

S U M M A R Y

Scanned

of the

SECOND AL-ANON WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE

NEW YORK

APRIL

1962

Session 1

This Second World Service Conference was an inspiring occasion. Twenty-four states and provinces across the continent sent Delegates who met with the Headquarters Board of Directors and the Advisory Board's 1961 Chairman of Committees.

Sue, the Conference Chairman, opened the first, as she did all five sessions, with a unison recitation of the Serenity Prayer. After a welcome by Sue, Bill W., co-founder of A.A., in a moving talk said, among other things, that he considers Al-Anon about the best thing that has happened since A.A. began, and that the Conference is "an insurance policy against Al-Anon's future failure at its very center of world function."

When Sue called the roll the 22 Delegates present were from Alberta, Arizona, the Atlantic Provinces, British Columbia, California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Ontario, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia, Washington and Wisconsin. Kansas and New York sent Alternates, since their Delegates were unable to be present. Representatives with voice but not vote were sent by Kentucky, Nebraska, South Dakota and Quebec.

After a short welcome by Lois, Bill's wife, Sue introduced the new Chairman of the Board of Directors, Eleanor, who in turn introduced the various Headquarters members who made reports, highlights of which follow:

Anne B., 1961 Chairman of the Board of Directors, gave a short account of Headquarters early struggles and its growth this past year, largely due to the Conference, then told of the help Al-Anon had been to her after the loss of her husband a year ago.

Henrietta, Headquarters Secretary, estimated that over 500 new groups had registered during the year, and although a considerable number of older groups had disbanded, that the total at the end of 1961 was nearly 2,000. There were 45,000 FORUMS sent out, about 3,500 books sold and 20,000 letters mailed, a tremendous growth in the 10 years Headquarters has been operating.

The head of the Publications Department, Evelyn, told of its work of packaging and mailing literature, books and FORUMS, of ordering supplies, mimeographing and inventory-taking. She stressed the need for the group name and mailing address on order blanks to be filled completely and clearly.

Ruth, Chairman of the Literature Committee, hoped that this year's three new pamphlets; "Alcoholism, the Family Disease", "The Twelve Steps and Traditions", and "The Stag Line", would fill Al-Anon's special needs. Among the revisions made was that of our book for its second printing.

The new Chairman of the Public Relations Committee, Trudy, explained her work as informing the public and welfare agencies so that they, like the song, are "getting to know us". Her Committee have just completed a most efficient "Fact File" and Public Information Kit for the use of local groups.

Ann N., Chairman of the Public Education Committee, reported how thrilled she was that over half of the 433 inquiries to which she responded were from students, the others

being from doctors, lawyers, ministers, social workers, etc.

The Alateen correspondence during 1961 was handled by Holly, a Staff member, who said that of the total 154 groups, 94 new ones registered, but 35 older ones disbanded.

Vi, Chairman of the Volunteers Committee, reported that because, from her own experience she knew of how much mutual benefit working at Headquarters could be, she had little trouble allotting time among the 20 volunteers who work there when needed.

Anne B., now as Chairman of the Institutions Committee, told how rewarding she found her correspondence with the families of alcoholics in prisons and other institutions and in helping them to understand about alcoholism and what they can do to help.

The purpose of the Policy Committee was then described by Lois, its Chairman, as the aiding of groups and Headquarters, when requested, in interpreting the Traditions into everyday use and in passing on to the groups and Headquarters any policies decided upon by the Conference.

Margaret, our Editor of the FORUM, thanked the Delegates for urging their members to send in material, but begged them to increase their efforts, saying "you don't have to be Shakespeare to write for the Forum".

The Chairman of the Budget Committee, Sue, reported that Headquarters financial position is better than last year, but that still only 60% of the groups contributed. She suggested that, with the need for larger quarters and additional personnel, we try to raise this to 80%.

In the Conference Secretary's report, Holly stated how encouraging have been the results of the First World Service Conference in every area and in every way, but that there will be a financial deficit again this year.

After the Headquarters reports were all approved, Sue asked the 12 First Panel Delegates to recount their areas' experiences after the First World Service Conference, interesting items from which follow:

Illinois noted not only an increase in the number of groups, but also in unity and in AA acceptance of Al-Anon. The area held 6 assemblies during the year and formed two Intergroup Councils.

