Web site to find the Al-Anon On-line Meeting List, as there are a number of on-line meetings in a written format.

Vision-impaired -The WSO worked with an organization for the blind in the San Francisco area to create Braille interpretations of the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, and Twelve Concepts of Service, the Suggested Meeting Format Readings (Serenity Prayer, Suggested Al-Anon/Alateen Welcome, Suggested Al-Anon Preamble to the Twelve Steps, Suggested Al-Anon/Alateen Closing and the Al-Anon Declaration), and the "Three Obstacles to Success in Al-Anon" from the "Groups at Work" section of the Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual (P-24/27) at the request of an Al-Anon member, so that disabled members in the meeting could participate.

The WSO referred another member in another Area in need of this service and the organization provided that member with the already-translated Braille materials. As more requests are made, more Braille translations of Al-Anon Conference Approved Literature can be made available to our vision-impaired members.

World Service Conference Summary: Beginning 2017 the WSO will 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. 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.

Service Manual: Beginning in 2018 WSO will discontinue the complimentary printed copy of the Service Manual (P24-27) to groups within the World Service Structure. 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.

Alateen Service e-Manual: The "Alateen Service e-Manual" has been revised and posted in a downloadable/printable PDF version under the Alateen tab of the Members' Web site.

Alateens will be celebrating their "Diamond" Anniversary! Preparations for Alateen's 60th "Diamond" anniversary are underway, with announcements published in Group e-News and The Forum. What will your group do to commemorate the 60th anniversary of Alateen? We are calling on all Alateens and Al-Anon/Alateen groups to send "Happy Anniversary" cards all this year to the WSO for a special display and if you want to send a digital card that is welcomed too. The new Digital Strategy Manager will be able to display them through some digital magic! Please send your cards to: AFG, Inc., 1600 Corporate Landing Parkway, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23454 Attn: Groups or send your e-Cards to wso@al-anon.org. Attn: Groups. Four thousand, five hundred and eighty-five (4,585) Al-Anon Members Involved in Alateen Service (AMIAS) were certified in 2016. The total number of Al-Anon and Alateen groups worldwide in 2016 is 24,919. This number does not include electronic meetings. The total number of electronic meetings for 2016 is 157.

Surveys: The World Service Office (WSO) will be conducting a member's survey. This survey will address the physical, mental and spiritual aspects of health. To get a better perception of our members, instead of asking what year we came into Al-Anon, it will ask what was our age when we began attending Al-Anon. This will provide more realistic information about our newcomers. Are they parents, grandparents, young people etc.? Encourage our younger members to participate when the survey comes out. As a matter of fact, encourage every member to participate. Participation is the key to harmony. Our participation in the survey is a service to WSO as it helps them know more about our members within the fellowship. This information allows WSO to better serve us and reach out to those who are still hurting.

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. Let's take a look at what we accomplished last year through your generous support of Tradition 7.

2016 Budget - Total Expenses \$5,437,719, Total Income \$5,656,265. Income included contributions of \$2,098,098, \$2,714,876 profit in literature sales, \$251,901 Forum subscriptions, \$187,767 noncash contributions (for example Google offers links to nonprofits to certain words i.e. alcoholism at no charge. Accounting rules require we report these services as contributions) \$403,623 Investment income (A net increase of \$218,545). Another important part of the budget to pay attention to is our Reserve Fund. This fund is an indicator of how financially healthy the corporation is. The goal is to have one year's operating expense in reserve. Our one-year operating expense for 2017 is \$5,229,500. As of December 31, 2015 the Reserve Fund was 3,829,572. As of December 31, 2016 the reserve fund was \$3,970,816. This is an increase of \$141,244. The Reserve Fund is currently at about 9 month's operating expense. The goal is to have 12 month's operating expenses. The increase is a combination of a positive return on our investments and due to your generous contributions we were able to end the year with a surplus without drawing from the Reserve Fund to meet the 2016 operating expenses. 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. Our Twelve Step work in action. As an Area with group and other contributions, Georgia had an increase in contributions of \$17,067. How did Al-Anon as a whole benefit from this increase in funds?

A new redesigned website, increased social media presence, fully staffed WSO, new Digital Strategy Department, efforts to protect our trademarks and copyrights and a new piece of Literature (Paths to Recovery Workbook).

