

Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc.

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NEW YORK, N. Y. 10010
1965 CONFERENCE SUMMARY

The World Service Conference is the conscience of Al-Anon on the North American continent. It is the guardian of our Traditions and of our unity. It watches over the policies of Headquarters, your 12th Stepping Service Center.

The following is the summary of our 1965 W.S.C. to keep all Al-Anon members informed of considerations and decisions that affect our fellowship world-wide.

Do discuss this summary at one or more meetings. We will be grateful for any comments or suggestions submitted through your Area Committee or sent to Headquarters.

The four days spent at this Conference, held at the George Washington Hotel in New York City, April 24-28, 1965, was a memorable experience. It brought together 49 Delegates from 41 States and all the Canadian Provinces, Headquarters' Board of Trustees, Committee Chairmen and Al-Anon staff members, who are jointly responsible for "carrying the Al-Anon message" all over the world.

We at HQ are deeply grateful for the many dedicated Delegates, working together for Al-Anon unity and guiding our services so that they may continue to keep pace with our fast growing fellowship.

On Wednesday, April 21st, Delegates registered at the hotel and then visited the nearby Al-Anon HQ office to pick up their portfolios containing the Brochure and other Conference materials. This gave them a chance to meet with each other or to talk over any local matters with the staff. Several of the standing committees on which Delegates serve held a pre-conference meeting later that afternoon at the hotel.

Following a buffet supper, Sue, the Conference Chairman, greeted the members and introduced Bill W., co-founder of AA, who told the gathering how much Al-Anon was needed and how grateful he was for all it is doing toward easing the effects of alcoholism on the family. After this, Sue introduced the new Delegates who each said a few words.

A surprise feature of the evening was a colored movie of Bill and Lois at home, in which Bill tells his story at some length and Lois recounts some of her experiences. This movie was made for AA with the purpose of informing the newer groups about the early AA days. (The movie can be rented from AA GSO for \$35.00 for seven days. Requests from AA Delegates, AA Area GSC Committees or an AA Central Service office will have priority.)

On Thursday morning, after the Conference opened, HQ Conference members highlighted Committee and Department reports for 1964. These follow for your perusal and comment.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES - Mary S., President

In her written welcome, Mary greeted everyone at the second permanent World Service Conference and stated, in part, "It is our hope, and belief, that this coming together brings a strong sense of unanimity of purpose and vitality, not only to those of us who are here to participate but to all of those to whom we must transmit this feeling of being a part of a thrilling whole."

"The growth in the total number of active groups evidences a greater recognition and growing acceptance of the Al-Anon way. Such growth requires that, in order to meet the needs and challenges of a larger Al-Anon community, your Board officers must, from time to time,
WORLD SERVICE CENTER FOR THE AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS AND ALATEENS

reassess not only their own corporate structure but also study the operation of the Service Departments at HQ. What appeared useful and dynamic in HQ practices up to the first WSC five years ago may be as out of date today as a propeller-driven aircraft is among the swifter jets now in service above the oceans of the world.

"To that end, 1964 brought us a 'giant step forward,' we believe, in a revision of the Corporate By-Laws. In line with expressions at the last Conference and following many hours of work and study by a Structure Committee, the Board of Directors and the Advisory Board, a new corporate setup went into effect January 1st of this year. We now have Trustees and a seven-member Executive Committee replacing the Directors and Advisory Board.

"1964 saw a major 'break-through' in arranging Al-Anon Participation in AA's Convention in Toronto. Mighty efforts brought our new book--our first in five years--far enough along to make possible its completion before the Convention in July.

"My thanks, in the name of the Board, must be general to each separate committee and its chairman and staff members who contribute so much to our happiness and sense of well-being--yours and mine.

"Let us not forget that two factors--our growth here and in 35 sister nations around the world, and the additions to our HQ staff to keep abreast of the increasing calls for services that arise with that growth--should be given full consideration when contributions are made to HQ. Don't wait for the appeal to send contributions. Postage rates are high both in the U. S. and for mail abroad. Helping to pay our mailing costs is a vital part of twelfth-step work, especially for those who have small opportunity to carry the message in other ways.

"May God bless and inspire our joint efforts here in this, our World Service Conference.

GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT - Henrietta S.

Listed below are comparative figures demonstrating the growth in Headquarters Services to the groups since 1960, when our World Service Conference was initiated.

	<u>1960</u>	<u>1961</u>	<u>1962</u>	<u>1963</u>	<u>1964</u>
Total Groups Registered	1,526	1,827	2,121	2,378	2,770
(Alateen)	(97)	(154)	(207)	(262)	(319)
Intergroups	---	26	25	31	31
Lone Members	51	53	74	79	86
New Groups Registered	375	529	515	493	673
(Alateen)	(39)	(94)	(93)	(103)	(120)
Groups Disbanded	175	200	218	236	281
(Alateen)	(20)	(35)	(40)	(47)	(63)
Letters Mailed	28,914	20,343	36,528	28,950	29,014
Books Sent - Original	1,501	330	432	126	---
Current	3,584	3,486	3,577	3,472	3,743
Packages Mailed	5,372	8,983	11,798	15,820	24,687
Forums Mailed	42,387	45,067	50,423	61,186	70,883
Forum Subscriptions	1,785	1,756	2,097	2,492	2,909
(Multiple)	(953)	(956)	(1,009)	(1,059)	(1,418)
(Individual)	(832)	(800)	(1,088)	(1,433)	(1,491)

Analysis of the figures indicates an upsurge in group registrations, a 32% increase over last year. Although 281 groups disbanded, the overall gain in groups registered at December 31st was almost 400, including 57 more Alateen groups. It is encouraging that a larger proportion than formerly of those to whom information and material for starting new groups was sent eventually have come through. Yet there are many Al-Anon groups in existence that are not registered at HQ. For example, a group in Hobart, Tasmania, to whom a complimentary book, literature and data card were sent in September, 1960, just recently returned the card with a note describing the fine meetings they have enjoyed in the years between.

Six groupwide mailings account for a little less than half of the 29,000 letters sent. These included the spring, fall and Conference contribution appeals, the President's report to the groups and the letter referring to the return of the annual data card with group information. The Institutions Committee sent 1,122 letters in May to all AA Prisons and Hospital groups, with the cooperation of the AA office, where the envelopes were addressed.

Aside from special mailings to Delegates, the balance of 13,600 letters represents correspondence to groups, individuals and professionals, and includes many individually typed responses to requests for help with internal group problems, in the light of our Traditions; information on related literature or source of material other than Conference Approved; availability of tapes or films on alcoholism; referrals of individuals to groups; routine book-keeping matters, such as discrepancies in payments for orders or returned checks; suggestions for varying group program; assistance with starting Alateen groups and guidance for their continuity; a growing correspondence in the Public Relations area; and many letters relating to material for the new book, both in acknowledgment of articles submitted, permissions to reprint, and those which accompanied sections under consideration to the six Delegate members of the Literature Committee. For the latter, full credit goes to Alice, our talented volunteer chairman. There was also considerable correspondence done wholly by Wanda, chairman of the Convention Committee, who has so capably planned our participation in the celebration of AA's 30th Anniversary. Lastly were the many letters handled by the Conference Committee.