Minnesota was thrilled that many AA groups asked her to give her World Service Conference report at their meetings. She quoted the phrase: "When fear knocked on the door, faith answered, and there was no one there".

California told how she puts World Service on a personal basis and that the Conference is uniting this long state.

British Columbia likened Al-Anon to a big tree, Headquarters being the roots and trunk, the groups and members its branches and leaves, and World Service its fruit. The roots are fertilized by dedication and devotion, but also by the material substance - money.

Michigan's Delegate announced a gain of 18 groups. Although the state could hold but one assembly because of the resignation of last year's Delegate when she moved to a distant part of the state but they plan to do more this coming year.

New York's report, given by a substitute, since both the Delegate and Alternate were ill, the former because of the unexpected early arrival of twins the night before,

told of the growing interest of upstate areas in the World Service Conference.

Ontario's long treks under difficult conditions to visit distant groups, in one instance a thousand-mile round trip, was most impressive. The account ended with, "We close our hands to pray. Let us open them for service."

The Kansas Alternate Delegate told that the state is trying to assemble a Directory listing all their groups in order to see that new ones register at Headquarters and that they learn of World Service.

The Texas Delegate's husband drove her several thousand miles to visit groups, 41 of which have GR's. She distributed many copies of Bill's talk at the first World Service Conference which she had mimeographed.

Florida noted that more secretaries are reading the mail from Headquarters to their groups since she has been urging this. Discussion meetings held alternate weeks by AA's and Al-Anons have aided mutual understanding.

Ohio held three Assemblies and recounted how World Service had brought unity to some groups that hadn't spoken to each other in years. Cleveland-Akron being the birthplace of AA, the old-timer complex of keeping AA as it was has made it difficult for Al-Anon to be accepted. But the unity between AA and Al-Anon is growing.

Pennsylvania used his Committeemen to explain the need for the World Service Conference and for the support of Headquarters. He found that after continued hammering, the latter's importance is beginning to be recognized.

After Sue had appointed emergency Committees to speed up the conclusion of any subject on tomorrow's agenda that might become stalled in over-long discussion, the session was adjourned, as were all the following sessions, by a unison recitation of the Lord's Prayer.

## Session II

At the opening of the second session, Sue urged everyone to ask questions freely, so that all sides of every topic could be well understood and no one would go home with questions unanswered.

### DATE OF THE 1963 CONFERENCE

The first item on the business agenda was the date of the 1963 Conference. Although Minnesota and Massachusetts felt it would be more convenient for Headquarters at another time, Henrietta and Sue said that wasn't important, since the feeling of many of the other Delegates was that holding it at the same time as AA would further AA understanding of Al-Anon. Therefore:

A MOTION was made to keep our Conference at the same time as the AA Conference in the spring.

When a MOTION was carried unanimously that Sue continue as Conference Chairman, she modestly replied what an honor she felt it to be.

### OBSERVERS AND ALTERNATES IN 1963

On the subject of having Observers in 1963, a variety of opinions were expressed. Illinois felt the more people who carry the Conference message back to their areas the better. New Jersey agreed, but thought a limit should be set so the sessions were not

"cluttered up". Ohio remarked that too many Observers coming and going were confusing. Holly, considering the practical aspects of cost and size of hall, said "We could need Madison Square Garden". Henrietta noted that AA's do not permit non-alcoholics at their Conference and that these are business meetings. North Carolina, Florida and Texas told of numbers of other people who would like to come next year.

However, a MOTION was made to limit the observers to mates of AA Delegates and to have representatives from non-Panel states.

The discussion continued in like vein on the subject of including Alternates at the Conference. Minnesota felt Alternates would be more useful to the Delegate with knowledge gained here and suggested that it be optional whether the state or the Alternate pay the Alternate's expenses. Headquarters members reiterated the practical factors, Henrietta remarking that it would be unfair if the Jersey Alternate could perhaps pay her own way because of the short distance but British Columbia could not. Sue thought "the pattern would be too patchy".

When Lois, reminding us that the Conference is essentially a business meeting, suggested that what we needed was a convention to which everyone could come, Sue announced that we will have such an opportunity at the AA International Convention in 1965.

A MOTION was made not to include Alternates in 1965.

