

Delegate's Report—Barbara T. January 2019 Assembly

Welcome everyone to our first Assembly of Panel 59! It is my honor and privilege to be serving as your delegate this term. My primary responsibilities as delegate that are outlined in our 2018-2021 Service Manual are to represent all the groups in my Area at the annual World Service Conference and be the primary communication link between the groups and the World Service Office. I do this by bringing the Area's viewpoint to Conference and returning with a broader perspective of AI-Anon worldwide. The key phrase in this for me is "communication link". I have learned in AI-Anon that good communication is not only about talking but equally important, is also about listening. It is such an exciting time to be involved in Georgia AI-Anon service because this panel will be a transition time for us as the Area restructures by establishing a Board of Trustees. As a result of the restructuring, we hope to have more time for discussion of topics relevant to AI-Anon as a whole during our Sunday Business Meetings by spending less time discussing budget line items. My goal is to have detailed written Delegate reports out to AWSC to send on to GRs and posted on the website 1-2 weeks prior to Assembly so everyone has the opportunity to read and have a copy beforehand. My report presentation at Assembly will be more condensed highlights and less details than are in the written report so that we will have time to open the floor up for discussion questions and comments. I can't communicate our Area's viewpoint without hearing from you. The 2019 World Service Conference Theme and our Area's Assembly Theme for this year is, "Action is Attraction—There is No Growth in the Comfort Zone". I encourage everyone to get out of their comfort zones, and let your group's voice be heard through you so that we can all grow together.

The 2019 World Service Conference will be held in Virginia Beach, VA, April 13-17, 2019. Anyone wishing to send cards of encouragement or Love Gifts are asked to have them arrive between April 11th and April 15th. Love Gifts can be bookmarks, lapel pins or buttons, or any type of small gift or token that represents Georgia or AI-Anon. Love Gifts are often hand-made. You may want to use the Conference Theme in planning your gifts. Love Gifts are not necessary but are so appreciated! Should your group or district decide to send love gifts, it is suggested to send 100 items if possible so that these can be distributed to all conference attendees, but any amount is appreciated. I will be bringing back Love Gifts from other Areas and sharing with you at May's Assembly. Please send cards and packages to arrive between April 11-15th to:

Barbara T. (use my full name)
*Please Hold for WSC April 13 to 17th
Sheraton Virginia Beach Oceanfront Hotel
3501 Atlantic Avenue
Virginia Beach, VA. 23451

Use my home address (located in Area Directory) as the return address in the event the mail is delayed in arrival.

Delegates Corner—I am in the process of working with Gale, our Web Coordinator, to create a Delegate's Corner page on our Georgia website under the Area Information menu. We hope to have this page completed by mid-February. Sections of Delegates Corner will include: Did You Know--A section for general AI-Anon information, Workshops / Skits, Delegate Reports, World Service Office Information, and AFG, Inc. Board of Trustee Information. This web page is designed to help provide information to our members, so please let me know if this is helpful and any suggested changes or additions you would like to see.

October Chairperson of the Board Letter-- This is a summary of highlights from the October 2018 Board Week that met this year in Houston, TX. The letter, the Board's Mission and Strategic Goals, and Finance and Policy Committee updates can be found at our al-anon.org website under Members section, and then under Board of Trustees. The WSO Senior Leadership Team, Board of Trustees, and At-Large Executive Committee members have clarified their strategic plan on the forward direction of our organization and operations of the WSO and how they will work together. They clarified that the Board of Trustees is responsible for the "What" strategic direction and WSO staff is responsible for implementing this. The new strategic plan includes updated Core Purpose and Mission Statements, updated Core Values, and an Envisioned Future, Goals, and Objectives for Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc. The financial good news is that through September, the General Fund was operating at a \$209,936 surplus due to strong literature sales (up 13% from 2017) and some reduction in expenses. More good news is that contributions to the WSO increased in September and were meeting budget predictions for that month.

Newsletter Editor— We are still looking for a member willing to serve as our Newsletter Editor. The only eligibility requirement for this position is that the person is an active member of Al-Anon, lives in Georgia, and is not also a member of A.A. GR or DR experience is not a requirement, though would be helpful. The Georgia On Track Newsletter serves as a great service tool for information not only from our officers and coordinators about current activities and events, but as a resource for members to read about what other districts are doing as far as finances, public outreach, Alateen, and increasing member attendance and participation. I found it very helpful as a district public outreach coordinator, GR, and DR to read about what other districts were doing or had tried and how things worked out. Our newsletter is a way for all of our members to hear statewide experience, strength, and hope especially if they aren't able to attend Assembly. Let's not let this valuable tool slip away from us.

Safety in Al-Anon Meetings—In December, I sent to all AWSC members a "Safety in Al-Anon Meetings" document that our WSO created and issued. This document is to aid groups in discussing and creating workable solutions to safety issues. This document applies only to Al-Anon meetings, groups and members. Alateen safety is addressed separately in our AFG of Georgia Safety and Behavioral Requirements. The purpose of this document is to help groups maintain Tradition One (our common welfare and unity) by discussing in advance how to address safety situations should they arise, since our groups are sometimes susceptible to the same difficulties that affect the world around us—disruptive behavior, sexual harassment, threats of violence, bullying, high-pressure controlling behavior, dominance, and racial, sexual, or gender identification intolerance. It is hoped that this tool will promote an environment of safety and unity throughout groups in our Area, so we can focus on our primary purpose—to help families and friends of alcoholics.

Area Meeting List Publishing Policy, formerly "Do Not Refer and Re-Refer Policy": At September's Assembly, Renelle discussed information the WSO sent out about Area's developing their own "Do Not Refer" and "Re-Refer" policies on having groups removed from the WSO meeting searches and then re-added if they begin to follow Area policies. As WSO Staff reflected on the principles of what is fair and balanced, they realized the language "Do Not Refer" discouraged a spiritual approach to finding solutions to challenges with groups. Staff recommended to the Executive Committee replacement of the nomenclature of "Do Not Refer" and "Re-Refer" policies with "Meeting List Publishing" policy and the recommendation was approved. The establishment of this policy is in response to our fellowship reporting an increase within their groups of difficulties with stalking, bullying, financial coercion, and presentation of

outside issues including outside literature. Areas determining the need to establish Area Meeting List Publishing Policies must submit their policies for review if they wish to have groups taken off WSO's referral lists. It is up to each Area to decide if they want to develop these policies—it is not mandatory. Meeting List Publishing Policies that Areas have put in place will be reviewed by the WSO to ensure they are within the spirit of being fair and balanced. If it is determined that these policies satisfy the spirit of that guidance, groups will no longer be displayed on the WSO meeting search or given out on the toll-free meeting line. Groups not being referred by the WSO though will remain active and registered. Our Area currently does not have Meeting List Publishing Policies, and we do use a link now on our website to the WSO meeting search tool. We no longer have separate website meeting lists. In December, I sent out to AWSC a document from WSO, "Area Meeting List Publishing Policy Development Resources" that contains excerpts from 2011 and 2012 WSC discussions. GRs were to receive this document through their DR, and DRs were asked to discuss this at their district meetings.

I would like to open the floor up now for discussion on the two documents, "Safety in Al-Anon Meetings" and "Area Meeting List Publishing Policy Development Resources". My goal for this discussion is to determine whether Georgia wants to continue to investigate the possibility of creating a Georgia Meeting List Publishing Policy at this time or not.