

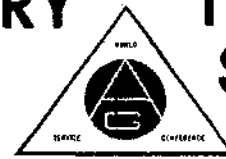
CONFERENCE SUMMARY

1966

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AL-ANON

SIXTH ANNUAL WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE
AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS
NEW YORK CITY - APRIL 20-23, 1966



Prepared by
Conference Committee
Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters
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INTRODUCTION

We at Al-Anon's World Service Office are deeply grateful for the many dedicated groups who are making it possible each year for Delegates from the States and Provinces to meet together annually in New York.

As long as this World Service Conference exists Al-Anon's future will be assured and our Traditions upheld, for the Conference is the conscience of Al-Anon.

After you have read and discussed this annual report do write us any suggestions you may have for improving both our service to you and our contact with those needy ones throughout the world who still do not know about Al-Anon.

Forty-nine Delegates from 41 States and all the Canadian Provinces met together from April 20th to 23rd with the Board of Trustees, Committee Chairmen and Al-Anon staff members to hear the reports which follow and to discuss how best to serve Al-Anon.

Before the Conference started the Delegates had a chance to become acquainted with each other and with the staff at the nearby Al-Anon office, after registering at the George Washington Hotel. From 3-5 P.M. pre-Conference meetings were held for Standing Committees at which all Delegates were welcome.

After dinner, Sue the Conference Chairman, greeted

the members and introduced Bill W., co-founder of AA, who spoke on "Unity." He mentioned, as usual, how useful Al-Anon was to AA and how much it was needed. After this, Sue introduced the new Delegates who each made a few remarks. No new states were added this year as the smaller Al-Anon populated Areas did not yet feel competent to join.

The Conference Sessions opened at 9 P.M. that night with a talk by Mary S., Chairman of the Board of Trustees on the "World Service Aims" concluding by reading the 12 Traditions. Lois then spoke briefly on "Service."

The outgoing Delegates' reports this year were interspersed throughout the sessions. Luncheons were given the Delegates on both Thursday and Friday noon. At the latter luncheon, Yvelin Gardner, Deputy Director of the National Council on Alcoholism, the guest speaker, gave a fine talk on "Cooperation."

A sad note was lent the last session of the Conference by the sudden but quiet passing away of one of our esteemed members, Edgar D., Delegate from Michigan. His gentle, kindly spirit and dedication to Al-Anon will long bring a warm glow to our hearts.

The HQ reports and the highlights of the Conference discussions and actions follow.

HQ REPORTS

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mary S., President

The President reported to the Conference on the functioning of the Board under the new structure set in motion in January, 1965, with regular quarterly meetings, and 2 special meetings called to deal with specific matters under consideration.

She reported her regular attendance, as president and ex-officio member of all committees, at the monthly—sometimes weekly—meetings of the Conference, Policy, Budget and Executive Committee meetings.

At quarterly meetings of the Board, all Committees, i.e. Alateen, Literature, Public Relations, Conference, Policy, Budget, Volunteers and Institutions, report on activities and recommend future projects for consideration and action by the Board. The Forum and World

Service Center Headquarters, through its General Secretary, also report to the Board.

Some highlights of the year were: (a) Active participation in the AA Convention in Toronto; (b) Presentation of a talk by our General Secretary at the annual meeting of the North American Association of Alcoholism Programs in their session titled, "The Impact of Alcoholism on the Family and the Role of Al-Anon" (later published in the monthly magazine, "Inventory"); (c) Attendance at a seminar of the American Management Association on Voluntary Organizations, toward study and search for more effective functioning of our fellowship as a whole.

Additional Board actions approved the following: Printing of 15,000 copies of a new book, AL-ANON FACES ALCOHOLISM; reprinting of a revised and enlarged edition of LIVING WITH AN ALCOHOLIC;

listing of AL-ANON FACES ALCOHOLISM in Bowker's BOOKS IN PRINT, reaching librarians and book buyers largely; translation into Spanish of a Step-a-month and selected articles from the FORUM, as a monthly bulletin to Spanish-speaking groups.

Special allocation of funds included literature furnished to the Public Relations Committee for use at National Council on Alcoholism annual meetings, in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and New York City; purchase and transcription of 7 tapes of meetings at the 1965 Toronto Convention; sending of a representative to the meeting of the North American Association of Alcoholism Programs, among other things.

She then spoke of the more detailed reports to be given by the Committee Chairmen and General Secretary in fulfillment of the corporation's legal obligation to report annually.

Her closing sentiments were that each Delegate and Board member ever remain worthy of the confidence placed in them by Al-Anon worldwide that they served.

GENERAL SECRETARY

Henrietta S.

The Al-Anon World Service office reports annually to the Conference and quarterly to the Board of Trustees of Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, the membership corporation responsible for the over-all conduct of business, for the prudent administration of the funds of the fellowship, for assessing the probable annual revenue and controlling expenditure, for authorizing employment of office personnel, and for the publishing and distribution of Conference Approved literature. Routine administrative decisions required between quarterly Board meetings are made by the Executive Committee.

The staff consists of the General Secretary/Office Manager; 3 Al-Anon Secretaries (Conference, Public Relations, Alateen); one employee in charge of publications (stock and re-order), who doubles as receptionist; one shipping clerk, who also does all the mimeographing; one bookkeeper; a FORUM clerk, who acknowledges and records all subscriptions, prepares expiration notices, and addresses the FORUM for mailing; 2 group records clerks and a part-time file clerk. The volume of work increased again during 1965 to the extent that all employees were taxed to their limit, and yet frequently were called upon in emergencies to assist in other areas of office work, to keep an orderly functioning of the whole. The growing responsibilities have placed an increasing demand on our volunteer committees, whose chairmen have not only inspired the staff to greater effort by their dedication, but often assisted office personnel in routine work which would be handled by paid employees if funds were available.