#### HOW TO SELECT AND FINANCE PANEL III

On this question Illinois suggested the Conference Fund be merged with the General Headquarters contributions so that larger spring and fall contributions to Headquarters would take the place of three. California and Massachusetts felt that the next Conference should be open to all states, and South Dakota suggested that even a small state might be able to join the Conference if it had a Delegate.

However, Texas and Ontario urged we stick to the original plan, Ontario suggesting that a small state might cut down on Headquarters contributions in order to send a Delegate. Following Pennsylvania's recommendation that the discussion be limited to the selection of Panel III before going into financing:

A MOTION was made to select Panel III as we did Panels I and II.

After Holly had broached the question of whether states outside the quadrant should be asked to join the Panel if those within were not able to finance a Delegate:

A MOTION was made to leave this matter up to the Headquarters Conference Committee.

In discussing the financing of Panel III it was discovered that some airplane fares had gone up after Sue had estimated the amount so that a few Delegates did not receive enough to cover their fares, also that in several cases there was extra bus or train fare to the air terminal, so:

A MOTION was made that Headquarters reimburse the Delegates for these differences.

and another MOTION was made that the exact equalized amount necessary for the Delegates' expenses be left to the Headquarters Conference Committee.

#### CONFERENCE APPEAL TO THE GROUPS

On the subject of the Conference appeal to the groups, Illinois again suggested only two but larger contributions to Headquarters annually instead of three. Pennsylvania thought we should wait until the Conference became permanent to change it. Lois said that when AA adopted a two-appeal plan the contributions at first dropped off, but that in the end it caused so much less confusion that it was better.

A MOTION was made to send again this year an appeal to all groups for the General Conference Fund.

California and Texas, the two largest states, felt they were not yet ready to have two Delegates from a state, so:

A MOTION was made that each state, regardless of size, have only one Delegate at present.

Next, Sue brought up the subject of whether all the Advisory Board, or just the Chairmen of Committees as is being done this year, should have a vote in 1963. Although a few states felt a larger proportion of states outside of the Headquarters center in New York could give the group conscience greater scope, Ontario pointed out that the group conscience must be well informed in order to find the best answers and that the Advisory Board and the Headquarters Staff had much of the information. Anyway, in 1963 there would be 36 Delegates and only 25-27 Advisory Board members.

A MOTION was made that all members of the Advisory Board vote in 1963.

WAYS AND MEANS OF ASSURING AN ADEQUATE INCOME FOR HEADQUARTERS AND  
HOW NON-CONTRIBUTING GROUPS CAN BE BETTER INFORMED

When the question of ways and means of assuring an adequate income for Headquarters was brought up, a number of the Delegates reported how each had portrayed the Headquarters picture to their groups: "Headquarters is world-wide 12th Stepping"; "Headquarters needs 20 volunteers to carry on their work. What would you do if it were transferred here?"; "I tell of the numbers of letters, Forum and literature orders mailed"; "Harriet wanted the French groups in Quebec to have Al-Anon so badly that she stayed up nights translating the Forum and pamphlets"; "Your gratitude will help somebody else find Al-Anon"; "Fifteen cents dropped in a box at two-thirds of the meetings will add up to over \$4.00 a year."

On the latter half of the topic, the Delegates felt they could help to inform the non-contributing groups in their areas if they knew which they were and Paul suggested they do this by inference, Headquarters listing only contributing groups. Sue warned that if Headquarters sent this information once a year upon the Delegates' request, it should be kept confidential.

Before the question was settled, it was lunch time and the session adjourned.

Session III

At the opening of the third session:

A MOTION was passed that Headquarters send the Delegates a confidential list of contributing groups annually soon after the year's end.

CONFERENCE APPROVED LITERATURE

At Sue's request, Lois explained that last year the Conference voted to have Conference-approved literature. This year it was to consider its approval of the present Headquarters literature. The four Delegates who offered their services were to check this literature with the Headquarters Committee and report at a subsequent session.

THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE WORLD DIRECTORY.

The improvement of the World Directory was then taken up, Ohio suggesting it show the groups contributing but not the amount. British Columbia thought it might list each group's contributions and the number of members in a group, the way AA does. But most

conference members felt the contribution listing should be kept the way it was done for 1962.