Sales of our basic book increased slightly over last year, indicating a steadily growing interest in our fellowship. This promises a ready market for our new book, already on order, within Al-Anon, though it has been primarily designed for those without. Of the 3,743 books shipped, 87 were complimentary copies to overseas groups.

Last spring we purchased 100 copies of the mimeographed Spanish version of Living With An Alcoholic, produced by the Puerto Rican groups. During the year, 12 complimentary copies were sent to those starting groups in Spain, and Central and South America. All correspondence with our Spanish members continues to be handled by Mimi Hind, our capable volunteer, who has also translated and stenciled our directory letter, the contribution appeals, and explanation of our data card and other letters to promote understanding of HQ functions among Spanish Al-Anons. There are now 28 Spanish groups.

In order to ensure continued service to the French groups, not only in Canada but overseas, the fee to the French Literature Committee Chairman was increased in midyear. With volunteer assistance Harriet has performed a tremendous service in the translation, production and distribution of the Forum, Conference Approved literature, Conference material and HQ group mail. She has effectively corresponded with Loners and new groups, and through her efforts many more French groups registered.

For instance, the Group d'Orsay in Paris, which now has 70 active members, with never less than 20 at a meeting, originally heard about Al-Anon through the Grapevine, then from American visitors—both AA and Al-Anon, whom members met at AA meetings. They wrote to us for information, but now are in frequent contact with the French Literature Committee, from whom news of their activities is relayed to New York. Last October a Spanish couple from San Sebastian visited the Paris group. Upon his return to Spain, the nonalcoholic husband, a doctor, wrote us for help with starting a Spanish group, which is flourishing. So it is an ever-widening circle, with Al-Anon established in more than 35 countries around the world.

39,320 pieces of free literature were distributed. Of this amount, 15,638 were sample copies of the six new or revised leaflets and pamphlets sent to registered groups. The balance went out in proposed group packets; in letters to individuals; to AA institution groups and to the many contacts made by our Public Relations Committee. Al-Anon at Work was sent only to Intergroups or Service Centers, Conference members, and to the following for translation: The French Literature Committee, Montreal, Can., for both French and Polish; California, to a former Norwegian member; Antwerp, Belgium; Guatemala, C.A.; Mexico City, Mex.; and the Finland AA office, Helsinki. The latter forwarded file copies of several other Al-Anon pamphlets which have been produced in both Finnish and Swedish. Al-Anon literature is also being produced in Afrikaans.

The secretary of NSW Central Services, Australia, felt that Al-Anon at Work was possibly the best publication yet, especially for those members and groups far away from HQ unable to participate in our Conferences, and therefore more likely to stray in their activities and notions. She hoped each group in New South Wales would buy at least one copy and encouraged secretaries to urge members to get their own. The secretary of the Central Al-Anon Committee of S. Australia wrote from Adelaide that she was ordering a copy for each group, and also one Fact File per group, the latter having just come to her attention.

The publications department has been busier than ever before. Approximately 141,500 plain sheets were mimeographed, plus 21,500 letterheads. The 51% increase in the number of packages mailed, a jump of 8,800 over last year's 11,798, can be attributed largely to the groupwide mailings of new sample literature, but also reflects more paid orders.

Although there was an appreciable increase in literature sales, they fell short of expectations. The quality of our literature greatly improved, but all new items published last year were specialized in nature, appealing to a limited audience. Our best seller continues to be A Guide for the Family of the Alcoholic, both among the groups and our widening market among agencies and other professionals in the field of alcoholism education.

The 15% increase in Forums mailed (9,697 more) reflects not only the servicing of more groups, but an 18% increase in Forum subscriptions.

With increased sales of all items, the bookkeeping has grown correspondingly, as has all other work in the office, to the point where we are again outgrowing our present staff. With a new book in the offing, we may even be pressed for sufficient room in our shipping area.

The office staff has proved to be outstandingly faithful and industrious in the past year, often giving extra hours made necessary by illnesses of others and the many changes in personnel. During 1964, we lost two trained employees, and ran through five replacements that proved unsuitable. Two new ones, who have proved capable and conscientious are Bea, in charge of publications, and Gene, our shipping clerk. We are deeply grateful for having had such dedicated Al-Anon secretaries in both Gun R. for Public Relations and Timmy W., who joined the staff last spring, as Alateen Secretary. Finding and training the right people for our group records and filing was the greatest of our problems, and added to the complexity of preparing the World Directory this year. At the close of the year, one very satisfactory employee for group records was hired, but we are still looking for a suitable assistant. Our experience has shown that it is unsatisfactory to depend on various volunteers for filing, as we were forced to do at times during 1964, because the margin of error is so much greater than with a trained person on the job.

More than ever before, we have had returns of mail from groups that have dropped their P.O. boxes or whose secretaries have moved without notifying HQ. This presented a particularly acute problem while the directory was in preparation, for we could not knowingly list a wrong address, but hesitated to omit any group. We hope all Delegates and GRs will be continuously mindful of alerting the groups of how important this line of communication to HQ is, and what a saving could be effected in time and postage if address changes were sent in.

Major purchases of office equipment in 1964 included three electric typewriters to facilitate the handling of increased correspondence, two used desks, an additional Kardex unit & table for Forum subscription records, filing cabinet, coat rack and new Master Addressograph.

Our small staff could never have accomplished the increase in services to so many more groups without our wonderful volunteer committees, who contributed constantly in time, ideas and effort. The many letters received from our WSC Delegates bear witness to the equally important support they are giving to spread the message of Al-Anon and to establish closer ties between HQ and the groups, thus ensuring the future growth and unity of our fellowship.

LITERATURE COMMITTEE - Alice B., Chairman

Your Literature Committee has had an exceptionally busy year, a healthy sign of Al-Anon's growth and increasing acceptance.

Reprintings Throughout the year, as increasing demand for various leaflets and booklets depleted our stock, reprints were ordered. In some instances revision was necessary. Among the re-runs were: The Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions; Youth and the Alcoholic Parent; Homeward Bound; For Teen-agers with an Alcoholic Parent; Freedom from Despair; Operation Alateen; To Wives and The Family Afterward; Alcoholism, the Family Disease; and One Wife's Story, by Lois, was brought up to date under a new title: Before Al-Anon, Loneliness and Despair.

The booklet Help for the Alcoholic's Family was discontinued because it was so hopelessly outdated that revision was not practical.

New Items

Al-Anon Family Groups at Work. The demand for this excellent comprehensive digest, first printed in June, was so great, by the end of the year it was re-ordered.

Information for the Newcomer, based on material sent in by the Air Station Group of Cold Lake, Alta., was revised to apply more broadly to meeting procedures of various groups.

It's a Teen-Aged Affair. The original of this leaflet was reproduced from an article in the AA Grapevine in 1958. The current reprint is of the new version which appeared in the July, 1964, issue.

Alibis, Alcohol and Alateen gives a graphic account of a group of lively young people who are determined to rise above the alcoholic family problem.

What's Next? Asks the Husband of an Alcoholic was written by a member of a stag group in N. J., now a Trustee. There had been many requests for a booklet for men that would cover the subject more adequately than The Stag Line.

To the Mother and Father of an Alcoholic replaced To the Parents of an Alcoholic.

Under ordinary conditions this was an ample year's work, but our new Big Book had priority and absorbed so much time that all these extra chores had to be fitted in somehow.