PUBLICATIONS

The big event of 1965 was the launching of our new book, AL-ANON FACES ALCOHOLISM, at the 30th Anniversary Convention of AA in Toronto, where over 700 copies were sold in record time. To make this possible, a favorable tax determination had to be obtained from the Canadian Government in

Ottawa, permitting the entry of our book duty and sales tax free into Canada. Fortunately, both the tax exempt status and the book in print were secured just in time for the Convention. By the end of the year a total of 7,222 copies of the new book were distributed. 126 were complimentary copies to contributors and reviewers, etc., and overseas. 2,691 copies of the basic, LIVING WITH AN ALCOHOLIC, were shipped, of which 51 were complimentary to overseas groups. The total of 9,913 books was 6,170 more than 1964's shipments of 3,743, an increase of 162%! There were also 110 copies of the mimeographed Spanish version of LIVING WITH AN ALCOHOLIC mailed out, 29 free to groups. The price of the revised edition of LIVING WITH AN ALCOHOLIC, was set at \$3.50 a copy retail and \$3.00 to groups.

Sales of other literature increased 13-1/2% over 1964. Over 20,000 free leaflets and pamphlets were distributed in packets to proposed groups, individuals, students and professionals in the field of alcoholism. Sample copies of two new literature items, "Are You Living with a Severe Drinking Problem?" and "So You Love an Alcoholic," went to all registered groups.

MAILING AND MIMEOGRAPHING

A 20% increase in postage and shipping expense was due in some extent to increased postal rates, but also reflects an increase in letters mailed, which totaled 30,000, and service to a larger number of groups. In addition to the books, 20,500 packages of literature were shipped. Although this was a decrease of 4,200 compared with the previous year, there were fewer groupwide mailings of new sample literature, and paid shipments actually increased.

185,000 sheets of mimeographed material were processed, an increase of 13-1/2% over last year's 163,000. This included Conference materials, form letters, the Convention Talks, supplementary literature, and miscellaneous items for all departments.

FORUM

79,405 FORUMS were mailed, 12% more than last year's 70,883. Total subscriptions at year's end compared with 1964 were:

	1964	1965	Increase
Multiple	1,418	1,630	212
Individual...	1,491	1,753	262
	<u>2,909</u>	<u>3,383</u>	<u>474</u>

Gross revenue from FORUM sales increased \$631; the balance represents service to more groups.

BOOKKEEPING

Total cash receipts this year were \$133,892.65, a 40% gain over 1964's \$95,169.63. Included in this amount were \$11,334.66 in accounts receivable, which jumped 72% over last year's \$6,561.60. This required a comparable increase in the amount of posting and billing done by our lone bookkeeper, who also acknowledged all contributions, prepared the payrolls and tax returns, processed bills for payment and kept the general books.

GROUP RECORDS AND DIRECTORY

During 1965 there were a total of 664 new registrations, including 117 Alateen Groups and 52 Lone Members. 201 Al-Anon Groups disbanded, and 68 Alateen. 28 former Lone Members either formed a group or were dropped from the mailing list. In an effort to eliminate the deadwood, last August all groups from whom there had been no data cards or correspondence in over a year were requested to send information on their current status. Because of the minimal response from these approximately 200 pending groups, in early December the aid of the Delegates was enlisted to determine the activity of the non-responding groups.

This department again had critical periods due to getting and keeping qualified people, resulting in the necessity of putting in much overtime to get the directory in print. Returns of mail to groups who had not notified us of change of address, or forgot to pay their box rent became an increasingly costly item, not only in excess postage paid, but in the correspondence required to get a correct address. By deadline time, about 60% of the groups had returned the data cards sent in late November for current information on their groups, an improvement over previous years, but until this percentage can be increased, the directory will always have that margin of possible inaccuracy.

GROUP SERVICES

During 1965 our central Al-Anon office served over 3,000 groups throughout the world. All groups and Loners received a free FORUM subscription, a copy of the World Directory and samples of new literature of general appeal. Each proposed group received a welcoming letter, free starter pack of literature and current issue of the FORUM. Upon registration, each new Group was sent a copy of the pamphlet, "Al-Anon at Work," and the current Directory, was added to the mailing list for the FORUM, and those in an Area represented by a Delegate received a Conference Handbook. Alateen groups received the supplemental quarterly publication, ALATEEN TALK, and in September the Spanish Groups were added to the mailing list for the monthly ALANON EN ACCION. All new English speaking overseas groups were sent a complimentary copy of LIVING WITH AN ALCOHOLIC.

Less than half of the 30,000 letters mailed are accounted for by 5 groupwide mailings—the 4 contribution appeal letters (spring and fall and the initial and follow-up Conference Fund appeals) and the directory letter. The balance comprises communications from Committees and staff to Delegates, many individually typed responses to requests for help with internal group problems; suggestions for varying group program; clarification of our Traditions as they apply in respect to AA and in public relations; advice on special meetings; guidance to intergroups and overseas service centers; and clarification of the Conference position on Approved Al-Anon literature.

CONFERENCE APPROVED LITERATURE

The reaction to the article, "Conference Approved Literature Mirrors the Al-Anon Image," which was appended to the 1965 Conference Summary sparked

many letters from members who objected to the practice of using outside literature at meetings, and others questioning why it was not acceptable. Alice was of tremendous help in clarifying the Conference position by answering many of the latter, and the staff handled the balance. This is a problem that should be lessened in the future with continued education and explanation.

Most groups expressed a wish to cooperate. For example, a letter was written to the secretary of the N.S.W. Central Services, Australia, because they were publishing and distributing a pamphlet (not Conference Approved) bearing the legend: "Printed by permission of Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters." This had been brought to the attention of the office by the secretary of the Literature Pool of the newly established Victorian Central Services, Australia, who had written that they were using this pamphlet, among others, as a giveaway for a public relations project in connection with SEMINARS ON ALCOHOLISM. We suggested that Victorian Central Services reconsider the choice in our effort to preserve Al-Anon unity, and they were most cooperative. So was Dudley of N.S.W. who replied that the piece was a carry-over from years ago, before there was a Conference, and that it would be dropped when their present supply ran out. He also promised they would use nothing but CAL in the future.

GROWTH IN FOREIGN LANGUAGE AL-ANON

The exciting developments in both French and Spanish Al-Anon are covered in the special reports of the Chairman of the French Literature Committee, and Mimi, our volunteer Spanish correspondent.

Additional growth is reflected in the following reports: Central Services in Pretoria, Transvaal, South Africa has translated and produced 4 Al-Anon pamphlets into Afrikaans.