2017 Budget - Anticipated Expenses \$5,229,500 - Anticipated Contributions \$2,100,000

The increased amount of contributions needed by all entities of Al-Anon Family Groups in 2016 over what was given in 2015 is \$1,902. If every contributor could give \$1.00 more to WSO than what they gave last year we would not only meet the amount of anticipated contributions we would exceed this goal.

I am so proud of all our members and how we met the need and brought our World Service Office to a healthy financial state. You are truly amazing!

The Team Events for 2017 have already been selected. The closest one to Georgia will be held by Florida North and will be at the Hilton in Altamonte Springs, Fl. May 6-7, 2017. There will be no Team Events in 2018 due to the Al-Anon International Convention.

Road Trip! The 2017 Road Trip! You and Your Board Connect (formerly Meet the Board) will be in Colorado. This event has been in a trial phase from 2013 to 2016. In January 2016, the Meet the Board event, now called "Road Trip! You and Your Board Connect" trial was extended through 2019.

If we have a group/s or district/s here in Georgia interested in hosting a Road Trip! You and Your Board Connect or a Team Event, let me know and I will provide the details. Both of these events are very informative, providing a lot of helpful

information about service and increased understanding and knowledge about how our World Service Office supports our efforts in carrying the message. I would really like to see our Area put in a request to host one of these events.

2018 Al-Anon International Convention:

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: Convention registration and sign up for housing will start in September. Notifications will be sent out through the Forum, Group e-News and AFG Connects. You can stay connected to "breaking news" related to the 2018 International on the International Convention Web site:

www.alanoninternationalconvention.org.

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.

International Coordination Committee/Twelve Step Work Worldwide:

The International Al-Anon General Services meeting (IAGSM) is a biennial service meeting for General Service Offices/national service structures. A National service committee is comprised of Al-Anon members that are authorized by the groups in a country outside of the World Service Conference structure to form a national service structure. This committee usually evolves from an Al-Anon Information Service or Intergroup and ends when a permanent national service structure or General Service Office begins. Two members from the IAGSM were able to attend our conference, Arnold, from New Zealand and Mary, from UK/Eire.

The theme of the 18th International Al-Anon General Services Meeting (IAGSM) was Sharing Worldwide Diversity:

Strengthening Our Growth. Twenty-one structures, which included the United States and Canada, were represented in Rome, Italy. Guatemala, India, and Paraguay sent representatives for the first time to the IAGSM. There were 37 attendees to the meeting.

The general sessions reflected the service work and experience on topics such as "How Structures Are Developing and Implementing Strategic Plans" and "Inspiring and Supporting Group Members to Participate in Public Information/Outreach."

Translation Department: Items translated into French and Spanish in 2016 included: magazines, presentations, guidelines, pamphlets/service tools and other items.

As our fellowship continues to grow and change, may each of us as Trusted Servants do our part to carry the message of hope. Thanks to each of you for the honor and privilege of serving Georgia in the amazing World Wide Fellowship of Al-Anon.

Alternate Delegate - Barbara T. Thank you, to Districts 12 (Dorothy N.) and 16 (Denise C.) for hosting registration and the Saturday afternoon discussion meeting this weekend. Thank you to District 13 (Ashley C.) who will be hosting in September. Any GR that had a red circle sticker on the top of your name badge means that you aren't listed as the GR in the WSO database. Please pick up a GR-1 form, complete it and turn in to your DR to send to our Area Group Records Coordinator for processing. Thank you to District 18 (Illa M.) for hosting hospitality this weekend. Thank you to Districts 1 (Romi R.) and 5 (Ben T.) who will be hosting in September.

The updated speaker lists were emailed out to AWSC in February. GRs please contact your DR if you have not received these yet. This is a great tool in finding local speakers if your group or district wishes to have one for special events or workshops. Georgia's subscription rate for the Forum was up 14.3% in Dec. of 2016 as compared to Dec. of 2015. Please continue to encourage your group to purchase a subscription if they haven't already so they don't miss out on this great recovery tool. The Forum needs more sharings! They are very short on sharings about the three Legacies--especially Steps 5 through 12, and all Traditions and Concepts of Service. Also in May's edition, there is a sharing by Claire R., Associate Director--Professionals at the WSO. Claire will be our WSO speaker next January.

Georgia Area 11 Assembly Inventory 2017: A special thanks to our Inventory Facilitator for 2017, Cindy H., a Past Delegate from Tennessee, panel 49, 2009-2011. Thank you to everyone who participated.

Al-Anon Family Groups of Georgia Inc. Financial Report - Katherine N.