Our New Book involved voluminous correspondence not only with our own members but with top-ranking professionals engaged in working on the problems of alcoholism. Every one of the latter was interested in our project and magnificently cooperative

Professionals of the caliber of Dr. Ruth Fox, Dr. Joan K. Jackson, Rev. Joseph L. Kellermann and many others are becoming increasingly aware that Al-Anon can be of real help to the families of alcoholics. One article by Dr. Margaret B. Bailey, Research Director of the National Council on Alcoholism, is entirely devoted to a discussion of Al-Anon and its

outstanding value as a referral source. The section by professionals is called, "Those Who Work with the Problem."

We cannot begin to evaluate the enormous contribution made to the book by Al-Anon members who sent in personal stories. Although we used only a limited number, every story contributed something of value--ideas, phrases or situations. It was their experience that has given the book its tremendous scope. Selection of the stories was based on points of view to be covered. If we had chosen only on the basis of quality, not a single one could have been omitted, which would have made our book twice as big as AA's! In the 30 or so stories, there is almost no duplicated situation, though many are from wives of alcoholics. There are also many from husbands, mothers, sisters, and brothers. The stories cover many problems, many approaches to solutions, and reveal many different personalities and attitudes. In editing we tried to keep intact the flavor and personality of the original, for the writing was uniformly excellent and the incidents full of interest.

This section, "Those Who Live with the Problem," is the heart of the book. The stories of what we in Al-Anon have lived through and triumphantly survived, will convince the world that something important has joined the battle against the unhappiness caused by alcoholism.

The selected and edited book material was sent in successive batches to members of the Literature Committee--four of us here in N. Y. and six Delegate members-at-large. Suggestions and corrections were made, and the final material was painstakingly reviewed by Lois.

First copies of the book should be ready in time for the Toronto AA Convention. Its title, after much research and soul-searching, is AL-ANON FACES ALCOHOLISM.

New Projects

The next project will be revision of Living with an Alcoholic. In the course of time, several subjects have come up which should be part of this book, and it is with these that the proposed revision is concerned. Although work was started on it early in the year, our stock depleted so rapidly that we couldn't include the new material. So it was reprinted with only the absolutely necessary updating. The launching of our new book, in which Living with an Alcoholic is mentioned, will further increase the demand for it.

Many new items are needed which it was not possible to schedule immediately. In the course of the year groups sent in many excellent ideas for pieces of literature that really should be added to our list, but which had to be shelved temporarily for lack of time and funds. But on the whole, we have made great strides in the past year.

To all of you who have given such stalwart and loving aid to the work of the Literature Committee, our heartfelt thanks.

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE - Bill L., Chairman; Gun R., Staff

Summer Schools

Participation in 1964 summer schools on alcoholism, sponsored by state commissions and councils on alcoholism, was highly successful from Al-Anon's point of view, and the enthusiasm of our Delegates, evident at the WSC and through continuing correspondence, augurs well for more widespread participation in 1965. Participation in 8 summer school programs included Al-Anon speakers at 7; Al-Anon literature displayed and distributed at 6 (literature donated by state assemblies and local groups, and purchased by the school in the case of Utah.)

Magazine and Newspaper Coverage

I. Magazines and Books:

Catherine S.' very excellent article, "My Husband Is an Alcoholic", appeared in United Church Observer of Canada, eliciting numerous inquiries directed to HQ.

An article written by Teresa B. (PR Com. 1963) appeared in July-August, The Cross.

"Alcohol, Alibis, and Alateen," by Payllis Naylor appeared in the Jan. issue of Youth, a publication of the United Church of Christ, and in other church magazines in the U.S. and Canada. Permission to reprint this splendid article was obtained by our Literature Committee.

Trudy M.'s article, "Living with an Alcoholic," was published in the March issue of The Church Woman.

Other articles appeared in 1964 in Parent's Magazine, Lady's Circle and Home Life.

A book, Wisdom to Know, by Regina Woody, published this year for the teenaged reader, refers often to Al-Anon and Alateen. Mrs. Woody is writing another book dealing with alcoholism, in which she plans to make more extensive use of Al-Anon & Alateen.

2. Newspaper stories:

Newspaper articles continue to increase in number, with a wide range of treatment of Al-Anon. Clippings come from all over the U.S., Canada, New Zealand, Australia, and South Africa. The columnists, Ann Landers, Mary Haworth, Dr. Peter Steincrohn, continue to refer to Al-Anon and Alateen, bringing inquiries from all over the world. The Steincrohn article on the "gal with the screaming meemies" was responsible for hundreds of letters.

Industrial Relations

Kenper Insurance, Chicago; Baird-Atomic, Inc., Cambridge, Mass.; Prentice-Hall; and other industrial firms ordered literature for use in their alcoholism programs. Personal interviews were arranged with Metropolitan Life and Equitable Life, to discuss ways that Al-Anon could help with their alcoholism programs. Metropolitan Life requested an article on Al-Anon for their house organ. A personal interview was held with Mr. Lewis Presnall, Director of Industrial Services for NCA, to discuss how Al-Anon can better present its message to industry.

TV and Radio

There has been a large increase this past year in the number of TV and radio programs in which Al-Anon has participated throughout the U.S. and Canada. Outstanding were TV appearance on "Night Call" in Chicago (Al-Anon and Alateen), the KYTV panel discussion presented by Ozarks Al-Anon in Missouri. Successful TV and radio programs were also produced in Saskatchewan, Utah, Northern California, Minnesota and Florida.

Cooperation with Outside Agencies

1. Mental Health Materials, Inc., recommended "A Guide for the Family of the Alcoholic" to its subscribers--purchased 2,700 copies--result: orders for sizeable quantities of pamphlets from mental health agencies, state health departments, family service agencies all over the country, many of whom learned of Al-Anon for the first time.

2. Reverend Joseph Kellermann taped an interview in May with Mary S., Trudy, and Henrietta, to be used in church meetings of the S.E. Episcopal Diocese, and for eventual distribution to alcoholism councils throughout the U.S., and to be submitted to public schools.

3. National Council on Alcoholism's annual convention in April in N.Y.C. had an Al-Anon exhibit; literature was distributed and many contacts made through signatures in our guest book.

4. State and Local Councils on Alcoholism: Cooperation with these agencies grew during the past year. Our PR chairman was a member of the local council's committee for planning Alcohol Information Week. Saskatchewan Government is considering placing Al-Anon on its Education, Welfare, and Rehabilitation Boards. Tenn., N. Mexico, Fla., and Cal. all work closely with their councils. HQ's office routine includes constant scanning of newsletters and bulletins from State Alcoholism Councils for avenues by which Al-Anon can be brought to the attention of those still unaware of its purposes. Any item of interest to a specific state or province is forwarded to the area Delegate. For example: notice of a conference of municipal judges concerned with the processing of the alcoholic offender, held in Los Angeles in November, was forwarded to our S. Cal. Delegate. Cecilia B. was able to attend the

conference and secured assurance that Al-Anon's participation in their 1965 convention in Boston would be welcomed.

General Public Relations

Correspondence with our Delegates concerning public relations activities increased considerably over past years, strengthened by our exchange of ideas and viewpoints at the World Service Conference. A letter was sent in November to all Delegates requesting a summary of PR work for the past year. Response was very gratifying, showing that real effort is being made to cooperate with outside agencies, ministers, doctors, guidance counselors, alcoholism councils, in reaching the families of alcoholics.

