



Al-Anon Family Groups  
Help and hope for families and friends of alcoholics

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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.
- 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.

Dear Al-Anon and Alateen Members,

First things first. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, we would like to welcome our new World Service Conference (WSC) members, Panel 57. Please know we are here to support you as you begin your new journey in service. We look forward to welcoming you in April!

For the first time in a few years, the weather did not impose travel delays or the ability for any of the Trustees to not be physically present during January Board week. There was a lost piece of luggage that finally arrived on our third day.

Board Week began with the Nominating Committee meeting during the morning of Sunday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>. It was followed by an afternoon meeting of the International Coordination Committee (ICC). Finance and Executive Committees met on Monday along with the Board's Strategic Plan Oversight Work Group. The Policy Committee met on Tuesday morning; Conference Leadership Team (CLT), Board Committees, and Thought and Task Forces met during the afternoon. The Board of Trustees began our meeting on Wednesday morning with a strategic planning session with staff. The week ended with a surprise retirement party for David Zach, Director of Business Services (non-member). The staff planned a special evening celebrating David's years of service to the World Service Office (WSO). David's retirement date is February 24<sup>th</sup>. Retirement wishes can be sent to David at the WSO.

**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. Please see the attached Finance update for further information.

**Road Trip! You and Your Board Connect:** Site selection for the 2017 Road Trip! You and Your Board Connect (formerly Meet the Board) was recently announced. We look forward to joining members from Colorado and perhaps a few additional members from other Areas.

**Alateen Work Group (AWG):** The purpose of the Alateen Work Group (AWG) was to provide guidance for the activities of Alateen by identifying and articulating the needs of teenage members and to assure Alateen interests were considered.

The Alateen Work Group (AWG) was established with the intent that adults would form the Work Group and would engage teens by involving them in task and thought forces. This led to a three-year trial of the Alateen Work Group from 2012-2014. It is currently in a second three-year trial, with a tentative end date of October 2017.

Following an in-depth and nearly year-long review and study of the purpose, intent, and outcome of the Work Group by its parent Executive Committee along with the input of the WSO staff and Trustee members of the Alateen Work Group; it was determined that the current format did not provide any added value to the Alateen services regularly provided by the WSO. The struggle to obtain teen participation was unsuccessful despite the varied methods that were attempted over five-plus years. As a result, the Chairman of the Board asked the Executive Committee to discuss the strategic implication for Alateen services should the trial end. It was determined that there would be no consequence to Alateen services since the WSO would continue to maintain the focus on Alateen members just as they do for all AI-Anon member services including AMIAs and Alateen Coordinators whose voices are heard and acted upon.

A motion came before the Board as follows: *The Alateen Work Group trial period ending in October 2017 not be extended and the Alateen Advisory Committee as described in Concept Eleven be disbanded.*

The Board wishes to assure members that disbanding the Alateen Work Group will not affect current or future services provided by our WSO to or for Alateen which will remain an important and essential area of focus.

**2018 International:** Plans continue to evolve for our 2018 International Convention, to be held in Baltimore, Maryland on July 5-8<sup>th</sup>:

**Celebrating One Day at a Time  
2018 International Convention**

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.

You can stay connected to “breaking news” related to the 2018 International on the International Convention Web site: [www.al-anoninternationalconvention.org](http://www.al-anoninternationalconvention.org)

### **Interim Actions of the Board**

While the Board of Trustees meets quarterly, the work of the WSO continues on a daily basis. In an effort to allow our staff the opportunity to move forward with proposed projects, the Board has started using technology as a means of sharing information between Board meetings. This allows Board members the opportunity to review, discuss and move motions forward in a timely manner. In turn, proposed projects can begin as needed rather than waiting for Board approval during our quarterly Board meetings. The use of Interim Actions of the Board is in keeping with our legal rights and in support of our Mission and Vision Statements and Strategic Plan Priorities.

The following Interim Actions were taken by the Board during the time period of November/December 2016:

In an effort to assist in decreasing budgeted expenses, reduce costs and to apply the use of emerging technology and communication options, the Board of Trustees approved the following recommendations from the Finance Committee:

#### ***World Service Conference Summary (P-46)***

The Board voted to accept the Finance Committee’s recommendation to 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 beginning in 2017. 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.

#### ***Complimentary printed copy of the Service Manual (P24-27)***

The Board voted to discontinue the complimentary printed copy of the *Service Manual (P24-27)* in English, French, and Spanish to groups within the World Service Structure beginning in 2018. 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.

#### ***How Al-Anon Works for Families and Friend of Alcoholics (B-32)***

Both as an outreach tool and as a contributor to revenue, the softcover version of *How Al-Anon Works* is considered a success. Based on these facts, the Board

approved to end the trial of selling the softcover version of *How Al-Anon Works for Families and Friend of Alcoholics* (B-32) as a Public Outreach project within the World Service Structure and to adopt printing the soft cover version in English, French, and Spanish for general sales. The price will remain at \$6 per copy and no discounts offered.

The Board is responsible for ensuring that the following, as noted on page 210 of the *2014-2017 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual* is upheld, "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 an At-Large member of the Executive Committee for Real Property Management is:

Regional Trustee:

Joyce B., U.S. Southwest	Second three-year term
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Trustees at Large:

Terry F.	Second three-year term
John McL.	Second three-year term
Therese M.	First three-year term
Norm W.	Last year of first three-year term

Board Officers:

Debbie G.	Chairperson of the Board
Marilyn M.	Vice-Chairperson of the Board
Elizabeth (Jennie) McC.	Treasurer

Executive Committee for Real Property Management:

Sue C.	Three-year term
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Following traditional approval, the Board may elect the nominees at the Annual Meeting on Saturday following the World Service Conference.

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

Executive Committee:

Paula B.	Second one-year term
Connie H.	Second one-year term
J.P. M.	Third one-year term

Chairperson of the Executive Committee:

Paula B.

Chairperson of the Executive Committee for Real Property Management:  
Jeffrey K.

With each Chairperson of the Board letter following the quarterly Board meeting, there is an opportunity for a Delegate/Trustee call. Panel 57 Delegates will be contacted by the Trustee assigned to the respective outgoing Delegate. 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. If you prefer not to have the Trustee phone you, please let him/her know when the initial contact is made. It is not a venue to advocate a position to the Board of Trustees. Due to the amount of information within this quarter's COB letter, as well as the Policy, Finance, and CLT updates, rather than asking a specific question, we are offering the Trustee call as an opportunity to focus on the content within and an opportunity to respond to any questions or need for clarification.

With the conclusion of each Board meeting, I am filled with gratitude and great hope for our future. Our Board is unified in our work; our staff is moving ahead with new ways to reach new members and keep our current members connected. We place our spiritual principles within every conversation and behind every decision. I have every confidence that we have a bright future ahead.

In gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Debbie G." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Debbie G.  
Chairperson of the Board of Trustees