A member of Chingola, Zambia, is working on simplification and translation of our CAL for translation into Bemba. She will send material to World Services for approval, before proceeding with translation and production.

Veikko, Secretary of the Helsinki, Finland, AA office has informed us that our second edition of LIVING WITH AN ALCOHOLIC has been translated, but hopes to hold off producing the book in Finnish until the new edition is available. They have both Swedish and Finnish versions of "Alcoholism, the Family Disease"; "Purposes & Suggestions"; "Youth & the Alcoholic Parent"; and "To the Parents of an Alcoholic." "A Guide for the Family of the Alcoholic" is about to be published in both languages. There have been many articles in their GRAPEVINE during the last 15 years translated from the FORUM.

A member in Quebec, Canada, translated and stenciled the pamphlet, "Al-Anon At Work," into Polish. The mimeographing and collating were done at this office, and copies are available at 75¢ each.

Harumi K., Secretary of the Mukogawa Al-Anon Group in Nishinomiya-shi, Japan, is translating Al-Anon material into Japanese.

ENGLISH SPEAKING AL-ANON OVERSEAS

Correspondence with other overseas groups has been lively throughout the year, with many good

wishes extended on the success of the Toronto meetings, widespread interest and many orders for the new book, frequent interchange of letters between the secretaries of U.K. Central Services, and the service centers in the Australian states and South Africa. All have been very cooperative in keeping us abreast of changes in group records. There were reports of Al-Anon programs at AA Conventions in Bulawayo, Rhodesia; Pretoria, Transvaal; Australia and England. The group in Calcutta, India, has had a struggle for existence in its first year, but is now on a firmer footing. A new group registered in Bloemfontein, O.F.S., S. Africa. The New Zealand Al-Anon Service Centre in Wellington, published another edition of its annual Al-Anon magazine in March, 1965.

OFFICE EQUIPMENT

Major purchases of new equipment in 1965 included one electric and one manual typewriter, one desk and chair; three desk lamps; a large file cabinet; one stencil cabinet; and mailing room equipment (cart, special stamp and tape shooter).

AMA SEMINAR

In August the Trustees authorized the General Secretary to attend a 3-day American Management Association Seminar on Maximizing the Performance of Voluntary Organizations. A copy of the 10-page digest of these stimulating and thought provoking sessions, was prepared for all Committee Chairmen, Al-Anon staff and Board members for study. A special meeting of the Trustees was held in November for discussion of the digest, from which evolved an improvement in some of our administrative and Board procedures.

FRENCH LITERATURE COMMITTEE

Harriet L., Chairman

The first French-speaking group was founded in Montreal in 1955. Versions of the 12 Steps and Traditions, "Purposes and Suggestions" and "Freedom from Despair" were submitted and approved by the Clearing House. As we needed a qualified translator, I registered at Montreal University for a complete course, but kept on translating in the meantime. The groups were serviced on a voluntary basis with the help of the Intergroup Committee. By 1963, Al-Anon had grown to such an extent that the servicing had become a full time and expensive job. Headquarters then suggested forming a committee to carry on the work. I was employed as their agent to service the French groups with the following:

1. The translation into French of the FORUM, HQ pamphlet and leaflet literature, communications to the groups and WSC material.
2. The production of all translated material and its distribution by the following methods: (a) a free copy of each issue of the FORUM to each French-speaking group and Lone member registered at HQ; (b) sending a new group packet at the request

of those intending to start a group; (c) selling Al-Anon Conference Approved Literature.

3. Providing file copies of all translated materials to HQ.
4. Registering all French-speaking groups in triplicate bilingual forms, retaining one copy for our own records, sending one copy of the Quebec groups to the Provincial Assembly and one translated copy of all the French-speaking groups to HQ.

As an arm of HQ, the French Literature Committee is not the responsibility of the Provincial Assembly but endeavors at all times to cooperate with it. Whatever amount is voted for this Committee is for the servicing of French-speaking Al-Anon groups the world over. We "just happen" to live in Montreal.

The Committee selects its own volunteers and employs non-Al-Anon workers for non-Al-Anon work, such as packing, mailing, etc. We have a capable paid part-time secretary. She first came as a volunteer, but as we needed someone who would come to work regularly NO MATTER WHAT, she was hired. Her functions, as well as mine, are most varied, as we must adapt ourselves to all needs and circumstances.

The 61 groups serviced in Canada and overseas in 1965 have grown to 74. 27 packages for new groups were mailed, bringing in 13 registrations and 6 proposed groups. The Committee also mailed 620 packages and 542 letters, including the communications from HQ. With the aid of an excellent translator, all of the 12 issues of the 1965 FORUM were done in French—this is the equivalent of half the book "AL-ANON FACES ALCOHOLISM." (Margaret, take a bow!) Our precious volunteers have assembled, stapled and prepared more than 6,500 FORUMS for mailing. In order to protect the anonymity of our subscribers we handle the addressing and checking ourselves. The FORUM has been distributed as follows: 1,139 copies free to groups and loners; 204 to important Al-Anons, AAs and friends; a surplus of 180 outside the Province as 12 Step work or for new groups; 2,556 copies to individual subscribers and 1,652 through the groups. The balance was sold at 20¢ a copy or at 5¢ after the following issue came out.

The French Literature Committee took great steps forward in 1965. Besides being admitted to the WSC, we moved to a real office. I had the privilege of visiting the groups in Belgium, France and Switzerland and we now have a translations committee in Paris working closely with us.

Apart from the FORUM, the Committee has published "Al-Anon at Work," "Youth and the Alcoholic Parent," "To the Father and Mother of an Alcoholic," "Information for the Newcomer," "Are You Living With a Severe Drinking Problem?" and we have compiled a group book for Alateens with the essentials from "For Teen-Agers with an Alcoholic Parent."

Groups are asking for more but, for lack of time and money, we can't do any better. Considering that they all get our wonderful FORUM every month, we do not feel guilty even if we would like to give them more of your "infinite riches." We are working on "So You Love an Alcoholic" and a manuscript of "A Guide for the Family of the Alcoholic." May I never forget to be ever grateful to my Higher Power, to Al-Anon and HQ, to Lois and to Henrietta who

has, for so many years, been so tolerant with me. There is an enormous task ahead, but I am sure we'll make it if we only "Let go and let God," and get going.