Correspondence re public education and information handled by the PR staff member can be categorized roughly as follows:

Students: 360	Probation officers, judges: 6
Clergy: 135	Councils and Committees on Alcoholism: 45
Doctors, nurses, hospitals: 73	Letters re proposed articles: 25
Social agencies, mental health, etc.: 60	Industry: 11
Educators, counselors (including 23 specific requests for Alateen info): 133	

ALATEEN COMMITTEE - Wanda R., Chairman; Timmy W., Staff

During 1964, the junior segment of Al-Anon, ALATEEN, continued to expand internationally as well as in the U.S. and Canada. Our first Alateen French-speaking group was formed in Canada. As of December 31, 1964, there were 319 registered groups. During the year 120 new groups registered and 63 disbanded.

In April, a welcome addition to HQ's staff was Timmy on a part-time basis. She has done a fine job, not only with the Alateen newsletter started in July, but with answering individual and group inquiries. A contest was conducted among the teen-agers to choose a name for the quarterly publication and Alateen Talk was selected. In December, Rita C. took over as Chairman of the Alateen Committee and she will continue working closely with Timmy.

At the 1964 WSC an Alateen Committee was appointed consisting of Delegates from Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Ohio, Texas and Ontario, for whose help we are most grateful.

Alateen continued to participate in regional conferences either on their own or in conjunction with Al-Anon and AA. The Alateen Eastern Seaboard Annual Conference held in June at Syracuse University, Syracuse, N. Y. inspired all who attended to try to go to the 1965 Conference to be held in Philadelphia, Pa. In the Los Angeles area over 100 teens and parents attended a Round Robin Alateen meeting in July. A similar meeting was conducted in Burbank in September. Many other places held area meetings during 1964. The growing number of Alateen groups in institutions are meeting with much success and enthusiastic acceptance by the authorities.

Several new pieces of literature were added to our Alateen material this year.

Alateen will have an active part in the 1965 AA Convention with their own hospitality room and several meetings. The newsletter, Alateen Talk, and our capable Alateen staff member should not only help the groups to grow, but will bring greater assistance to individual members in 1965.

VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE - Margie H., Chairman

Since 1964, when your chairman undertook the task of volunteer recruitment, some 39 members have contributed their efforts to HQ. These volunteers are not available at all times but it is generally possible to call on sufficient members to help HQ when needed.

This is accomplished by a method which achieves fine results. The office advises me in advance as to the number and dates volunteers will be useful. From my home I telephone

these volunteers giving them at least one week's notice.

The work performed by volunteers includes preparing literature packs for distribution to individuals, and to new Al-Anon and Alateen groups; preparation of approximately 6,000 copies of the Forum for mailing each month, requiring 4 to 6 volunteers to fold, seal and tie in bundles; assembling and stapling of multipage manuscripts; and assisting in response to mail inquiries resulting from syndicated newspaper or magazine articles. The importance of volunteers can best be realized when we remember that they have always chaired all Headquarters Committees.

The dedication of all the volunteers is a constant source of inspiration. In 1964 we added about ten new volunteers. To all of these who have been so generous with their efforts and time, I heartily express my sincere appreciation.

INSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEE - Anne B., Chairman

We are a liaison between AA groups in institutions and the families of the inmates or patients. The AA secretary or sponsor of the group is informed about our fellowship and asked to have the AA member send us the names and addresses of family members or friends who might be interested. We, in turn, send letters and free literature to the names given us informing them about Al-Anon. No personal names of Al-Anon members are given, but we may give telephone numbers for them to call for the time and place of meetings.

We do not know how many of these families or friends take advantage of this opportunity to help the alcoholic as well as themselves. Occasionally a group will write, but only infrequently do we get personal letters telling how individuals have been helped by meetings.

40 states, some provinces and foreign countries have contacted us. S. Cal. Boosters are doing a fine work, as is Catherine S., of Alta., Can. She has done good work in local institutions, all because of her husband's interest in starting AA groups in prisons and hospitals. Their work together has been most successful. She is now managing a Half-Way House for AA women, at the request of the Provincial Government.

Gradually this service is taking hold and we hope it will not be too long before all institutions, where AA has a group, will include Al-Anon in their curriculum, so that the bridge of understanding will help to rehabilitate the alcoholic and the families can take their place in normal society.

POLICY COMMITTEE - Lois W., Chairman

The Policy Committee, consisting of Chairmen of HQ Committees and Al-Anon staff, weighs all new ideas and problems sent in by individuals or Al-Anon groups, in the light of the 12 Traditions. Recommendations are then made to the Directors and Advisory Board for decisions.

Other HQ reports contain activities that were first considered by the Policy Committee, but those not included are the following recommendations:

- Feb. that al-Anon groups in institutions do not elect GRs.
- Mar. that "Haven House" or any such refuge for the families of alcoholics, may be run by any interested Al-Anon members, but not by the group. If Al-Anon meetings are held in such a place the group should pay rent as it would anywhere else.
- Apr. that permission be given the Telstar Al-Anon in Nkana, Zambia, to reprint sections of the Forum in their local New Life. To reprint in entirety would nullify our copyright.
- that letters be written to inquiring individuals and groups, explaining that Al-Anon should present a unified picture to the public by displaying only Conference Approved Literature at open meetings.
- that a committee be formed to consider the present usefulness of the Advisory Board and advise any changes necessary.

June that the coming revision of The Twelve Steps and Traditions include a wider interpretation of the 11th Tradition, to include the theory that overprotection harms the alcoholic.

that Mimi Hind explain to the Spanish speaking groups that HQ has no money except that which is voluntarily sent in by groups. The sale of literature brings in little more than its cost. We suggest she translate a talk by Father Fred to be distributed among these groups.

July that the French Literature Committee first mimeograph the translation of Al-Anon At Work and later print it if enthusiasm of French speaking groups warrants it.

Sept. that New Zealand, whose groups now want to pay for books formerly sent free, pay instead for Forum subscriptions and donate anything above this to HQ.

Oct. that we follow Mimi Hind's suggestion to send one annual contribution appeal to all Spanish speaking groups.

that Margaret be congratulated on her letter to a group in Pennsylvania which could not understand why HQ and the Conference needed any organization while the groups themselves needed so little.

Nov. that the word "Alateens" be added to HQ letterhead and Directory.

that copies be made of the statement, paraphrased by Holly for Al-Anon, of AA policy about retreats, or other religious activities, as follows:

(Traditionally, Al-Anon does not sponsor retreats or other meetings for relatives of alcoholics held under the auspices, or in connection with the activities, of any religious denomination. There is no such thing as an "Al-Anon Retreat". Members participate in such activities as individuals.

Since Al-Anon does not affiliate with other organizations, the Al-Anon name cannot properly be used to identify or publicize retreats or activities sponsored by others. This applies even when most or even all of the participants are members of Al-Anon. Otherwise there might be public misunderstanding of Al-Anon's purpose and function.)

Dec. that under the new HQ structure the Policy Committee, as before, be composed of Chairmen of all Committees and the Al-Anon secretaries, but should now handle matters of policy only, leaving administrative questions to the new Executive Committee; that its meetings be open to Al-Anon members active in HQ who wish to present for discussion any matter of overall Al-Anon policy; that it meet quarterly before the Trustee's meeting and at any time between when needed.

