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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2025

WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE

A 65-Year Conversation

Al-Anon's 65th annual World Service Conference (WSC) took place April 24-27, 2025, in Windsor, Connecticut.



Here are some of the highlights from this year's Conference.

Electronic Alateen Validation and Implementation Planning

The journey to support electronic Alateen groups was presented as part of the Electronic Alateen Validation and Implementation Planning (EA VIP) project report to the 2025 WSC. The team shared the timeline and many steps taken to date to create proposed minimum requirements for electronic Alateen groups in the World Service Conference Structure.

Since the 2024 WSC, project work has focused on validation. Importantly, a thorough legal review of the proposed WSC Electronic Alateen Safety and Behavioral Requirements (EASBR) was completed. The attorney confirmed that both the process to hold electronic Alateen groups outlined in the WSC EASBR and the 2003 Alateen Motion from the Board of Trustees align with current legislation governing participation of minors using online platforms within the WSC Structure. Only two additional statements were needed to ensure clarity in the proposed WSC EASBR:

- Teenage participants in electronic Alateen meetings must be 13 years or older
- Electronic Alateen meetings cannot be recorded or transcribed.

The implementation planning phase of the EA VIP project is next and will commence after the WSC ends. At the WSO, Staff will begin building the training modules and systems necessary to support electronic Alateen groups. In the Areas, Assembly conversations are encouraged

to understand the groups' willingness to adopt the WSC EASBR and support electronic Alateen groups, if approved at the 2026 WSC. As with Alateen itself, Areas may exercise autonomy in choosing whether to accept electronic Alateen groups. Thankfully, acceptance of electronic Alateen involves adopting the WSC EASBR as outlined without alteration, eliminating the need for updates to existing Area Alateen Safety & Behavioral Requirements.

Delegates were provided with all the information necessary to begin discussions in their Areas.

Choosing a Group's Name Policy

Prior to the 2025 WSC, Conference members were provided a document outlining the history of the “Choosing a Group's Name” Policy conversations, as well as the appeals to the “Choosing a Group's Name” Policy that had been received by the WSO between September 2024 and March 31, 2025.

During several sessions throughout the Conference, discussions were held to discover whether the Conference members were in alignment on how to proceed. The discussions evolved organically, with as many voices as possible having the opportunity to be heard.

Conference discovered that the primary, although not exclusive, concern with the Policy was its implementation. As discussion progressed, many agreements were reached and clarifications shared, including the Policy Chairperson's declaration that:

It was never the Policy Committee's intention to direct Staff to enforce the “Choosing a Group's Name” Policy implementation on existing groups—ever.

After days of conversation, the Conference members agreed it was necessary to bring the conversation back to the Areas to explore concerns, thoughts, and opinions on the implementation and the Policy through spiritual conversations with the groups. A motion was prepared to guide WSO implementation of the Policy. The approved motion allows Staff to accept group names which include identifiers such as those listed in the “AI-Anon and Alateen Groups at Work” section of the *AI-Anon/Alateen Service Manual* (P-24/27) until the WSC reconvenes in 2026.

Local Services Policy Discussion

The 2024 WSC passed a motion to update the “Local Services” Policy, eliminating or relocating all but the “Autonomy of Groups” section under “Local Services.” Following the 2024 Conference, a new Policy Task Force was charged with evaluating this last section and considering the need to include previously proposed “Meeting List Publishing” Policy language.



At the July 2024 Policy Committee meeting, the Task Force presented an updated “Meeting List Publishing” section for consideration. The updated language broadened the policy to encompass the Global Electronic Area (GEA) and international structures. The Task Force also considered a minority opinion about the “Autonomy of Groups” proposed language shared with the 2024 WSC members.

Following discussion, the 2025 WSC agreed that the proposed changes offered a clearer interpretation of AI-Anon's basic principles. New Policy Digest text was approved that revised “Autonomy of Groups” as “Who Can Disband a Group” and added a new section entitled “Meeting List Publishing.” Both sections were added under the “Membership and Group Meetings/Conventions” section immediately before and after “Registration of Groups.”

During discussions, Conference members asked about the WSO review process for Meeting List Publishing Policies (MLPP). Members were reminded that Areas have the autonomy to implement their Assembly approved MLPP and that WSO support only becomes important in the rare instance when an Area stops publishing a group's meeting details and asks the WSO to do so as well.

Mark your calendars!