SPANISH AL-ANON

(Latin America, Spain and U.S.A.)

Mimi H., Volunteer

1965 was a most exciting and rewarding year for our work with the Spanish-speaking groups. The challenge of quiet but effective attraction, met in the past two or three years, by writing letters and answering questions, finally began to show results.

From last April to December, 20 new groups have been slowly but steadily increasing in attendance and in good Al-Anon. Mexico, until recently tightly closed to our efforts, bloomed with 6 new groups, one tentative Intergroup to service 2 states, a very active participation in an AA Pan American Convention at mid-year and a National Convention in January, 1966. Some of the letters from individual members are wonderful, good one minute meetings in themselves.

Peru, which had been barren territory for Al-Anon, came forth with 2 groups. The Lima "Comprehension" Group has provided us with a most excellent translation of "Freedom from Despair," now part of our regular Spanish Al-Anon literature. Colombia has 5 new groups, one of which "El Pilar" in Barranquilla, contributed in the excellent public relations program at the 7th AA Convention in Medellin, and is planning a solid and well thought-out Al-Anon Conference for the entire country in April. Spain registered only one official group, but there are several smaller ones that should soon join us officially. An Al-Anon man is doing much of the spade work there. The rest of the groups are scattered over Central America except for one in New York City and one in Los Angeles, California. There are also a few new loners.

2 Spanish Alateen groups have registered so far and we have had 5 individual inquiries.

A new service was recently started from this office, a monthly newsletter, "Al-Anon en Accion," which has been most welcome and is used by all groups. It is a 1-page mimeographed sheet with a composite translation of FORUM articles, appropriate parts from other pieces of Conference Approved Literature, plus a listing of new groups and anniversaries and an occasional message. So far, we have translated a general introduction to the meaning of Al-Anon, articles on the Serenity Prayer and, as of May, the first Five Steps, all from the FORUM. "20 Questions Often Asked" was also translated from "Alcoholism the Family Disease."

Radio, TV and several leading professionals in different countries have offered cooperation based on the above material.

Knowing the tremendous difference in the currency of those countries and ours and how desperately poor most of the members are, it is of interest that

we have had 2 or 3 very tiny contributions in response to our first appeal and that several groups have written assuring us that as soon as they can they will send us at least a few pennies.

According to my records, besides the newsletters and World Directories, 90 letters were written, 29 free books and 264 pieces of free literature were sent out, plus 3 new group packets in English.

LITERATURE COMMITTEE

Alice B., Chairman

BOOKS

The first part of the year we were still working on AL-ANON FACES ALCOHOLISM, sending final chapters to our Delegates for editing and approval, selecting cover stock and design, reading proof, writing to famous authorities for statements about Al-Anon, to be used on the book-jacket flaps—and generally dealing with last minute crises. Copy went to the printer the first week in March.

Immediately afterward we started revising LIVING WITH AN ALCOHOLIC; to bring it up to date chronologically and to add some vital material: a chapter on the application of the Twelve Traditions to group problems; structure of our fellowship and several additional personal stories. All copy had been completed, all had been read by the Literature Committee's members-at-large, format and cover design completed—by December. Books should have been ready by the beginning of March, but strikes, paper shortages and other roadblocks delayed the project so we could not even have books in time for the Conference. We had a few rough-bound copies to show our Delegates, but that was all.

NEW ITEMS

These included a small leaflet suggested at the 1965 Conference by Atlantic Provinces, offering Al-Anon's help to those in need of it. It was issued as a small pink folder entitled: "If You Are Living with a Severe Drinking Problem." 2) "So You Love an Alcoholic" was also added to our Conference Approved Literature. This is a condensation and revision of a folder issued by the Texas Commission on Alcoholism which had been widely used by Al-Anon groups. The ideas in it fitted our purpose perfectly, so we asked for and received permission to cast the material into an appropriate Al-Anon format. 3) "Young Wife, Are You Worried About Your Husband's Drinking?" another piece of literature added to the Conference Approved list, is an adaptation of a piece called "Trial and Error" which we were permitted to make by the Alcoholism and Drug Addiction Foundation of Ontario.

This Foundation, in turn, requested and received our permission to reprint from our book, AL-ANON FACES ALCOHOLISM, the chapter entitled "A Teacher Finds Guidance in Al-Anon." It was included in a handsome booklet on alcoholism which is being widely distributed in Canada. Such cooperation with

established agencies continually adds to the recognition and stature of Al-Anon as a source of help for families of alcoholics.

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Bill L., Chairman; Gun R., Secretary

REVISIONS AND REPRINTINGS

Included here are "Purposes and Suggestions," "Just for Today," "Al-Anon, You and the Alcoholic," "A Guide for the Sponsors of Alateen Groups," "Al-Anon Family Groups at Work," "How One AA Wife Lives the Twelve Steps."

"The Stag Line" was dropped from the list; the material in it was incorporated into our booklet "What's Next? Asks the Husband of an Alcoholic."

CONFERENCE APPROVED LITERATURE

In 1962 and again in 1965 the World Service Conference voted unanimously to recommend to groups the exclusive use of Conference Approved Literature.

In the intervening years, hundreds of letters to groups and individual members have answered their questions on this subject. Most groups now realize why it is important for us all to work our program with the same materials in order to keep statements of the Al-Anon philosophy undiluted and undistorted. One group, in announcing its intention to discontinue publishing a leaflet they had been distributing far beyond their own area, wrote: "We can well understand that if 5 or 10 or 20 groups were to publish literature independently, what would prevent all 3,000 groups from doing the same? There would be hundreds of different interpretations of Al-Anon ideas, many in conflict with one another."

There is, however, still one area of misunderstanding: many assume that Conference approval can be granted to any piece of literature a group may find appealing or useful. Many think that such approval can be given on request by the HQ office. This is not so; HQ is merely Al-Anon's worldwide service center; it has no authority to make decisions affecting any group.

The entire process by which a piece of literature is produced takes many months of concentrated work: study, to make sure it does not duplicate material on the list, research, writing, editing; many people with many years of Al-Anon experience read it and pass upon it. Finally it is submitted to 6 of our WSC Delegates for approval. It would not be practical, or even possible, to put through this long, involved process just any piece of literature submitted for approval.