The Policy Committee tries to guide Al-Anon affairs through interpreting the Traditions and to keep them in line with the desires of the Conference.

STRUCTURE COMMITTEE - Lois W., Chairman

Since the formation of our Conference the HQ Advisory Board no longer played a necessary part in the HQ structure. Therefore, a committee was appointed to suggest a more practical arrangement which also would bring a better numerical relation between HQ and the full Conference.

The Committee met a number of times in September and October to study AA's structure and to work out a feasible plan for our own improved setup. Trudy painstakingly and thoroughly revised the corporation's by-laws in accordance with the new plan. A turnover schedule was laid out to effect the changeover easily and simply as possible, as follows:

Oct. the Directors approved this Committee's suggestions.

Nov. the last meeting of the Advisory Board was held, many of its members having been appointed to various committees.

the Chairman of the Board of Directors appointed a nominating committee to select a slate for the new Board of Trustees.

Dec. the Board of Directors adopted the amended by-laws and elected the new Trustees.

Jan. the new Board of Trustees elected an Executive Committee composed of the General Secretary, the Chairmen of the Budget and Policy Committees and four other responsible Al-Anon members. This Committee, meeting monthly and functioning as a legal entity, makes routine administrative decisions.

Apr. the Annual Meeting of the Board of Trustees is to be held the Tuesday following the Conference.

The changeover was accomplished smoothly and so far the new structure is working out well. Time alone will tell how efficient it really is.

AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP FORUM -- Margaret D., Editor

A factual Forum report could well be: "12 Forums were written and mailed in 1964." But that is only part of the picture. Since this report is written in January, it will reflect Janus's two faces: one looking backward over 1964 and the other facing the future. 1965 is mostly still ahead and something still can be done about future Forums.

Robert Browning lived too long ago to have had me in mind when he wrote, "A man's reach should exceed his grasp, or what's a Heaven for?" I'm told that Persians and other Orientals deliberately weave flaws into their beautiful rug patterns, because only the Deity can be perfect and they do not wish to rival whatever God they believe in. I have not a drop of Persian or Oriental blood in me. Thus, the flaws that show in the Forum are there because of human frailty--they are not there by design.

Heretofore, I have edited the Forum nights and weekends because of the demands of a full-time job. This is not meant to excuse the flaws because one's mind is supposed to be with one always. Mine hasn't been. I hope, in another month's time, to leave this full-time job behind me, much as I have loved my work in USO. Now I look forward with great eagerness and joy to the prospect of again devoting more time to volunteer work at HQ on a regular basis. It's been 12 years since those early days were interrupted by my USO work and, while I believe one might hesitate about "going back," Al-Anon has grown so in those years that it won't be going back--it will be a new challenge and a new opportunity.

There will be time, too, to devote to Forum correspondence. In the past there have been letters and contributions meriting thoughtful replies, but I have not had time to devote proper attention to them and could not always acknowledge them. For what it's worth, I hope now to have this time and hope, too, a better Forum will come of it.

If my reach always exceeds my grasp, you can help me lengthen that reach, approach nearer my goal, by sending me your letters, ideas, stories and comments. All Al-Anon benefits as the Forum is improved.

TREASURER'S REPORT -- Anne B.

The Treasurer and the Budget Committee have a great responsibility. We are unusual as a nonprofit organization because, according to our Traditions, we cannot accept money from outside sources. Our contributions come from our members, on a voluntary basis only. A letter is sent to the groups semi-annually, reminding members that we cannot run HQ without money.

Any expenditures over \$100 were presented by the Budget Committee to the Board of Directors for approval. Quarterly reports were submitted to the Directors and Advisory Boards. A copy of our annual report, prepared by our auditor, is available to any group on request.

The total income in 1964 increased 9.2% over that of 1963. This comprised a 15.2% increase in contributions because of the growth in groups. But, only 55% of the groups contribute. There was a 4.8% increase in gross profit from sales of literature. Sales in 1964 were 9.5% higher than in 1963, but because the cost of literature rose 17.5%, net profit decreased.

Included in the cost of literature distributed is all the pamphlet literature given

away free. Increasing print costs are to be expected and can be reduced by purchasing in larger quantities, (which we try to do) by using a cheaper quality paper, redesigning, etc. The new book may be expected to produce a higher margin of profit so that the overall loss in gross profit percentage can be recovered.

Total expense in 1964 increased by \$8,800 or 17% over 1963. Gross salaries were higher by \$5,600, mostly due to additional employees. We had several replacements, so that salaries were doubled while the replacements were being trained. Higher shipping costs reflect the increase in sales as well as the greater activity in all areas of HQ services. Higher directory cost accounted in part for the increase in service literature.

The expansion in the office force required an increase of \$600 for equipment, and was a factor in raising the cost of stationery and supplies by \$800.

1965 CONVENTION COMMITTEE - Wanda R., Chairman

With the 30th Anniversary Convention of AA scheduled for early July 1965 in Toronto less than a year away, activities of this committee increased considerably during the fall of 1964. Flyers were mailed out by AA in November and December, and registration and housing forms were sent out to all our groups in January, 1965. No registrations, other than Canadian ones, were to be accepted prior to that time.

Under the able chairmanship of Edythe D., former Al-Anon WSC Delegate, our Host Committee in Ontario has been well organized and meeting regularly during 1964 to set up the various necessary committees. These include literature, information and hospitality; baby-sitting services, etc. The Al-Anon Host Committee is also arranging a reception for Lois and all our past and current WSC Delegates as well as a breakfast for Lois and Bill W.

Other Al-Anon activities presently scheduled include 10 workshops and 5 special open meetings. We also plan to invite all the Canadian Host Committee to a tea in recognition and appreciation of their efforts in our behalf.

The committee is delighted to report that AA has invited Al-Anon to participate in one of its most important sessions, "Helpful Allies in the Field of Alcoholism." This session will have a chairman and three speakers, one of whom will represent Al-Anon, the others the National Council on Alcoholism and North American Association of Alcoholism Programs. We are most appreciative of this opportunity to present our Al-Anon message to those attending the convention who may not have had the opportunity to learn about our program and who might not make an effort to attend any Al-Anon meetings.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE - Sue L., Chairman; Holly C., Staff

Upon arrival on April 23, 1964, each Conference member received a portfolio with the Delegates' Brochure, containing previous year's reports of all HQ Committee Chairmen and office activity. As reported in the 1964 WSC Summary to the groups, we all learned a great deal from the discussions and exchange of ideas at the '64 Conference.

It was hoped that group contributions to the Conference Fund would cover the total cost of last year's Conference but they were insufficient. However, from correspondence we learned that the present interest stimulated in the various Assembly Areas can be directly attributed to the fact that Al-Anon groups are all working together, especially in raising their Delegates' expenses.

The 3-year term of the 12 Delegates to the first Al-Anon Conference ended, so new Assembly officers and Committeemen were elected to serve from January 1, 1964 to December 31, 1966. Since Texas and California had more than 100 groups, their states were split into two Assembly Areas each, and now we have a Delegate from both East and West Texas, and from Northern and Southern California. Six new areas were invited to join the fourth WSC-- Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Tennessee, Missouri and Manitoba.