Headquarters having unsuccessfully tried several suggestions for keeping secretaries' addresses up to date, such as stamping "Action", "Reply requested", "Important", on the envelope enclosing the annual Directory card, the Delegates felt it was up to them to urge all their groups, through GR's, to elect as secretaries responsible persons for a year or to establish permanent mailing addresses; and to contact new groups. Since all new groups are listed in the Forum each month, secretaries' addresses can be obtained from Headquarters.

Then, too, Headquarters gives each new group the Delegate's name. To aid communication still more:

A MOTION was made to put all Delegates' phone numbers in the Directory.

Another MOTION was passed to have the Forum note that addresses of new groups can be obtained from Headquarters.

On the question of whether other addresses, such as a State Committee or Assembly should be listed:

A MOTION was carried to list only the Delegate's name, address and phone number in the Directory.

HQ felt that contributions to the General Conference Fund should be made directly to Headquarters from the groups and not through the Assembly or Committeemen. This avoids confusion in crediting and acknowledging contributions from each group.

After a short discussion on each subject, MOTIONS were made as follows:

That Delegates be sent all mailings from Headquarters;

That Assemblies do not reprint and resell Headquarters literature pertaining to the World Service Conference;

That the Conference Review be edited as it was last year;

That the Assembly Secretary report to Headquarters elected officers, Committees and GR's and dates of Assembly meetings.

Then followed several questions concerning Assembly procedure which it was decided were the choice of local Assemblies, but it was felt that a group on a state line should join the Assembly in its own state.

#### IMPROVEMENT OF OVER-ALL PUBLIC INFORMATION

Sue then reintroduced Trudy and Ann N., Chairmen of the Public Relations and Public Education Committees who further explained the use of the Fact File in relation to requests from newspaper, TV and radio editors, ministers, doctors, welfare agencies, alcohol information centers, schools, all outside inquirers who want to know what Al-anon is and how it functions.

Trudy reminded the Delegates to let Headquarters know about any proposed national publicity, since Headquarters was better equipped to cover it. She complimented the groups on how well local publicity is handled by them.

Henrietta then stated that Headquarters never gave the Directory or Al-anon names to outside agencies and that the local contact with these agencies was left to the groups.

Trudy, now as Chairman of the Speakers Committee, urged groups to send Headquarters names and the background of suitable speakers or teams of speakers from their areas, as Headquarters has many calls for them for conventions and anniversaries all over the country.

#### IMPROVEMENT OF LITERATURE

Several Al-anon groups had written objecting to the title of our book, "Living

With an Alcoholic" and Sue asked Ruth to lead a discussion.

Wisconsin said the husbands of some members of her group objected saying "after an alcoholic is in AA, why should there be any problem?" After the ensuing ripple of laughter, Texas responded that Dr. Clinebell says ours is the first book that he recommends, partly because "alcohol" is in the title. But Massachusetts said her groups hid the title by turning the cover when giving it to newcomers.

Upon this, Ruth, explaining that time and thought had gone into the title, pointed out that AA's always say "I am" not "I was" an alcoholic. Her Committee felt the word "alcoholic" should be in the title, since that was what the book was about, but that there also should be a word of hope. Most people who come to Al-anon want to go on living with the alcoholic, and the present title implies that others have found a way, so perhaps they can, too. Ruth said that a title was very important, since it was "the reader hook", and that if a title such as "Al-anon" has to be explained, you are lost.

Ontario thought the title most effective because we first come to Al-anon to learn to live with an alcoholic and then find we must learn to live with ourselves.

Charles said Ruth's explanation was priceless and there were calls from the floor to print it in the Forum.

Then Colorado brought up the subject of Al-anon's need for a book of our own like AA's "Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions". She told how often they used Bill's book, but it lacked specific application that a similar one for ourselves would have.

In reply there were suggestions that our pamphlet "The Twelve", the Forum's monthly article on the Steps or Traditions, their interpretation in our book, as well as Bill's book, could be used until such time as some member has the time and inspiration to write such a book.

On a request for additional literature for parents of alcoholics, Ruth said such a pamphlet was considered as well as another on Alateens, the one now in preparation being for the families of alcoholics in institutions.

Henrietta then told of the misunderstanding about a New York prison's translating and reprinting our literature on the premises. AA has a policy against prisons doing this. Instead AA sells at a reduction, Institution packets to be given to the prisons by interested nearby groups. Henrietta asked for a decision of the Conference on what our policy should be.