A mimeographed sheet with a detailed explanation will be sent to any member or group on request of the Literature Committee.

All of us are deeply concerned to have Al-Anon literature truly reflect what we have to offer the troubled families of alcoholics. Surely we are of one mind and one heart in our great work which will spread and grow as we see the wisdom of working in unity, with the Twelve Traditions as our constant guide.

SUMMER SCHOOLS

According to information received, Al-Anon participated in 10 of the 1965 summer schools on alcoholism. We believe the number is greater than this because certain areas, where there has been participation in the past, have failed to report. Al-Anon speakers appeared on all 10 summer school programs. Indiana had 3 speakers, Minnesota had 1 speaker and 2 Al-Anon members to answer questions. Utah, the oldest and most prestigious of summer schools, had Al-Anon participation in 3 panels and a showcase Alateen meeting. It seems Al-Anon no longer has to beg for time, but let's not rest on the laurels already won, but seek new fields to conquer.

BOOKS

THE ALCOHOLIC IN YOUR LIFE—a book by Dr. Jorge Valles, Veterans' Hospital, Houston, Texas—a worthwhile book that has a running thread of Al-Anon throughout its pages, with quotes from our literature—due credit and address given.

LONG RIDE HOME—book by James L. Summers, to be published in 1966—refers to Alateen fellowship, with quotes from our literature—due credit and addresses.

SUMMER OF DECISION—book by Regina Woody—Chapter on Alateens, with proper credit.

MAGAZINES

Liguorian—July 1965 issue—"Sober Alcoholic"—letter from Al-Anon reader.

Marriage—A Catholic magazine, Aug. 1965 issue listed Al-Anon as a source of information on alcoholism.

Nursing Outlook—November issue—"Teaching Aids" recommended "A Guide for the Family of the Alcoholic." Approximately 50 inquiries and orders have been received as a result of this notice.

South African Medical Journal—December 1964 issue (too late to be included in last year's report)—excellent article "The Family and the Alcoholic," written by an Al-Anon member, who is also a physician.

True Confessions—Article on Al-Anon—"Is There a Problem Drinker in Your Family?"

United Church Observer—Sept. issue—Interview with our Ontario delegate by staff member, Patricia Clarke.

Inventory—Nov. 1965—Reprint of Henrietta's and Rev. Kellermann's papers delivered at NAAAP Convention in Sept. 1965.

NEWSPAPER COVERAGE

Newspaper coverage for 1965 was comprehensive in that every area of the U.S. and Canada was heard from, also abroad. There was one lengthy article from Paris. The news stories in Ontario, as a result of the Toronto Convention, were numerous and enthusiastic. Many exceptional stories on Al-Anon and

Alateen were published in 1965. Two of the outstanding appeared in the Louisville, Kentucky, Sunday, May 9, magazine section of the Courier-Journal, and in the Cincinnati Enquirer in July. The Cincinnati Al-Anon Council distributed 1,000 reprints of the latter to ministers and psychologists. Among the syndicated columnists writing about Al-Anon in 1965 were Dr. Joseph Molner, Dr. W. W. Bauer, Sara Lukens, and Mrs. Muriel Lawrence.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Among the industrial firms requesting information about Al-Anon this past year were: Kodak Processing Laboratory, Walker Machinery and Foundry Corporation, Consolidated Laundries, and Globe Industrial Contractors. The big breakthrough, of course, was the action taken by Mr. Kenneth A. Rouse, Kemper Insurance, in making the nation aware of the role of Al-Anon in the field of alcoholism through the medium of advertising in *Look* and *U.S. News and World Report*. Such cooperation and endorsement are invaluable as a means of reaching the millions who have not yet heard of our fellowship, and we hope other firms will follow Kemper's lead.

TV & RADIO

Reports of numerous Al-Anon and Alateen appearances on radio and TV have been sent to us from all parts of the U.S. and Canada during 1965. Judging by letters received at head office, activity in this area of communication is increasing much more rapidly in Canada than in the States. One observation culled from the letters of Delegates and other Al-Anon members is that one of the most effective approaches to TV and radio is through or with the cooperation of AA. This is true doubtless because AA is known to all media, but few as yet are aware of Al-Anon.

COOPERATION

It has been very encouraging to note the expanding cooperation between Al-Anon and outside agencies during 1965. Outstanding example: The North American Association of Alcoholism Programs' request for Al-Anon speakers at their Annual Meeting, held in Atlantic City, September, 1965. Al-Anon speakers have appeared this year at mental health seminars; clergy and social workers' conferences; nurses' associations; public health departments, and many Al-Anon members have been invited to serve on councils on alcoholism and to help set up new councils.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

1965 correspondence, in response to requests for information and literature, falls into the following categories: Students and individuals—450; Clergy—104; Medical profession—72; Educators, counselors—101; Social agencies—44; Councils, Committees on Alcoholism, NAAAP—42; Letters re proposed or published articles or books—19; Industry—7.

ALATEEN COMMITTEE

Rita C., Chairman; Timmy W., Secretary

During 1965 Alateens have "come of age"—in activities and in generous financial support to Headquarters. Special "appeal" letters to the Alateen Groups mailed in April and September brought good response. Two regional conferences, the Eastern Seaboard Alateen Conference and the First Southeastern Alateen Roundup sent a large part of their surplus funds to HQ.

The Eastern Seaboard Alateen Conference, held in Haverford, Pa., in June, was attended by Alateens and sponsors from 20 groups from 7 states. In Huntsville, Ala., Dec. 4-5, the First Southeastern Alateen Roundup was held with 80 AAs, Al-Anons and Alateens attending from 8 states. The Alateens voted to continue the Roundup and the Bessemer Alateen Group, Birmingham, will host in 1966. Numerous other Alateen Groups participated in AA and Al-Anon regional conferences all over this continent and overseas.

Alateens played an active part in the 30th Anniversary AA Convention in Toronto in July. Two successful Alateen Workshops were held. The Sponsors' Workshop had a panel of four speakers from Canada and the U.S. After some prearranged questions were briefly answered, the meeting was turned over to the audience with enthusiastic response. 7 Ontario Alateens formed the panel at the Alateen Workshop. Outstanding interest was displayed by everyone attending, the Alateens showing maturity beyond their years. This Workshop had standing room only with many AAs attending.