Immediately after the '64 Conference, work was started on the Conference Review

but as this was one of the most time-consuming items of the Conference, the completed copies were not ready to be sent to the Delegates until September.

The six areas next in line to join the Conference were so informed in May. Georgia, Mississippi, Montana, Alabama and North Dakota accepted, but Nevada was not able to participate in 1965.

In June, 2,816 copies of the Conference Summary (1964) were mailed to the groups. Area WSC Committees requested 519 additional copies of the Summary to distribute to their Committeemen.

Correspondence of the Literature, Alateen and Public Relations Committees at HQ has been on the increase with the six Delegates serving on each, and all Committee Chairmen endeavor to keep the Conference Committee informed about plans as they progress.

Since the Al-Anon Family Group Forum includes many items of particular interest to the Delegates about world service, the HQ Policy Committee voted that all Delegates be sent a free monthly copy of the FORUM during their term of office, starting in Oct. 1964. The mailing addresses of all newly registered groups in the Assembly Area are sent along with the Delegate's copy.

The formation of our Al-Anon Conference is uniting the groups--by District, by Assembly Area, and worldwide.

DISCUSSIONS AND DECISIONS

Following approval of HQ reports the Conference proceeded smoothly to the matters herewith classified for easy reference.

ALATEENS - The Delegates' Alateen Committee approved a questionnaire to be sent to sponsors of proposed Alateen groups in order to effect a more careful screening of candidates for this important function. The Alateen Chairman mentioned several fine suggestions for group improvement appearing in ALATEEN TALK, such as keeping programs at teen-age level; holding meetings once a week, and at same time and place as AA and Al-Anon to relieve transportation problems, etc. Some of the problems peculiar to Alateens were discussed by Delegates, i.e., members of the same family in a group; lack of acceptance of Alateens by AA and Al-Anon members; ways of reaching the extremely shy potential member.

AREAS STILL NOT IN CONFERENCE - The Conference Secretary listed the 10 states (plus Mexico) that as yet have no representation at the Conference. After discussion, it was agreed to remove the District of Columbia from the list, as neighboring Virginia and Maryland would suffer through possible annexing of groups by the District of Columbia, which could instead join either one. Hawaii and Alaska will be invited when funds are available.

ASK-IT-BASKET - Some of the more important questions put to the Conference through the Ask-It-Basket were:

- Q. Should Al-Anon expect to share in profits of AA State Conferences in which Al-Anon has participated? A. Only if Al-Anon has shared in expenses.
- Q. Should Al-Anon hostesses at AA functions invite women AA members to work with them? A. Yes, to strengthen cooperation and rapport between the two fellowships.
- Q. Should Al-Anon discourage an impending marriage of a member to an active alcoholic? A. After attendance at Al-Anon, allow them to make their own decision.
- Q. Why do Al-Anon members stop attending meetings after alcoholic has stopped drinking? A. Lack of involvement with group, should be encouraged to take active part.
- Q. When an Assembly officer is accepting contributions for personal expenses to Toronto, how should this be handled? A. Explain to group that Convention has no official representation, and that money should be returned.
- Q. Should surplus funds of Assemblies be carried over to next year, or sent to HQ? A. This decision must be made by the Assembly concerned.

Q. What is proper procedure in distributions of contributions? Who takes precedence, HQ, WSC, Intergroup, Central Services, Assemblies? A. This is group decision, but without contributions HQ would cease to exist.

Q. Are Trustees in the future to be elected from past and present Delegates? A. This is our hope and aim, but until funds are available for Trustees' traveling expenses, they will perforce continue to be chosen from the north-eastern section of the country.

Q. How much should groups keep in treasury? A. Enough for current expenses; rest to be distributed to various services - HQ, WSC, Assemblies, etc.

Q. How can we hold new members? A. Beginners' meetings; proper sponsorship; special information for newcomers; newcomer should try various groups to determine where she feels at home.

Q. What is best method to select program chairman? A. Choose on alphabetical basis; elect officers' on six months' basis; select a steering committee to establish program.

Q. Does purchase of recordings, inspirational books, etc. by group violate Traditions? A. Such material should be purchased by individual and loaned to group.

BOOK - Our new book AL-ANON FACES ALCOHOLISM will sell for \$4.50 (\$4.00 to Al-Anon groups). Delegates were permitted to order the book at \$4.00. It was impressed on the Delegates that they inform as many people, organizations, etc. as possible of the new book in order to fulfill our two-fold purpose (1) to spread knowledge of Al-Anon, and (2) to increase local and national income necessary for Al-Anon's growth. The following means were or will be taken to "promote" the book: stamped announcements of the book on all communications from HQ; listing of book in Bowker's Books in Print; contact of magazines for reprinting of pertinent sections of book (after copyright is effective); review copies to be submitted to newspapers, magazines, radio, TV, in the hope that the book will be reviewed. It was suggested that groups delay donating books to libraries, etc. to give them an opportunity to purchase it themselves.

CANADIAN EXCHANGE - The committee appointed ^{by the} ~~to discuss the exchange of money with Canada~~ ^{the majority} (a problem for the Canadian Delegates because of the present unfavorable rate of exchange) recommended that the Provincial Assembly Treasurers give to each Delegate before she comes to New York that portion of the equalized assessment sufficient for traveling expenses. If the Delegate's fare is more than the equalized assessment (at present \$225.) HQ will send her the difference. Where the traveling expenses are less than the equalized amount, the Provincial Treasurers will send the difference to HQ. The Delegate's \$60. hotel expense will be given to her upon arrival at HQ. If the equalized amount is increased, this will be reviewed again.

CONFERENCE CHARTER - The Conference first accepted the word changes in the proposed Charter made by the Conference Committee. Next, the written suggestions made by Calif. So. and B.C. were considered. After discussion of each suggestion, a motion was carried that the Charter as it appears in the Brochure, including the Committee's word changes, be approved by the Conference pro-tem, with the understanding that the Conference should have full membership before a final decision on the Charter is made.

DELEGATES' SERVICES - New Mexico suggested that personal visits to groups was the best service the Delegate could render. Kansas felt that the Delegates should make every effort to acquaint influential citizens in their area with the aims and purposes of Al-Anon. The Conference Secretary cautioned Delegates against demanding time at AA area meetings. for their reports. Cooperation from AA is increasing in most areas, and the Delegates must be careful not to do anything to destroy the good will that exists between the two fellowships.

DIRECTORY - The General Secretary reiterated, as in past years, the importance of correct mailing addresses for groups and solicited the assistance of the Delegates in impressing the groups with the importance of accuracy and permanence in mailing addresses. After considerable discussion, it was decided the need for meeting information in the Directory would not

warrant the expense. States' division in the Directory by assembly areas (e.g. Calif. and Texas) was not approved. A request for listing of each group's contribution in the Directory was not approved. The information is available at Headquarters upon request from Delegate or group. Assistance from the Delegates for up-to-date and accurate information on inactive groups was requested. When group names are changed, Headquarters should be notified of the group's former name.

FINANCING HQ - In the hope of increasing contributions to HQ, it was suggested that Delegates send lists of groups to HQ, which could be checked as to whether they had made contributions and then returned to Delegates. HQ can notify Delegates when appeals are made so that they in turn can emphasize need to their areas. The Delegates were urged to remind groups that information submitted with contributions should be accurate so that the bookkeeper can properly credit them.