Members executed an impromptu drumroll during the presentation to announce the location for Al-Anon's next international convention. The 2028 Al-Anon International Convention with A.A. Participation will be held July 20–23, 2028, in Minneapolis, Minnesota—“The City by Nature.” Just a four-hour flight from anywhere in the continental US or Canada, Minneapolis is the perfect-sized city—and we'll be the main event in town!

Conference members were encouraged to highlight the change in weekends, as our ninth Convention will be held later in July to avoid July 4th holiday travel congestion and higher costs and to honor time set aside for family holidays.

The session concluded with an extended-arm invitation for all to come experience the “Minnesota Nice” that our Area Delegates are always telling us about!



International Coordination Committee

The International Coordination Committee (ICC) presented reports to cover topics that included:

- Perspective on the worldwide fellowship of Al-Anon
- How the WSO has established and maintained consistent connection with 70 collections of groups, 13 Al-Anon Information Services (AISs), six evolving structures, and 40 General Service Offices (GSOs) using various communication technologies.
- The role of the ICC in sharing the voices of the international structures with the Board of Trustees, the World Service Conference (WSC), and the members within the WSC Structure. In 2024, the ICC requested, and the Board approved, granting permission for first-time translation requests to Latvia and Mongolia.

A second ICC presentation included an overview of the Director of Programs and the International Services Manager 2024 travel to Asia to visit South Korea, Mongolia, and India in person and China via virtual meeting due to travel restrictions. The visits included attending Al-Anon meetings with the general membership in these countries, meeting with trusted servants from the service structures, providing workshops, and sharing WSO Staff personal and service journeys.

The presentation included quoted messages of deep gratitude from trusted servants in these structures who conveyed how these visits were priceless to their efforts to carry the message of hope and help in these countries. They expressed appreciation for the WSO Staff workshops on numerous topics.

Through the visit, WSO Staff reported that each structure was unified in welcoming anyone, anywhere. All who participated in these visits recognized that when we look at what unites us, we grow in recovery together. Although each structure is vastly different culturally, they share one primary purpose, and that is to provide hope and help to those that have been affected by the family disease of alcoholism.

After hearing the presentations, WSC members shared how their understanding and appreciation for the statement “the worldwide fellowship of Al-Anon and Alateen” had transformed. The echoes of the Conference members were that “they are just like us!”

A Golden Celebration Announcement

Al-Anon is turning 75 in 2026! The Board was excited to announce and extend the invitation for members to join us in Virginia Beach, VA for a golden celebration of hope, healing, and service! The celebration will be held on Saturday, April 25, 2026, immediately following the 2026 World Service Conference. Members of Al-Anon, Alateen, and Alcoholics Anonymous, along with their guests, will have the opportunity to attend an Open House at the World Service Office, followed by a celebratory banquet.

This historic celebration honors the extraordinary work begun by two ordinary women—Lois W. and Anne B.—whose vision and dedication in 1951 united family groups around the world. We'll celebrate our legacy and reaffirm our vision for generations to come. With speakers, fellowship, and plenty of tickets, this event promises to be unforgettable.



Spending the Excess Reserve Funds from 2023

The Board of Trustees approved spending the 2023 “excess funds” in the Reserve Fund on operational and strategic projects scheduled to unfold over the next several years. “Excess funds” in the Reserve Fund are calculated annually on December 31 and include any amount exceeding the calculated one year’s operating expenses for the WSO at that specific moment of time.

Operational projects include replacing the 20-year-old WSO van and purchasing much-needed office equipment and furniture. These projects were fully funded and executed during 2024.

The Strategic Projects are as follows:

- The Core Systems Overhaul will replace the WSO accounting system and Al-Anon’s database system which supports Group Records, the Online Bookstore, AFG Connects, and WSO inventory records.
- A project which will reach professionals who serve young people, including medical professionals, school counselors, and others, through PSAs on podcasts, exhibits at trade shows, and targeted ads in trade magazines and on LinkedIn.
- “Passing It On” is a Twelfth Step strategic initiative aimed at sharing with the next generation of trusted servants the knowledge, experience, and resources that will empower and equip them in all aspects of service.

MORE INFORMATION

The Highlights of the 2025 World Service Conference have been created to provide a brief overview of our jam-packed 2025 Conference. For additional information, we invite you to read the *2025 World Service Conference Summary* (P-46) after its release later in the year. We hope that you have found these highlights to be helpful, as they only scratch the surface of the many spiritual discussions that will be outlined in the *Summary*.