ALATEEN TALK, our quarterly newsletter, continues to keep the registered Alateen groups informed of Alateen activities around the world. The groups send in interesting news and seem very happy to have their own newsletter.

Correspondence with the groups, secretaries and individual members has been at an all-time high during 1965. In several instances where a rather serious area problem needed to be worked out, an appeal to the WSC Delegate brought most satisfying results, which is a gratifying experience—knowing the response will be there. Many letters were written to troubled teenagers (individual inquiries) who were referred to the nearest Alateen Group or World Hello Meeting-by-Mail.

"Sponsor trouble" still looms large as one of the biggest Alateen problems. The "Questionnaire for Sponsors," approved at the WSC last year, has been sent with each proposed group letter since then. Thus we know something of the background and qualifications of the sponsors. AA's cooperation with Alateen seems to be more wholehearted than Al-Anon's.

The Alateen Secretary made a concentrated effort to determine the status of the registered Alateen Groups which showed no activity in over a year. In those cases where there had been no response to a routine status letter sent to a group's mailing address by the Group Records Department, we directed a second letter to an individual, either the sponsor, the WSC Delegate, the secretary or some other active member of an Al-Anon Group. This proved a time-consuming task but we learned of many disbanded, as well as reactivated,

groups. Therefore, our group records are now more accurate, and we estimate that the number of registered Alateen Groups approximate 315.

VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE

Margie H., Chairman

During 1965 fewer volunteers served at HQ because many had gone to work and others moved away. Though volunteers were not always available, it was generally possible to secure a sufficient number when needed.

We have a very workable system which we believe achieves the best possible results. The Chairman is advised by the office about a week in advance as to the number and dates the volunteers will be needed. She telephones them from her home and tries to give them at least one week's notice.

The volunteers helped to: prepare literature packs for mail distribution to new Al-Anon and Alateen proposed groups and individuals; prepare approximately 6,700 FORUMS monthly for mailing, an increase of about 500 copies over 1964 (requiring about 6 volunteers each month over a 3-day period); assemble and staple multipage manuscripts; count literature; assist in response to mail inquiries resulting from, as an instance, a syndicated newspaper article.

The importance of volunteers can best be known when we realize that many of them developed to the extent that they are now chairing the various HQ Committees. Their dedication and response is a constant source of inspiration, and we wish to express our sincere appreciation to all who have been so generous with their time.

INSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEE

Marge H., Chairman

During 1965 the Institutional Committee continued to handle numerous requests from AA secretaries in Prisons and Institutions for literature to be sent to the families of AA inmates. In Tennessee alone the Committee wrote to more than 100 families. The number was nearly as great in Missouri. It is our hope that at least some of these families have found the understanding they need in Al-Anon.

Again we would like to compliment the Southern California Boosters on the fine work they are doing, and Catherine Stalker for the tremendous job she continues to do in Alberta, Canada. In Kentucky, AA and Al-Anon are cooperating to establish a program at the Women's Correctional Institution. There are also noteworthy programs in State Hospitals and Prisons in Maine, Montana, South Dakota and Utah.

Extensive correspondence from outside the U.S. and Canada has been handled by the Institutional Committee. Constructive activity is particularly evident in New Zealand and Australia.

The Institutional Committee would like nothing

better than to expand its efforts in making our Prisons and Institutions aware of Al-Anon and its willingness to help in their rehabilitation programs. However, it is hampered by the lack of a regularly functioning committee. Until interested volunteers are recruited, we will have to depend largely on our Delegates, Assemblies, groups and individual members to apply the spark to this worthwhile work in their areas.

POLICY COMMITTEE

Lois W., Chairman

Since the establishment of an Executive Committee, at the beginning of the year, to handle current administrative affairs here at World Services, the Policy Committee now meets only quarterly. Its composition is the same as before. If an emergency arises a special Policy meeting is called.

In between meetings individuals and groups that seek help with problems that have occurred in other groups and been earlier considered by the Policy Committee are now answered either by the General Secretary or the Chairman of this Committee by recounting the previously worked out suggestions.

The procedure for arriving at a policy is by weighing the experience of groups in the light of the 12 Traditions. Of course, any large matter that would affect over-all Al-Anon policy is left for the decision of the Conference.

Many of the Committee's suggestions have resulted in actions reported by other committees. Those not so reported are as follows:

On 1/26/65, (a) that Policy Committee meetings be open to Al-Anon members active at World Services who wish to present a matter of general policy for discussion; (b) that it be suggested to the FORUM editor that an article on open mindedness toward outside agencies be carried; (c) that the editor of ALATEEN TALK request that all communications to that newsletter be signed, not sent anonymously.

On 4/27, (a) that a suggestion for Al-Anon to have a pin for sale at the coming Toronto Convention not be carried through. The idea is not in accord with anonymity and other Traditions, and might also interfere with the Canadian Customs permission to sell our new book at the Convention; (b) that periodic bulletins containing items of interest concerning all World Service activities, be sent to the Delegates. (This bulletin was later named AREA HIGHLIGHTS).

On 7/27, (a) that the Literature Committee prepare a guidance sheet for Intergroups, outlining their prerogatives and those of Headquarters; (b) that setting up a service center to do public relations work and to sell literature is not the best method for a Delegate to try to unify her state; (c) that we should reply to a commercial company who wants to use our Directory, that it is for private use only and that we cannot endorse any product; but that we would refer any inquiry about this product, to them; (d) that we should reply to an outside author who wants us to push her book which favors Alateens, that it is against our Traditions to do so; (e) that a letter

from the Secretary of the Southern California Assembly enclosing a huge stamp to be used on World Service mail to GRs, be answered by thanking the Assembly but suggesting that such a stamp is really not practical for our use; (f) that the Conference Committee Chairman write to each WSC Delegate—asking that any suggestions for the Conference Committee be noted in a special letter to the committee and not just mentioned in an Assembly Bulletin.

On 10/26, that Al-Anon cooperate with AA at AA conventions, even if Al-Anon is charged a registration fee, as is often done. Al-Anon owes much to AA.

AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP FORUM

Margaret D., Editor

Old FORUMS, like old generals, never die. Many times letters come to say that some Al-Anon had been in a troublesome spot and had turned to an old FORUM and found help. Always I have said a prayer of gratitude for my part in editing it so that the person had found comfort or enlightenment. My heart has been warmed by the many times someone in our meeting has answered a tough question by beginning, "I once read in the FORUM...."

I've given a lot of thought to this situation. I have concluded that the things we deal with in Al-Anon and in the FORUM, mostly come under the heading of fundamentals, or eternal verities. Thus they themselves are timeless and these are the items which remain in people's minds or which they seize on when they are in difficulties.

It's been said before, but needs always to be remembered, that the FORUM is not just a house-organ of Headquarters, although it squeezes in some of that function. All Al-Anon needs to know what is being done at our Clearing House, which is what Headquarters is.

The FORUM is primarily a means of communication among many, far-flung groups. It is also, or should be, an instrument of education and inspiration for individuals as well as groups. It is a place where any member or group can have his say, if time is taken to write it.

Naturally, little of this can be accomplished if members and groups do not send in their ideas, comments and experience. It does not take much effort to jot down a short description of a successful, new kind of meeting. It doesn't need creative talent to write a short account of a new way of applying a Step or Slogan. It does not take special training to tell your own story—after all, YOU lived it. You know what happened and what helped you most. Only you can tell it. And by telling it, you may perhaps help some complete stranger ten years from now, a world away from where you lived those days.

There are two cautions about FORUM material: space is limited so that details of anniversary parties cannot be printed. And only multiples of five years can be listed; that is 1st, 5th, 10th anniversaries, etc.

Furthermore, fine as most of the poetry received is, there'd be room for little else if it were printed. So the rule: NO POETRY EVER. Space is reserved for

personal or group experience, for questions on which answers are needed, and for world-wide information on all Al-Anon.

As the Delegates go about their visits to groups, they can do a most priceless job of stimulating letters to the FORUM and they can also help the financial half of the picture: by urging group subscriptions, which are the easiest and most profitable to handle, they can give the FORUM financial security. Not that they should refuse individual subscriptions where those are preferred: our motto, and our fervent aim is, "A FORUM for every Al-Anon member."

The FORUM, after all, belongs to all Al-Anon. Let's make it worthy of being kept a hundred years—it has survived more than the first decade already. Let's see to it that each issue is an improvement on the last. We can make that hope and dream come true when every member feels that it is his FORUM and he must write to it.

I'm making an appointment with my oculist. He'll fix it so that if a ton of material comes in monthly, I'll be able to cope with it. If that happens, correspondents in South Africa, South Australia and South Dakota, as well as all points between, should be able to hear my shout of joy.

How about stopping thinking "I should write the FORUM," and getting at it—NOW.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Margaret D., Chairman, Budget Committee

Early this winter our very capable Treasurer, Anne B., left New York for Florida, with the idea of living there permanently. Her departure left us in a difficult position because the Budget Committee chairman carries heavy responsibility and those eligible were already working at capacity. It was really desperation which appointed me to Anne's place. My forte is more along the lines of people than of figures and balance sheets. But as you know, in Al-Anon we do what we can.

Since I began pitch-hitting we have had numerous Budget Committee meetings: to consider purchase of needed equipment; to review salaries; to consider vitally needed new space and new staff; to approve the proposed budget for the coming year. The audit of our accounts, fortunately, was in the hands of a Certified Public Accountant. A complete financial report is available to any group upon request.

From a CPA's point of view this report is excellent. It shows an increase of 50.3% in total income and an increase of total expense of only 13.2%. Excess of income over expense is \$19,090. This looks rosy indeed.

What the report does not show is how this picture was brought about. For more than 6 months we have been working from one emergency to another, always on a crash basis, seriously understaffed and in quarters too cramped for efficient work—at present 2 part-time staff members use the same desk and typewriter and their hours overlap some days. Furthermore, there are many days when work vitally needed to be done by volunteers cannot be managed because there is not sufficient desk room.

With the tremendous growth of Al-Anon much more literature is needed. Better prices are obtained by buying in larger quantities but storage space is a problem.

Our income did increase greatly. But it was income from literature which made this figure such a comforting one: our new book accounted for over \$28,000 of it. Contributions from groups increased only \$3,646.73.

It is right here, group support of your Service Center, that I best understand the CPA's report. This figure does not grow as I believe it should. I have checked back for three years, '62, '63, and '64. Instead of the percentage of groups which contribute increasing—one would think that reasonable as groups become better established—the percentage is gradually shrinking.

In 1962, 57% of all groups sent some contribution to Headquarters. In 1963, 56% shared in expenses and in 1964, only 55%. This is a trend which should concern all of us—one we must work to reverse.

True, more money is received but not in proportion to growth. Little more than half the groups should not be left to carry the others, since all receive services alike and since all, presumably, wish Al-Anon to function at its best.

It is right here, group support, where work needs to be done by all of us. The FORUM has had, and will have, articles on this. Appeal letters will stress this. But work needs to be done by all of you as well.

1965 CONVENTION COMMITTEE

Wanda R., Chairman

The King Edward Sheraton Hotel in Toronto, Ont., Can., was the headquarters for most of the Al-Anon activities at the 30th AA Anniversary Convention, July 2-4, 1965. Four main meetings overflowed the capacity of the Crystal Ballroom. The French "Inter-Nation" Meeting and 10 workshops were also very well attended, especially Alateen, Stag, Newcomer and Sharing Sessions.

The Al-Anon Host Committee arranged a lovely "Reception for all Long-Timers and World Service Delegates." In addition they held a "Breakfast with Lois and Bill" at the Royal York Hotel. This proved to be a most enjoyable occasion attended by well over 1,000 AA and Al-Anon members, part of the proceeds of which were graciously sent to Al-Anon Headquarters.

For the first time at a national convention of AA, Al-Anon was invited to participate in their program, on the special panel "Helpful Allies in the Field of Alcoholism." Of course, Al-Anon members attended many of the AA meetings as well as the General Sessions each evening in the Maple Leaf Gardens. Our Al-Anon meetings were also well attended by AAs. Members and friends from Finland, England, Switzerland and Panama were among those from abroad attending our activities.

