

May 2023 Delegates Report to the GA Area Assembly

Revised 5-8-23

Submitted by

Char Green Fareed – GA Area Delegate

Greetings GA AWSC members. I begin this report from the 63rd World Service Conference with a sense of deep gratitude. Attending my second WSC as your Area Delegate was filled with moments of joy, sadness, connection, anxiety, physical exhaustion; all of these and more. While moving through all of these emotions, I was filled with gratitude; grateful that I could access at any time the tools of the Al-Anon program to help move through the up's and down's so I could keep an open mind, body and spirit. I'm grateful to all of you for the love and support you poured out to me before, during and after the Conference. I'm grateful for being in the company of loving volunteer servants like the Delegate from PR doing the best we could to support one another.

Every day at conference, I received beautiful love gift cards from my GA Al-Anon family. You were there with me; cheering me on with handwritten cards, many unique and handmade. Each day, a Conference member would come up to me and say, "Char, have you checked your inbox? You've got more cards today; wow, they must really love you in GA." On two days, I received boxes of cards that couldn't fit into the mail bin! The love and support from all of you lifted me up in moments when I was on the emotional and physical rollercoaster. I shared the "GA love" with my Conference members and they expressed how unique and thoughtful the cards were. My gratitude to all of you is without words.

One of the main responsibilities of a World Service Delegate is to: *"bring the Area's viewpoint on matters affecting the entire fellowship to the Conference and to return with a broader perspective of Al-Anon worldwide and to be the bridge of understanding that links the groups in the Area with world Al-Anon to help them continue to function in unity"* (2022-2055 SM p.150). Per our Area's position description, The Delegate is *responsible for giving a report of the WSC for GRs at the May Assembly to carry back to their groups*. So, this is purpose of my report to this Assembly.

There was a large amount of information shared over the four days of the Conference, so I've condensed much of the information and focused on what I believe would offer a "broader perspective" to help our groups "continue to functions in unity." The report follows the key discussions from each day of the Conference Agenda again, in a condensed format.

Please note, if you need more detailed reports and information, see the 2022 World Service Office Annual Report that is posted on the Al-Anon website. It contains comprehensive information of the work of the WSO, Board of Trustees, and Executive Committee to ensure continuous delivery of services to Al-Anon members and trusted servants within the WSC Structure and across the worldwide. I will be happy to discuss other questions you may have from my report in more depth via email or phone. I've included as an addendum to this report, a page for "Quick Facts" on cost of services and group statistics.

The theme for the 2023 World Service Conference was: *Love, Laugh, and Grow Together*. All of these were present over the four days. The Conference was attended by Delegates from U.S., Canada, Puerto Rico, WSO Volunteer Board of Trustees and Executive Committee, WSO voting staff, Chair of the Executive Committee for Real Property Management, Conference Recorder, International Rep (this year from structure in Germany), Interpreters (French, Spanish).

Day 1: Thursday, April 20, 2023

Chosen Agenda Items

Chosen Agenda Items or CAI's are discussion topics submitted by Area Delegates. There were over 50 CAI's submitted to the Conference Committee and two were "chosen" for discussion based on recurrent themes from the topics submitted. These were the two topics, we only had time to discuss one.

Attracting members into Service. What works? What doesn't work? What are the barriers to service participation? Did not have time to discuss.

How can we better tap into our wealth of experience with our Past Delegates at the Area and Conference level?

These were the main points from this discussion:

- Assembly Greeters
- Ask It Basket – ask a Past Delegate
- On Area committee's policy committee, guidelines committee
- Rotate into AAPP position
- Mentor to the next group of trusted servants

Friday, April 21, 2023

2023 AI-Anon International Convention presented by Vali Fayen, Executive Director and Scot Powers, Director—Communications & Community Awareness

The 2023 AI-Anon International Convention will have a virtual option this year. There will be translation available in 9 languages. Vali and Scot also shared the 2025 AA International with AI-Anon participation will take place from July 3 - 6, 2025, at the Vancouver Convention Centre and BC Place Stadium. This will mark the 90th anniversary of the founding of the Fellowship.

Auditor's Report Niketa Williams, Director of Finance & Operations

- ✚ Received a "clean" report from Auditor
- ✚ Decrease in Literature sales due to market conditions
- ✚ 2nd year in a row contributions were more than literature sales
- ✚ 1st half of 2023 literature sales were strong
- ✚ 2022 received more contributions in our history
- ✚ Reserve fund holds about 9 months of operating expenses

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Workshop

A Consultant guided the members through a very impactful presentation on brought forward by the WSO Board of Trustees to continue the equity and inclusion conversation. The presentation generated reflections on how we can better understand and connect with members across differences.

WSO Office Visit

On Friday of the Conference we visited the World Service Office. As the bus full of Conference members pulled up to the Office, all of the staff were lined-up outside and as we got of the bus each one of them greeted us with (optional) hugs and "welcome home."