Al-Anon Family Groups of Georgia Inc. Financial Report - January 1 - March 31, 2017 Budget vs. Actual YTD: Total Income = \$6,221.25, Total Expenses = \$7,225.28, Net Operating Income=(\$1,004.03), Funds Carried Forward = \$12,493.94. Total Operating Funds on Hand = \$11,489.91. Balance Sheet: Bank Account = \$11,489.91, 1 year CD = \$10,785.55, 6 month CD = \$2,544.26 and Money Market Account = \$2,750.91. Total Current Assets = \$27,570.63

The January 1-March 31, 2017 Al-Anon Family Groups of Georgia Inc. YTD Budget vs. Actual report was approved as presented by unanimous consent. **Motion 2**

Current Ample Reserve Balance is \$13,330.00

Mail AFG of GA contributions to: AFG of GA, P.O. Box 7644, Macon GA 31209-7644.

Georgia Al-Anon Central Services (GACS) Office Chair-Char F.

In the interest of offering more timely delivery and invoicing of orders and to be proactive in preventing injuries to our volunteers and Committee members, the Office Committee voted to ship all orders over 10 lbs. via UPS; orders under 10 lbs. will be shipped via U.S. Postal Service. Using UPS for heavier boxes will eliminate volunteers having to lift and carry boxes out to the post office for shipping. UPS will pick these up directly from the Office.

- Groups should continue to place orders via the GACS email address: orderlit1@gmail.com.
- Paper invoices will be included in all UPS order shipments. Groups will now know exactly what is due when they receive their order.
- Postal invoices will be emailed.

- Orders picked up at the Area Office or Assembly will also include an invoice.
- All payments are due upon receipt. Exception: Invoices for U.S. Postal orders will be sent via email just as we do now after we add-in Postal shipping fees.

We compared UPS rates to Postal rates for a package weighing 13 lbs. sent from Macon to Cumming, GA (distance approx. 124 miles). Via Postal service the package was \$8.93; via UPS a 13 lb. package would cost approximately \$14.25, a difference of \$5.32. So for groups furthest from Macon, they may see an increase of approximately \$5-\$6 depending on address and weight. Groups closer to Macon may not see much of an increase. To help reduce shipping costs, groups can also schedule some orders throughout the year for pick-up from AWSC or Assembly.

We realize this change may create an additional expense for some groups, but we ask that you consider it in light of Tradition One, "our common welfare", and GACS Office Committee's efforts to improve how we offer expeditious service to our Groups and Members.

One last reminder, we have been placing "Thanks for your Support" cards in your orders. The cards also ask for any feedback you may have for us. We would appreciate your taking time to email any that you may have.

Thank you again for your continued support of your GA Area Central Services Office.

Georgia Al-Anon Central Services (GACS) Financial Report-Levon C. January 1-March 31, 2017 Budget vs. Actual YTD: Total Income = \$11,525.30, COGS=\$7,614.62, Gross Profit=\$3,910.68. Total Expenses=\$1,509.42. Net Operating Income=\$2,401.26. Balance Sheet: Cash on Hand =\$29,218.49, Accounts Receivable=\$2,432.11, Inventory=\$14,821.61. Total Assets=\$46,472.21. Liabilities: 2,436.10. Other Current Liabilities: Ga Department of Revenue-GACS (sales tax) \$631.01, Total Current Liabilities = \$3,067.11.

The January 1-March 31, 2017 GACS YTD Budget vs. Actual report was approved as presented by unanimous consent.

Motion 3

Mail Georgia Al-Anon Central Services contributions to: GACS, 2733 Sheraton Drive, F-160, Macon, GA 31264. Please be sure you list your group's name, WSO number and contact phone number on your check.

Announcements:

Change for Change/Silver for Service Challenge- Piggy Banks

Group Contributions - \$5,335.37

Raffle - \$373.00

Auction - \$155.00

Total Contribution to WSO = \$5,863.37 (\$380.00 of this amount was received in cash). See motion 5.

GR Orientation-September Assembly

DRs, please remind your GRs that a GR Orientation will be held on Saturday at 11AM /2017 September Assembly. Kristin L., the DR from District 3, will be preparing a GR packet to be given out at the orientation.

