

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.

February 10, 2016

Dear Al-Anon and Alateen Members,

It is with excitement that your Board of Trustees welcomes the Panel 56 Delegates. As you know, our 2016 World Service Conference theme is "Realizing Our Spiritual Potential." As Trustees, we have experienced humility and gratitude in our service role, and are honored to share part of your journey with you in April.

The Board of Trustees and Executive Committee members began the January 2016 Board week with a major challenge—"snowzilla." We had many opportunities to practice our program of recovery—powerlessness over flight delays and cancellations—and practicing "plan B," which required being nimble and flexible. An example of this flexibility is the manner in which we accommodated a Regional Trustee candidate who was unable to be present during the interview. With the mutual consent of all Board members and Trustee candidates, this candidate participated via video conferencing.

Trustees serve for a short period of time. It is important that we continuously renew our resources by identifying our future leaders on the Board of Trustees for Al-Anon Family Groups Headquarters, Inc. As noted on page 210 of the *2014–2017 Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual*, "This [Nominating] Committee aids the Trustees in discharging their prime obligation to see that all vacancies within the Board of Trustees or its Executive Committees are filled with those of the greatest possible competence, stability, and industry." The list of nominees to be presented to the World Service Conference for traditional approval of Regional Trustees, Trustees at Large, Board Officers, and At-Large member of the Executive Committee for Real Property Management are:

Regional Trustees:

Bruce Fetter, US Southeast	First three-year term
Debbie Grace, US North Central	Second three-year term
Joan Sullivan, US Northeast	Second three-year term

Trustees at Large:

Judy Kirby	Second three-year term
Elizabeth (Jennie) McCann	Second three-year term
Rosie Morin	First three-year term
Magdalena Escobar	Last two years of first three-year term

Board Officers:

Debbie Grace

Joan Sullivan

Elizabeth (Jennie) McCann

Chairperson of the Board

Vice-Chairperson of the Board

Treasurer

Executive Committee for Real Property Management:

Thomas Blake

Three-year term

Following traditional approval, the Board may elect the nominees at the Annual Meeting on Saturday morning after the World Service Conference.

The following résumés will be presented to all World Service Conference members for your information:

Executive Committee:

Beverly Anderson

Paula Burleson

Connie Hurst

Third one-year term

First one-year term

First one-year term

Chairperson of the Executive Committee:

Beverly Anderson

Chairperson of the Executive Committee for Real Property Management:

Jeffrey Keeny

The goal of the Board Strategic Plan is:

The AFG Inc. Board of Trustees will raise the fellowship's awareness of the Trustees' relationship to the AI-Anon groups and WSC, while articulating and expressing the "why" of the Board's work.

One of the ways that we accomplish this is with the "Meet the Board Event." This is an opportunity for Trustee and Executive Committee members to interact with members on a more personal level. It provides an opportunity to share with members how the World Service Office serves the fellowship and listen to member's thoughts on strategic and spiritual topics. We are looking forward to visiting with AI-Anon and Alateen members that attend this event in Fayetteville, Arkansas on October 22, 2016. We hope that Areas will consider hosting this event in 2017. More information will be provided at the World Service Conference.

The Board's Mission Statement is to "Anticipate the future and AI-Anon's place in it and ensure that the necessary resources are available." One of our important resources is the staff working on our behalf at the World Service Office. We want to keep and attract talent, as well as to be known as an employer of choice. Therefore, the Board is working on an "AFG Compensation Philosophy."

During Board week, we held a Board Development session in conjunction with staff members. The topic was on effective communication using [AFGCONNECTS](#). We reviewed the "Code of Conduct" that explains the "Community Rules & Etiquette and Privacy Guidelines" as well as the "legal stuff." It was an engaging session and all present expressed excitement with the way service leaders are embracing the discussion threads. We hope all members that have access to a community on [AFGCONNECTS](#) will continue using this valuable resource to share concerns and experience with others in the same community.

With each Chairperson of the Board letter following the Quarterly Board meeting, there is an opportunity for a Delegate/Trustee call. The purpose is to: clarify any questions related to the content of this letter; gain insight on a question that is typically presented; and offer an independent resource for potential Area concerns. It is not a venue to voice concerns or advocate a position to the Board of Trustees, since those are submitted to the World Service Office for proper routing. The question for this call is:

What is your Area doing to celebrate Al-Anon Family Group's 65th anniversary?

If you prefer not to have the Trustee phone you, please let him/her know when the initial contact is made. In order for Delegate comments to be reviewed by the Board of Trustees at the Special Board meeting in April, we need to receive your response to the above question before **March 18, 2016**.

I want to continue encouraging you to plan to attend Al-Anon's Sixth International Convention to be held in Baltimore, Maryland on July 6 – 8, 2018. It is an exciting time to meet friends and family from around the world, and hear the similarities in our stories of courage and wisdom.

This is my last opportunity to personally write to you (my term on the Board ends after the Annual Meeting in April). I want to take a moment and share a few thoughts on this incredible journey. I was encouraged to step into service many years ago by my home group's Group Representative. He supported me as I learned to become the new Group Representative. Along this journey I have been supported by many knowledgeable Service Sponsors who willingly shared their gratitude of this program. Without this journey in service, I would never have grown to the level of courage, strength, and wisdom this program and our Legacies offers. I know of and trust the dedication and commitment that your Board of Trustees brings to everything they do on behalf of Al-Anon Family Groups, Inc. Lastly, I'm excited to see what my Higher Power has in store as I continue this journey in recovery...

Yours in Al-Anon service,



Paula Burleson
Chairperson, Board of Trustees
Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc.