Saturday, April 22, 2023

2022 Finance Committee Report:

Presented by: Cindy Medford, Trustee, Treasurer of AFG, Inc. & Niketa Williams, Director of Finance & Operations

- ✚ We have a balanced budget for 2023; revenues and expenses are balanced; anticipating strong literature sales for the new daily reader
- ✚ Operating Budget is constantly reviewed throughout the year
- ✚ Annual individual group contribution is \$3.21

Literature Discussion—Sponsorship and Service Sponsorship Piece - Tom Coffey,
Associate Director—Literature

- ✚ An overwhelming majority of the Delegates reported members in their Areas would like to see a new piece of literature on Sponsorship. The Literature Committee is still in conversation and will send updates as the conversation evolves. Thanks to all GR's and DR's who responded to my quick poll on this question; I received about 30 responses and was able to include your voices in this discussion.

Practicing the Seventh Tradition - Cindy Medford, Trustee, Treasurer of AFG, Inc.

- ✚ The reverse of the Appeals letter details the services provided by WSO. Contributions matter! Please continue to share the reverse of the Annual Appeal letter with your Groups. The services WSO is providing is directly due to the donations received. It allows them to continue supporting Areas, groups, districts and Al-Anon globally to continue our recovery and to carry the message to others.

Conference Committee on Trustees (CCT) Report - John McGourty, Panel 61, California North, CCT

- ✚ At the 2023 WSC 7 applicants were affirmed for Trustee-at-large; Regional Trustee; Trustee for Real Property Mgt.

Transforming Electronic Groups Update - Vali Fayen, Executive Director

This will be a multi-year project. The work is being organized in Phases to ensure a thoughtful, well developed process. This is the completed work to-date related to transforming electronic groups:

- ✚ Development of and implementation of a Global Electronic Meeting search. The GEM search launched in March, 2023 and will search for members seeking a GEA meeting; this search is separate from the online in-person search.
- ✚ Electronic Groups can transfer to and from the GEA using available online forms
- ✚ Electronic Groups registration and change forms can only be submitted online
- ✚ In the future, only online group forms will be available
- ✚ Groups can register to join the GEA up to 6-12 Months after the Area decides to accept Electronic Groups

Strategies WSO will Explore:

How to support less technologically-savvy group trusted servants

Work In-Progress:

- ✚ A MS Excel-compatible export of electronic groups registered with a geographic Area is being developed for the current Online Group Records application.
- ✚ Electronic groups registered with geographic Areas are currently not displayed on al-anon.org
- ✚ WSO Staff are working now to evolve the Geographic Meeting Search to list these groups

Strategies WSO will Explore:

How to ensure groups temporarily meeting online have the correct location description information to ensure the newcomer finds the meeting.

Up Next:

- ✚ Online Group Records GR (OGR) application replacement
- ✚ Area Group Records Coordinator (AGRC) electronic group workflow is the first step in that replacement
- ✚ Complete OGR replacement is still many years in the making

Strategies WSO will Explore:

How to familiarize AGRC's with existing WSO training videos in anticipation of future videos being supplied?

Policy Discussion: Changes to the Announcing Events section of the 2022-2023 SM

Presented by Cindy Medford, Trustee, WSO Board Treasurer

- ✚ Announcing events and events at AI-Anon meetings. Policy Committee discussion regarding update from comments from members. Policy committee proposed changes to the 2022-2025 SM, pgs., 90, 91. "Conventions and Other Events" updates. These changes were approved at 2023 WSC, all changes will be made on the SM online app.

2022 Annual Report Updates - Presented by Vali Fayen, Executive Director

Updates outside of 2022 Annual Report Posted on the WSO Website

- ✚ HR Changes: WSO has experienced several HR "setbacks" due to death, extended leave, retirement or resignation. Right now down WSO is down by 6 staff however, even with these setbacks, the staff has pulled together to ensure the current work, e.g., 2023 WSC, upcoming International happens.
- ✚ A printing error occurred in the printing of the 2022-2025 SM; page 13. The word "God" in Step 3 was italicized. Suzanne Martin, Asso. Director for Group Services made an amends and shared the error was corrected on the mobile app. The error did not occur in the French, Spanish editions of the SM.

Road Trip! You and Your Board Connect

- ✚ Presented by Heather Smith, Associate Director Community Relations
Is GA Area ready to take on an application to host the Board of Trustees Road Trip visit in 2024? If yes, we can submit in one easy step:

Step 1: Mail or email our Area's application by **September 22nd, 2023**.