A MOTION was made that we do not permit institutions to reprint Al-anon literature.

After Ruth said that the mimeographing of Bill's talk at the first Conference was the next thing the Committee would undertake, the session was adjourned.

#### Session IV

The fourth session opened with a recommendation from the Conference Literature Committee that the Conference accept the present Headquarters literature as "Conference-approved" and that the Headquarters Literature Committee, together with the four Delegates who volunteered, be appointed the Conference's agent until it becomes permanent.

MOTIONS WERE MADE covering both above recommendations.

#### IMPROVEMENT OF THE FORUM

The enlarging of the Forum was discouraged by Margaret and her Committee, who felt an interesting small magazine was better than a larger dull one, and that effort should be made to enlarge the subscription list rather than the magazine.

On increasing subscriptions, Henrietta told how AA has Grapevine Representatives in each group, and the Delegates enthusiastically backed the idea of using GR's for FORUM boosting.

Margaret asked the Delegates to be sure their areas understood that the decisions of this Conference are mutual decisions, not just those of Headquarters, that we are all

here together as trustees of Al-anon's future.

Wisconsin suggested a two or three-year subscription at reduced rates and Evelyn reported that bulk subscriptions are renewed by secretaries oftener than individual subscriptions. Members forget to renew.

A MOTION was made that the size of the FORUM remain unchanged, that Headquarters decide upon price of two-year subscriptions, and that Delegates try to increase subscriptions in their fields.

Texas suggested that in order to encourage GR's and Committeemen, the FORUM list their duties, and Colorado suggested that it annually run a group inventory.

#### IMPROVEMENT OF GROUP UNITY

Among the suggestions for the improvement of group unity were that holding exchange meetings in an area develops a "family feeling" and that the groups should all use the same Steps. Virginia and Ohio reported groups in their areas which preferred Steps more specific than the original.

Lois then explained that before Al-anon, she had written an application of AA's Steps for their wives, but that Al-anon later chose to use AA's Steps practically unchanged. It was brought out how it confuses outsiders to be given the Steps by Headquarters and then perhaps find in their own area they are stated differently.

Ruth suggested that if the Cincinnati Council wrote to Headquarters asking about the advisability of a group's using its own interpretation of the Steps, Headquarters would tell of the Conference's strong feeling that, for unity's sake, all groups should use the same steps.

After a long discussion about to whom and how the SUMMARY SHOULD BE MAILED so that GR's would be sure to receive a copy, the matter was put in the hands of a committee to report later.

Illinois MADE A MOTION that all present urge groups to follow the original Twelve Steps and Traditions and to use Conference-approved literature.

#### IMPROVEMENT OF ALATEEN GROUPS

When this subject was brought up, Wanda, leading the discussion, read from the returns of a questionnaire sent out earlier, concluding that more literature and better sponsorship were the great needs.

In a discussion on who should sponsor Alateens it was discovered that, though Alateens were a part of Al-anon, many Al-anon members were indifferent to them, not understanding their need. Therefore mas, many of them women, as well as ministers and other outside people, were sponsoring Alateen groups. Much of the AA sponsorship had, of course, been good, but two or three very bad experiences were reported.

Points made by Conference members follow:

N.J.-Delegates should form Alateen Committees to stir Al-anon to its responsibility. Sponsor's dedication is most important.

Wanda-The person who starts a group does not necessarily sponsor it.

Henrietta-When outside people want to start an Alateen group HQ suggests they first start an Al-anon one.

Texas-Alateen groups of boys need men sponsors and there are few Al-anon men.

B.C.-Anonymity is safer under Al-anon or AA sponsorship than under that of outsiders.

Mass.-Alateens send delegates to Boston Intergroup.