2016 World Service Conference Theme:
Realizing Our Spiritual Potential
Reconociendo nuestro potencial espiritual
Reconnaître notre potentiel spiritual

Policy Update

Judy Kirby, Chair

John McLoughlin, Co-Chair

February 2016

The purpose of the quarterly update from the Policy Committee Chair is to inform members of current discussions being held at policy meetings, and to report progress and new information regarding any motions pending or passed at the World Service Conference (WSC).

The fall update informed members that the Policy Committee had completed its work on preparing language about allowing a memorial contribution for a deceased AI-Anon member, from a family member who is not a member of AI-Anon. That language requested by the 2015 WSC is coming to the 2016 Conference. The proposed motion contains recommended language as well as suggested placement in the *Service Manual*, should the motion pass.

A second policy item will be presented: the revised text on "Announcing Events at Meetings." The Policy Committee has identified spiritual principles and criteria for what can and cannot be announced at meetings, re-working pages 85-86 and 124 of the "Digest of AI-Anon and Alateen Policies." This topic was brought to the Policy Committee by a member who was concerned that the current language was not clear because some members were working around the policy to suit their needs. The proposed language provides more clarity about what events can and cannot be announced as AI-Anon/Alateen.

The Policy Committee continues consideration of revisions to the "Financial Matters" section on pages 95–99 of the "Digest of AI-Anon and Alateen Policies." This text revision has taken considerable time and patience in order to arrive at language that clearly interprets and encourages the use of our Traditions and Concepts, while remaining spiritual and helpful to the fellowship.

An Open Policy Committee meeting will be held during Conference week. Members of the Conference will have an opportunity to hear discussion on a topic of interest to every AI-Anon and Alateen member and potential member: the designated terms "open" and "closed" describing meetings.

Members need to know that all topics discussed at the Policy Committee meetings are raised by either an AI-Anon member or a group seeking clarification of any matter relating to the fellowship. It is the Policy Committee's responsibility to interpret these topics in light of AI-Anon's Traditions, providing clarity and help to those who inquire about matters important to individuals, groups, or Areas. Any member of AI-Anon/Alateen who has not received sufficient clarification through his or her links of service is encouraged to write to the World Service Office, requesting that the idea or question be sent to the Policy Committee for consideration.

Finance Update

Jennie McCann, Treasurer

February 2016

The following update is based on the unaudited financial statements for the period ended December 31, 2015. The General Fund recorded a loss of \$361,033 for this year, compared to a loss of \$16,195 last year, in large part to a continued decline in literature sales below 2015 budget projections. Literature sales were below 2014 sales by \$446,426. In an effort to conserve the Reserve fund, the investment income and transfer from the Reserve Fund totaled only \$51,415 compared to \$207,818 in 2014. While 2015 Contributions exceeded 2014 Contributions by \$127,948, they fell below budget projections by \$50,633. Total income fell below budgeted income by 6.13% while total expenses were just below budget.

Income:

Literature sales were \$3,415,146 this year, compared to \$3,861,570 last year, a decrease of 11.56%. Gross profit on literature sales was \$2,822,801 (83% of sales), compared to \$3,060,053 (79% of sales) last year. The increase in gross profit percentage means that although sales numbers are not as high as budgeted, we are keeping more of the profit to apply to services. Contributions were \$1,649,337 this year, compared to \$1,521,388 last year—an increase of 8.4%, *Forum* subscription income was \$230,714 this year, compared to \$242,117 last year—a decrease of 4.7%.

Expenses:

Operating expenses were \$5,115,300 this year, compared to \$5,047,568 last year. This is an increase of only 1.34% which was on target with respect to the budget. There were not significant changes in expenses except that costs involved in the printing and mailing of the *Service Manual* in 2014 were not repeated in 2015. As part of the Finance Committee's duty to keep a watchful eye on expenditures, we must find places to cut expenditures while not affecting core services to the members. The suspension of the complimentary copy of *The Forum* to the groups is one such action taken in 2016.

Reserve Fund:

The fair value of investments in the Reserve Fund totaled \$4,892,994 at December 31, 2015. This amount includes an unrealized gain of \$674,237. In compliance with a Board of Trustees' motion, 4% of the average balance of the Reserve Fund over the prior 36 months could be transferred to the General Fund, if needed.

Conference Leadership Team Update

Tina Barna, Chair

February 2016

The purpose of the Conference Leadership Team (CLT) update is to communicate the agenda planning activities for the World Service Conference (WSC). Planning begins at the close of the prior Conference with review of the evaluations and insights offered by WSC members at the conclusion. The agenda topics are determined by the World Service Conference's request for more information, for Thought Forces and Task Forces, and direction to the Committees.

- AFG Connects is proving to be a positive tool for Delegates to communicate not only with the World Service Office (WSO), but also with each other. Questions have been posed and answers have been posted by WSO staff and/or other Delegates. Plans and ideas for attending the 65th AI-Anon Anniversary have been shared.
- Chosen Agenda Item (CAI) questions have been received and will be sent out shortly for voting. Please remember all WSC members are to vote for their top choices. The deadline for submission of your choices is March 1st.
- The agenda framework for the 2016 WSC agenda has been approved by the Board of Trustees. The full agenda will be sent to Delegates two weeks prior to Conference along with the results of the Chosen Agenda Items.
- The new WSC member orientation call was held on February 6th. This call offers an opportunity for the new Delegates to have their questions answered about travel, the agenda, and participation in the WSC.
- Please note there is communication on AFG Connects about two different dinners—the WSC closing dinner on Friday April 15th, and the 65th Anniversary dinner on Saturday, April 16th. Each dinner requires a separate dinner reservation.