FINANCING WSC - After considerable discussion pro and con regarding increasing the Delegates' Fund from each area from \$225. to \$250., a motion was carried that Equalized Expenses of the Delegates be decided by the Conference Committee, and if a raise to \$250. is considered necessary, such action has the approval of the Conference. It was agreed that next year each Delegate should notify HQ of the exact amount of their travel expenses.

Ways and means of increasing contributions to the Conference Fund were discussed and it was agreed that the Delegates should alert their groups of the financial needs of HQ and the Conference, either by personal visits and reports, or through GRs and Committeemen.

FORUM - Discussion included suggestions for increasing subscriptions to the Forum, enlarging its size (expense prohibitive at present), widening its uses, and utilizing it for reporting PR activities.

GROUP UNITY - Al-Anon should be united at the group, district and state level. When members' activities are disruptive of this unity, Al-Anon should be tolerant and helpful at the group level, but at the state level firmness is called for-- "principles above personalities."

HANDBOOK - This session was concerned chiefly with comments by the Delegates on the functioning of their assemblies, and on the Handbook and how it is used in their areas. Two Handbook committees were appointed to aid the Conference Committee in further clarification of the Handbook.

INTERGROUPS AND WSC COMMITTEES - Calif., Minn., Ohio and Mass. described the functioning of their Intergroups and the relation between Intergroups and Area WSC Committees. The Delegates agreed it was possible to keep the duties and responsibilities of the Intergroups and Area Committees separate, as long as the responsibilities of both are well understood. The Delegates' difficulties of communication, particularly in large states, were discussed, but it was agreed that with Committeemen and GRs acting as liaison, the lines of communication can be kept open. It was re-stated that any area with more than 100 groups is entitled to a second Delegate, if the state/province can afford it.

LITERATURE - Alice, Literature Chairman, stated that work on revision of Living With An Alcoholic has started. Permission has been received from the Texas Commission on Alcoholism to reprint the leaflet, "So You Love an Alcoholic". Calif. S. requested approval for printing Conference Approved Literature in Braille and thought this could be accomplished with Federal funds. Henrietta promised to follow through on this with S. Cal. Al-Anon Intergroup. Additional literature was requested on Sex. It was agreed a pamphlet would be helpful, but that it should be done by a professional. It was recommended that Alice's article on Conference Approved Literature be reprinted for all groups. (A copy is attached.) Suggestions for future literature included a very inexpensive piece outlining Al-Anon's aims and one for long-timers in Al-Anon.

MEMORIALS - It was recommended that memorials to deceased members take the form of a contribution to HQ instead of flowers, bearing in mind that it would be preferable to collect this money from individual members rather than the group treasury.

OUTGOING DELEGATES' REPORTS

1. In Arkansas they have a little ditty - "How sick I was, how well I am and what made me that way." This applies to the state too, Helen said, for no group had contact with any other group, which was a kind of sickness. Now through the WSC, they are well, because there is unity among the groups who try to work out their problems in a spirit of love.
2. Connecticut has learned a lot from the mistakes it has made. The nine Sharing Sessions held during the year have strengthened communications and the members are absorbing the message of service without realizing it. The Area Committee issues a newsletter, and in a booklet on alcoholism resources compiled by the State Commission on Alcoholism, the Al-Anon Groups were listed.
3. When the Iowa Delegate returned home last year she wanted to convert all Al-Anons to the world service idea. She and her husband, an Alternate AA Delegate, covered the state as a team and were well received everywhere.
4. The number of groups in Louisiana has nearly doubled since it has taken part in the Conference, thus greatly increasing contributions to HQ. All groups attend the Assembly and the Council on Alcoholism cooperates with them, as do their AAs.
5. When Maine joined the Conference it had only 6 groups and less than 50 active members and at first doubted it could form an Assembly and send a Delegate. Now the Directory lists 13 groups, two of them Alateen. A lone member constitutes one group. She sits and waits for some desperate person to join her. Maine has had TV and radio interviews and has found that Altogethers not only unite Al-Anons but cement AA - Al-Anon understanding.
6. Ruth, Nebraska's Alternate, wishes she had another year to go. The State Committee meets monthly and issues a report to aid unity. An annual reunion is held with workshops, etc., at which an Alateen girl will speak this year.
7. In New Mexico, as there were only 10 at the first Assembly "they went by the book." Helen's election as Delegate was no popularity contest. Like Maine, her Assembly started with only 6 groups, one where a lone member sat and waited. Now there are 15 groups in 11 towns, comprising over 100 members including several males. In this sparsely populated large state Helen traveled 2300 miles in one week. Each group was asked to donate \$25 to the Delegate's Fund. She gives a detailed accounting. This and the sale of "Serenity" stationery sometimes leaves a balance of \$100 to start the next year. 3 years ago not one AA in 50 knew about Al-Anon but now it is scheduled at the AA State Convention with nothing to compete. AAs have asked to have Al-Anon groups started in their towns and the AA Intergroup in Albuquerque gives the AA and Al-Anon Delegates \$25 towards expenses to New York. In the PR field reprints from the Fact File were sent to newspapers. Since Helen's husband works for the Commission on Alcoholism, the talks on TV and radio were mostly about Al-Anon and Alateen.
8. Terry, returning exhilarated last year from N.Y., determined to educate Quebec about World Service. Traveling as a team with her husband for a whole month, she visited her groups, showed charts, told of the unity, love and friendship at the N.Y. assemblage and highlighted the sessions. The greatest Quebec problem is the use of two languages. There are English and French groups and Intergroups. Much literature has been translated but how do you facilitate good French Canadian public relations without the Fact File in French?
9. The 3-year achievements of Saskatchewan, as summarized by Martha, Harge's Alternate, were: Representation at the Western School on Alcoholism and Narcotics; and AA's program on radio was recently devoted to Al-Anon and Alateen; Bureau on Alcoholism requested names of GRs for referral; increased contact with Indian and Metis groups and institutions; annual invitation to speak to theologians' wives; 3/4 of the groups responded well to a "pulse taking" questionnaire; traveled 8,000 Al-Anon miles, speaking to 30 groups.

10. Since Henry, as he says, can't read his own writing, he sent S. Carolina's taped report to Holly earlier. He is still Chairman, Delegate and GR, and mimeographs, addresses, licks stamps and seals all letters. He has repeatedly failed to divide the state into Districts with Committeemen, but believes with more group education S.C. will have a smooth running operation.

11. There are now 26 groups in the large state of South Dakota, 18 of which contributed \$400 to HQ this year. Dorothy too had longed to have the state divided into Districts, and now that this is done, finds the Committeemen most helpful.

12. Betty feels Utah has made great strides since it joined the Conference, especially in Public Relations. The splendid School on Alcohol Studies has given Al-Anon great support. Very rewarding has been meeting monthly in the prison at AA's invitation. Group contributions are yet not enough so funds must be raised by suppers and raffles. The WSC has opened the state's eyes to the thrilling Al-Anon work yet to be done.

PIN FOR AL-ANON - This was decided should be considered on a local basis only.

PUBLIC RELATIONS - Bill of HQ, his Delegates Committee and Gun of the HQ staff explained how we can try to make the 30,000,000 public aware that Al-Anon exists.