Then WSO Picks Up the rest of the Steps:

Step 2: The Board of Trustee's will choose three potential sites by **October, 2023**

Step 3: Area selected will be notified by **February, 2024**. WSO begins to negotiate with local hotels

Step 4: WSO provides registration forms to the Area by **May, 2024**

Step 5: Meet the Board happens, **October, 2024**

Here's the invite, What District is willing to submit an application? (**show invite**)

Motion of Note:

The Conference gave conceptual approval to the Literature Committee to develop literature on Service Sponsorship

Sunday, April 23, 2023

Open Board Meeting

The Board invited all members to sit-in for a moving discussion on Abundant thinking. It was a good opportunity to hear this conversation but also to hear some of the thoughtful conversations the Board engages with in some of their meetings.

Financial Feasibility to Continue Holding the WSC Triennially in New York/Connecticut -

Presenter: Debbie Pangborn, Trustee, Conference Chairperson

The presenters posed the question: “Is it important to continue visiting Stepping Stones once every three years? Why or why not? What are the options?” The members discussed the spiritual and financial feasibility of WSC visiting Stepping Stones every three years and shared their ESH on the questions.

Alateen Electronic Group Feasibility Update – Presented by: Sarah Smith, Director of Programs

After a year of discussion, sharing and research the project team offered a conceptual process for allowing structures to allow electronic Alateen groups. These are only ideas, there were no votes taken; this is an ongoing discussion and process.

Copyright & Trademark – Presented by Vali Fayen, Executive Director

Helping members understand why we need to protect Al-Anon's name.

Why Copyright & Trademarks Protection is Important:

- ✚ It protects the collective wisdom of Al-Anon members
- ✚ It ensures only the entity which owns the rights can legally use it
- ✚ It protects our registered “marks” with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (and global equivalents)

Most Common Violations:

- ✚ Unauthorized reproduction of CAL and posting on the internet, e.g., groups meeting electronically may post photocopies of CAL for members to have for a meeting
- ✚ Using Al-Anon logos online for a service event, e.g., conventions
- ✚ Modifying the Al-Anon or Alateen Logo

Copyright Violations Harms Al-Anon:

- ✚ Trad. 10 may draw Al-Anon into controversy
- ✚ Trad. 4 – may give the impression of Al-Anon consent
- ✚ Costs Al-Anon resources; both human and financial
- ✚ Consistency of our program can be harmed if copied and pasted or CAL retyped incorrectly
- ✚ Can harm financially by 3rd party entities by reproducing CAL without permission

For additional information, see page 117 of the 2022-2025 Service Manual which outlines what logos are permissible to use by Al-Anon service arms.

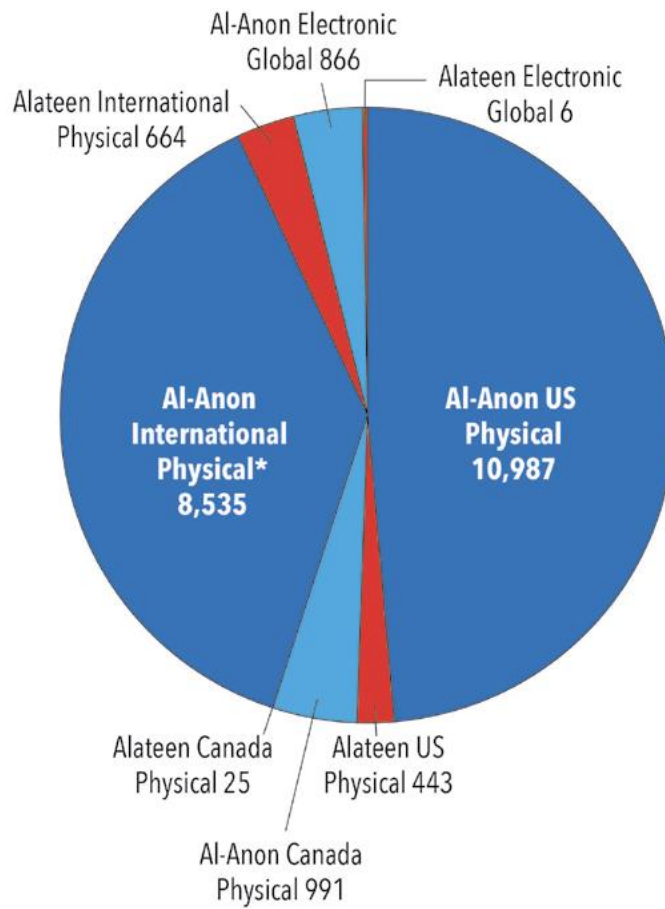
Remaining in *Gratitude* to you and all you do in support of your own recovery, for the recovery of our groups, alateens, districts, area, Al-Anon worldwide and for those who have yet to hear our message of hope.

Char Green Fareed
Panel 62 Delegate

Quick Facts

2022 Worldwide Al-Anon Family Groups Statistics

Source: 2022 Annual Report – Al-Anon Family Groups



Cost of WSO Services Allocated across WSC Registered Groups

Source: 2022 Annual Report – Al-Anon Family Groups