- Wanda - Successful groups that last have good sponsors who also inform clergy, school counselors, etc. about Alateens.
- Sue - Alateens should be under Al-Anon sponsorship.
- Calif. - Sponsoring Alateens is Al-Anon's responsibility. The Alateen Traditions state they are part of Al-Anon. Careless sponsorship could get Al-Anon into trouble with juvenile authorities. Our literature should say: "Alateens are sponsored by Al-Anon members with the cooperation of AAs."
- N.Y. - AAs, as our husbands and fathers of our children, should help Alateens and understand their hurt and sometimes hatred of the alcoholic.
- Colo. - AAs make good advisors to Al-Anon sponsored groups. Kids often resent non-alcoholic parents also.
- Ruth - Kids would not speak out if AAs were present.
- Ann N. - It is best when sponsors do not have their own youngsters in their groups.
- Henrietta - One AA with Alateen experience thought, if sponsors having children in their groups were eliminated it would deprive Alateens of most willing and interested sponsors. But both Henrietta and California felt a line should be drawn some place.
- Minn. - AAs were the best sponsors in her area.
- Mary - An AA has tried a long time to find a sponsor for Alateens among many Al-Anon members but - NO ONE WAS WILLING.
- Oregon - The need for Alateens is a matter of education. Many Al-Anons think Alateens are dangerous. They should be jolted to the need.
- Colo. - Al-Anons are afraid to recognize the harm they did their children so do not want to sponsor Alateens.
- Lois - Ministers or judges, using our principles to help young people, are not necessarily sponsoring Alateen groups.
- Sue adjourned the session in the usual manner.

#### Session V

The discussion of Alateen sponsorship continued because of differences of opinion on whether we could shut out anyone from taking that responsibility.

A story was told about careless sponsorship exploiting Alateens. Only the diligence of a local Al-Anon prevented the teenagers from appearing on T.V.

Ann N. felt too much supervision of Alateens took away from "its beautiful pattern". Sponsors should speak only when asked and make no rules and Holly again stressed that groups with good sponsorship continue, the others disband.

Wanda thought some Alateens need more direction than others.

Sue expected that when Alateens develop further we will see our road ahead more clearly.

Colorado felt that Alateen anonymity breaking was very rare.

After much discussion, a MOTION was made to leave the matter of sponsorship with the Alateen Committee and its four Delegate members.

SHOULD ALATEENS JOIN W.S.C.

Alateens have already participated in the Illinois Assembly, one being made a Committeeman. Massachusetts voiced the general opinion that participation on a state level was a state decision and that Alateens were not yet ready to be members of the W.S.C.

Therefore a MOTION was made by Pennsylvania that Conference material should not be sent by HQ to Alateens.

SHOULD ALATEENS HAVE MEMBERS WHO DO NOT HAVE AN ALCOHOLIC PARENT

The consensus of opinion was that although "some real little hustlers" come they do not stay since they do not have an alcoholic problem in the family; that we cannot be too arbitrary since rules might shut out those with real need. California again warned that since the public is not educated along Alateen lines, care should be taken not to collide with public opinion.

Wanda ended the discussion on Alateens by noting how well the youngsters had grasped the program, and that as their fellowship grows, their problems will modify. She closed with, "They present to Al-Anon a great opportunity for service."

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCE MAILING

A MOTION was made that we accept the Committee's report that: "All mail pertaining to the Conference be sent to the group's permanent mailing address and stamped 'Attention of Group Representative'; this to be supplemented, upon request of Assembly Secretary, by sufficient free copies for each Assembly officer and committeeman."

A second MOTION was made that: "Assemblies let HQ know needed number of free copies." Still another MOTION: "HQ set price of summaries to other members." (25¢)

ASKIT-BASKET QUESTIONS

Eleanor led the discussion of questions sent in by members and Delegates as well, general conclusions on which follow:

STATE COMMITTEES AND INTERGROUPS DO NOT ASSUME HQ'S SERVICES. The former usually evolve into Assemblies when states join W.S.C. Intergroups often parallel locally but do not duplicate some HQ services, their size determined by local needs and easy commuting.

STATE COMMITTEES AND INTERGROUPS SHOULD NOT PASS OUT NEW GROUP HQ REGISTRATION CARDS. It saves confusion to have all groups contact HQ directly.

WHEN OUTSIDE AGENCIES DO FAVORS FOR AL-ANON, such as printing or sending out letters, Tradition VII is broken.

Several states had suggestions on HOW TO BETTER RELATIONS BETWEEN AA AND AL-ANON:

N.C. - have Al-Anons speak at AA meetings whenever invited.

Calif. - has put on a n ad-lib skit over 40 times, entitled, "A Day at the Al-Anon Office", over half at Al's request.