1. Alert our own and as many other Al-Anon Groups as possible on good PR methods; infiltrate AA.
2. Inform clergy, doctors and local agencies.
3. Arrange TV panels with questions phoned in; place articles in newspapers.
4. Contact Departments of Health, Councils on Alcoholism, nurses, judges.
5. Prepare packets of Conference Approved Literature to give to professionals.
6. Explain structure of Al-Anon to groups.
7. Attract high caliber Al-Anoners to PR work.
8. Try to get Summer Schools on Alcoholism to hold at least one day workshops on Al-Anon.
9. Contact local or state police in rural areas.
10. Be sure to always leave a good impression.
11. Make 1965 public education year.
12. Keep close liaison with HQ. Gun has list of key PR people in various areas.
13. Set good precedents.
14. Do not say Al-Anon is the only way.
15. Abide strictly by the Traditions, neither accepting gifts from outside agencies nor breaking anonymity.

RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING DELEGATES REVIEW - The Conference Committee recommended that the Delegates Review, a tremendous volume requiring weeks and weeks to produce, be replaced with a Digest of the opinions and decisions of the Conference taken from stenographer's notes. After thorough consideration and discussion, a motion was made by Celia of Tex. E. and passed unanimously, that due to the man-hours and expense involved, the yearly sessions of the WSC be indexed and sent as a Digest of Conference activities to Conference members.

The Conference was concluded most impressively with the singing of the Lord's Prayer by HQ's Bill L. However, before the Delegates departed, Open House for both AA and Al-Anon Delegates was held by Bill and Lois W. at their home in the country.

CONFERENCE APPROVED LITERATURE MIRRORS THE AL-ANON IMAGE

Al-Anon is coming of age. All around us are signs of our growing importance in the fight against alcoholism. The patient, unselfish work of Al-Anon members and volunteers is gaining recognition as a powerful force in coping with this world-wide sickness.

We have taken some giant strides in the past year. Al-Anon is being accepted as a source of real help by such professional organizations as the National Council on Alcoholism and its affiliates, (NCA), and the North American Association of Alcoholism Programs, (NAAAP), which includes all the publicly-supported alcoholism centers on this continent.

The latter, for the first time in Al-Anon's history, invited us to sit in on a conference of its executives and directors, where we had the privilege of explaining Al-Anon's role in the work of helping the families of alcoholics, in order to develop better lines of communication between Al-Anon and NAAAP.

This kind of recognition gives Al-Anon new stature and dignity. We are long past the phase when we appeared to the world as clusters of desperate housewives huddled together for comfort and simple answers to complex problems. We have taken our place among the professionals in the field of alcoholic work.

But growing up also creates new problems against which we must assert our unity, and our determination not to be diverted from our primary purpose. That purpose is to help the families of alcoholics to live full and satisfying lives despite the difficulties they have to cope with.

One of the major problems that confronts us in our coming-of-age is that a united fellowship like ours is a tempting target for people who want to profit from what we have built. Private publishers, for example, are offering their printed matter to many of our groups. There is no way of knowing how many there are, but the danger to our fellowship is present and active. Sometimes the leaflets and booklets they offer are good inspirational material, but this does not mean they represent Al-Anon ideas; sometimes they are so poor, the grammar and spelling so questionable and the printing so slovenly, their use hurts not only the groups involved, but all Al-Anon. And when the copy is sound Al-Anon doctrine, it has often been pirated from our own literature!

There is only one way to protect ourselves from the inroads made by these outsiders and that is for our groups to refuse to use their Al-Anon funds for any but Conference-Approved literature. As individuals, we are free to buy and read anything we want to, but as members of a fellowship in which we gratefully share a new way of life, we want to protect the Al-Anon image by following the guidance of our Twelve Traditions.

The First Tradition says: "Our common welfare should come first; personal progress for the greatest number depends on unity."

Living up to this Tradition means delivering the Al-Anon message without distortion or dilution, by using only the literature which has been carefully prepared and screened to reflect Al-Anon as a whole.

Our Second Tradition says: "Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern." Among those who serve are the members of the Literature Committee, ten in number, and the staff and volunteers at HQ. They are dedicated to the task of making our literature correct in approach and content, as well as in the language used to express Al-Anon ideas. These servants are worthy of confidence.

Our Fourth Tradition says: "Each group should be autonomous, except in matters affecting another group, or Al-Anon and AA as a whole." It is true that we are autonomous, but that does not give us the right to use the Al-Anon name in ways that could affect the fellowship adversely. When one part of Al-Anon publishes literature which is not Conference-Approved, it is a serious threat to Al-Anon unity. There are even now thousands of pieces of literature being distributed in the name of Al-Anon which are marred by misspellings, grammatical errors, inappropriate material, distortions of Al-Anon principles and even gross corruptions of the Twelve Steps, which we are privileged to use through the generosity of AA. We thus hurt not only our own fellowship, but AA, to whom we owe so much.

This is not to say that some of the literature is not excellent. It is! But if Group X prints a good piece of literature, Group Z is just as free to publish one that may hurt the Al-Anon image.

Two years ago, the WSC, in the persons of our own elected delegates, voted to use only Conference-Approved literature. Our continued unity and growth depend upon our living up to this decision.

The Literature Committee receives most gratefully, and often uses, ideas suggested by groups and intergroups. This is a vital part of the information that enables us to do the job for the benefit of all Al-Anon. Working as a central clearing house, we are able to maintain a balanced list of literature to meet the varied needs of our far-flung groups and to get the most mileage out of every Al-Anon dollar spent. Duplication would waste money that could be used to print much-needed new material for the whole fellowship.

The members of the Literature Committee are well-fitted to write and edit Al-Anon literature. The quality of our booklets and leaflets is evidence of this, and all of them play an active and constructive role in every writing project. Every word is weighed and measured, not only for its pertinence to a particular problem, but in its relation to the other literature on our list.

Our booklets are in demand by many of the public services in the field of alcoholism who use them in working with the families of alcoholics. A recent order for over \$200 worth of Al-Anon literature was accompanied by this statement: "This literature is being made available to our officers in order that they may interest their clients whom we meet in Juvenile and Family Court. We have found that Al-Anon has had better than average success in helping the partner or the child of an alcoholic."

We have the inestimable blessing of the counsel of Lois and a group of early volunteers. The total of their experience covers many years of struggle with Al-Anon's problems, growth and aspirations. They know, and can save us from, many unsuspected pitfalls we might blunder into, often through solutions early worked out by trial and error in AA. Their wise help in the preparation of Al-Anon literature keeps it in character, unfailingly representing the ideas by which all of us are striving to live in Al-Anon.

HQ serves as a clearing house for Al-Anon world-wide. Thousands of new situations, problems and answers are revealed by the letters received. This gives the Literature Committee a broad base of information for its guidance in selecting subjects to be covered, and in preparing the copy for them, making Conference-Approved literature valid for all Al-Anon. In addition, new information on alcoholism research is continually being funneled into HQ, often suggesting ideas that keep our literature in step with modern advances.

For all these reasons it is vital that we make full use of our Conference-Approved literature, which truly reflects our wonderful, growing fellowship. All of us are but leaves on a single, flourishing tree; offshoots can only weaken it!