New Business:

Elections:

Election of Al-Anon/Alateen Convention Chair 2019/Co-chair 2018 – Zone 4 – elected- Sheri B. from District 10

Election of Alateen Conference Chair 2019/Co-chair 2018 – elected- Christina P. from District 9

AWSC Task Force - Past Delegate/Past Trustee Service Utilization - Barbara T.

Report with discussion of the following motion from AWSC:

For a 3-year trial period to begin in 2018:

- 1) The immediate Area 11 Past Delegate's expenses to attend the annual Southeast Regional Delegates Get-Together (SERGDT) be reimbursed up to the maximum amount approved by the Assembly. That a new line item be created by the Area Treasurer for this purpose to include an initial allocation of \$125.00 for the 2018 budget.
- 2) Past Trustees who choose to attend may be reimbursed, provided their expenses are not reimbursed by SERDGT, up to the maximum approved by Assembly. Funds will be allocated equally among those attending. That a new line item be created by the Area Treasurer for this purpose to include an initial allocation of \$125.00 for the 2018 budget.
- 3) Any unused funds at the end of the year be returned to the general funds. Motion tabled. **Motion 4**

The motion was presented, discussed and amendments made and seconded. Further discussion led to the need for clarity. The motion was tabled by Thomas E and seconded by Gale S. for further discussion at 2017 September Assembly.

Feed the Pig Funds-Renelle M.

Change for Change/Silver for Service Challenge:

The \$380.00 in cash collected will be deposited by the Area Treasurer into the AFG of Georgia account and a check for \$380.00 will be written to AFG, Inc and mailed to WSO, along with all checks made out directly to AFG, Inc.

The following motion was originated by Renelle M. and seconded by Kelly A.

A motion to amend the 2017 Budget:

A) Increase the line item under Income, Other-by \$380.00 from \$600.00 to \$980.00 and

B) Increase the line item under Expenses, WSO Contribution by \$380.00 from \$1,485.00 to \$1,865.00. Passed unanimously.

Motion 5

Report and discussion on Change of District/District 2 to District 10- Donna M

The following motion was originated by District 10 and seconded by Vena L

Allow Newton County to move from District 2 to District 10. Passed unanimously. **Motion 6**

Summary of Motions:

Motion 1 The January 2017 Assembly Minutes were approved as presented by unanimous consent.

Motion 2 The January 1-March 31, 2017 Al-Anon Family Groups of Georgia Inc. YTD Budget vs. Actual report was approved as presented by unanimous consent.

Motion 3 The January 1-March 31, 2017 GACS YTD Budget vs. Actual report was approved as presented by unanimous consent.

Motion 4 For a 3-year trial period to begin in 2018:

- 1) The immediate Area 11 Past Delegate's expenses to attend the annual Southeast Regional Delegates Get-Together (SERGDT) be reimbursed up to the maximum amount approved by the Assembly. That a new line item be created by the Area Treasurer for this purpose to include an initial allocation of \$125.00 for the 2018 budget.
- 2) Past Trustees who choose to attend may be reimbursed, provided their expenses are not reimbursed by SERDGT, up to the maximum approved by Assembly. Funds will be allocated equally among those attending. That a new line item be created by the Area Treasurer for this purpose to include an initial allocation of \$125.00 for the 2018 budget.
- 3) Any unused funds at the end of the year be returned to the general funds. Motion tabled

Motion 5 The following motion was originated by Renelle M. and seconded from Kelly A.

A motion to amend the 2017 Budget:

A) Increase the line item under Income, Other-by \$380.00 from \$600.00 to \$980.00 and

B) Increase the line item under Expenses, WSO Contribution by 380.00 from \$1,485.00 to \$1,865.00. Passed Unanimously.

Motion 6 Allow Newton County to move from District 2 to District 10. Passed unanimously.

Closing: Moment of silence and Al-Anon Declaration

Adjourned: 1:00PM

Dates to Remember:

June 1-4, 2017	Georgia Alateen Conference, Rock Eagle, Eatonton, GA
August 11-13, 2017	Georgia Al-Anon/Alateen Convention, Callaway Gardens, Pine Mountain, GA
August 19, 2017	AWSC
October 12-15, 2017	Georgia State A.A. Prepaid Convention, Macon, GA
September 16-17, 2017	Area Assembly
November 18, 2017	AWSC

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy White
Area Secretary
Panel 56¹

¹ 9/17/17 Minutes Approved as amended by unanimous consent
Amended-page 3. Business Meeting Part II Sunday, January 22, 2017.
Correction-Business Meeting Part II May 21, 2017.