Arizona invites AAs to talk at Al-Anon meetings; one AA gal saying she was ashamed to talk after hearing the Al-Anon speaker.

Eleanor urges Al-Anons to be on hand whenever AA wants us.

British Columbia has put on a successful dinner for 400 at AA's request.

Texas holds monthly "Family Nights" where one month AA puts on the meeting and Al-Anons ask questions and the next month they reverse it. Al-Anons should speak, when asked, anywhere - at any kind of a meeting.

The answer to the question of WHETHER IT BROKE TRADITIONS TO BELONG TO MORE THAN ONE GROUP was felt to be, "Surely not, as long as you help to support them."

IS THERE A NEED FOR AN ANNUAL W.S.C. was a question raised by one of the Metropolitan groups since they feared the burden of sending a Delegate would fall on the Metropolitan groups. Wisconsin had felt Milwaukee would have to bear the burden but the other areas rallied and sent in more than their share. Small groups sometimes show the most interest. Other Delegates thought the interest would soon die if we met less often. In 1960 the groups voted to hold an experimental Conference for 3 years to meet annually.

Upon REQUEST FOR A POSTER, Ann N. of the P.E. Committee and Henrietta said they'd see what could be done; that posters were very expensive, \$50 for those at Long Beach. It was felt posters at AA or Al-Anon gatherings would not be promotional. However Colorado suggested if posted in outside agencies they might be so considered.

To the question, SHOULD AL-ANON USE SPOT RADIO ANNOUNCEMENTS on time given by a station, Ann again answered, saying she did not see why not and that such questions were answered in the new Public Relations Kit, which also explains how to preserve anonymity.

Delegates gave accounts of how INTRODUCTORY CLASSES or BEGINNERS GROUPS are held:

In Wisconsin AA cooperates and sends wives of new AAs to Al-Anon classes held successfully for years, where part of the time a leader reads or tells her personal story and then answers any but personal questions from beginners.

During 12 meetings on the Steps, Texas rotates the leaders to avoid personalities.

Oregon holds periodic meetings on fundamentals so newcomers can identify with each other, but some older members object.

Minnesota agrees, suggesting that a preponderance of older members might be why the classes do well in one half of the Twin City and not in the other.

In Arizona, 5 or 10 minutes at the start of the meeting are devoted to newcomers.

Illinois holds beginners meetings an hour before the regular meeting.

The reverse is done in Ohio where they hold monthly meetings for oldtimers who can feel free to talk without discouraging new arrivals.

They do it like AA in N.Y. A selected sponsor hears a beginner's story, takes her to meetings, phones her during the week, etc.

In Colorado they give a new person full attention for the whole meeting.

When SHOULD DOCTORS OR PSYCHIATRISTS SPEAK AT MEETINGS was brought up, the feeling seemed to be that this is one way to inform outsiders about Al-Anon, but that it was helpful to brief them beforehand, give them literature and the Fact File, and that part of the meeting be devoted to Al-Anon and a question and answer period.

On the SELECTION OF A STEERING COMMITTEE it was generally felt that both the Al-Anon Group Manual and AA's "Partners in AA" were helpful in forming such a committee and that its size depended upon the size of the group.

HOW HQ CAN BEST HELP COLORED PEOPLE WHERE THERE IS NO INTERRACIAL GROUP was discussed and suggestions on this important question were:

1 - that HQ proceed as usual, writing the regular letter with enclosed literature to the inquirer and referring the inquiry to the nearest group. If the secretary then answers, "I am sorry, but since there is no place in our group for the inquirer, I have contacted her myself", HQ then registers the inquirer as a "loner", putting her on the mailing list, perhaps urging her to start a group or giving her names with whom to correspond;

2 - that HQ give the inquirer's name to the appropriate Delegate who could try to find the right group for her.

On the topic of what a group could do about one or two DOMINEERING PERSONALITIES - Pennsylvania recommended the reading of Margaret's articles on this prevalent problem in the Nov. 1961, Feb. and March 1962 FORUMS.

Sue then closed the Conference by thanking everyone and emphasizing the importance of strong Assemblies for the future success of the Conference. "HQ is the hub and you are the spokes and how well this Conference rolls depends on you. We'll see you tomorrow at Lois and Bill's and then a safe trip home to you. Let's all join in the Lord's Prayer."