Our warm appreciation and grateful thanks are again extended to the Host Committees—AA and

Al-Anon—and all those who were responsible for making the convention such a tremendous success and memorable event for all of those in attendance.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Sue L., Chairman; Holly C., Secretary (Staff)

The mechanics for the 1965 Conference were worked out; acknowledgements were sent for the equalized sums sent by each Area Treasurer. Those sums were then allocated to the Delegates for their round-trip fare to the Conference plus \$60 expenses for hotel, meals and incidentals. All the reports of the '64 activities were in a Brochure and enclosed in a portfolio with samples of all Conference Approved Literature (CAL). All arrangements were completed for meeting rooms and meals at the hotel. Stenographers were in readiness to take notes and all the WSC sessions were tape recorded. At the close of the Conference, all the Delegates who were able to stay longer availed themselves of the bus that was provided for a trip to Stepping Stones and a visit with Bill and Lois.

Each of the 49 Delegates were sent an indexed CONFERENCE DIGEST with a letter to explain that the equalized sum for each Assembly Area would be \$240 for 1966. Over 3,200 copies of the Conference Summary were distributed.

Preparations for the 1966 Conference were started by sending an invitation to the remaining areas to send a Delegate. (Delaware, Idaho, New Hampshire, Nevada, Rhode Island, Vermont, West Virginia and Wyoming) They each had so few groups (58 in all) that they felt it would not be possible to join the Conference until a later date.

A newsletter called AREA HIGHLIGHTS was distributed (quarterly) for the information of Delegates and their Area WSC Committee. The Delegates also get a copy of each FORUM and samples of all groupwide mailings. When a new group registers, the Delegate is sent the mailing address to contact the new members. Starting with Jan. 1966, group contributions were acknowledged in triplicate—one for the file, one for the group and a copy to the Delegate. Prior to this system, Delegates had to wait until Conference time to learn which groups were supporting their world service center.

The "service" extended by members to one another within a group is reflected worldwide, in the growth of one group into two and then forming more Districts within the Assembly Area.

Service forms an endless circle—RECOVERY for the individual through the group—UNITY in purpose through the District Meetings and Assemblies for WSC. SERVICE in each group and Assembly Area is then reflected in the number of new people reached and new groups form with an assist from HQ. More Conference Approved Literature (CAL) is distributed through the sale of literature to the groups. A small profit is realized from these sales thus enabling your Al-Anon service center in New York to reach individuals worldwide.

CONFERENCE DISCUSSIONS AND DECISIONS

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

ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE

There are 8 Areas not yet participating in the Conference—Delaware, Idaho, Nevada, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont, West Virginia and Wyoming. New Areas will be placed in a Panel having the least number of Delegates to keep the Panels even. (Panel V—18 Delegates; Panel VI—12 Delegates; and Panel VII in 1967 will have 19 Delegates)

ALATEENS

This Committee, including 6 Delegate members, discussed and brought to the Conference floor the following: (1) Suggestion to the Literature Committee to substitute the words "drinking problem" in one Alateen pamphlet for the stronger term "alcoholic." (2) Give thought to Alateen representation at Assemblies. In some, they already have voice and vote, but each Area is autonomous in this, of course. (3) With respect to social functions at meetings the consensus was to keep social activities separate as outlined (by Alateens who wrote it) in "Operation Alateen," "Response to a questionnaire showed that many groups feel that socializing interferes with their serious purpose." (4) How can we impress our Al-Anon members with the importance of sponsorship of Alateen Groups, both in performing their duties and insuring the continuity of groups when the sponsor leaves? This is a matter of education and will take time. (5) To avoid "exploitation" of teen-agers (Alateens speaking "too soon," etc.), deplored by some Conference members, it was felt that more care was needed in selection of emotionally stable sponsors, who, in turn, must be more careful in selecting speakers. This is a local matter about which HQ can do little, although the "Questionnaire for Sponsors of Alateen Groups," approved by the 1965 WSC in use since then, has helped somewhat in learning more about the sponsor's background and qualifications. One opinion expressed was that *all* Al-Anon members should feel a responsibility to the Alateens.

ANONYMITY

Members use the World Directory to get the addresses of other groups in the vicinity to send announcements of special meetings, etc. Groups are reminded to be careful that the Al-Anon name should never appear on any mail directed to the home of an individual or to a person's P.O. Box.

ASK-IT-BASKET

Most of these questions were answered in the sessions to which they applied. Some of the more important general questions were:

Q. A Canadian Group inquired if it would be in violation of our Traditions for them to register as a

non-profit organization for tax purposes. A. No, but it might be costly.

Q. What suggestions can be offered for the success of Institutional Al-Anon Groups? A. Greatest success has come through the distribution of Al-Anon literature to the AA inmates of county jails, prison camps and municipal courts, who have in turn passed it on to their families. This has aroused considerable interest in Al-Anon and the Al-Anon Groups in institutions.

Q. Should Al-Anon members as individuals try to prevent a High School from having a program on the subject of "Not To Drink"? A. No, but should suggest to the proper authorities that N.C.A. has educational films, books and pamphlets on this subject.

Q. What suggestions should be made to those who are confused about the purposes of Alcoholism Treatment Centers and Al-Anon? A. Some Al-Anon members are in need of psychiatric treatment and they should have the professional help that Al-Anon cannot and should not give. However, there should be no conflict of interests between Al-Anon and the professional—rather, mutual cooperation should exist.

BOOK

The Chairman of the Literature Committee presented the suggestion of an Illinois member that Al-Anon publish a book of daily readings similar to the 24-Hours-a-Day book used by AA members. This project was enthusiastically approved by the Conference, with the understanding that it would be a considerable undertaking in terms of both time and expense.

CHARTER AND HANDBOOK

There were a few changes in the wording of both that have now been incorporated in the Handbook (revised April 1966), which includes the Charter. The groups are advised to discard the old editions as the new Handbook will replace all previous ones. The Charter will be presented to the 1967 Conference for ratification.

DIRECTORY

It was agreed that the format of the present Directory be retained without changes. Al-Anon and AA members meeting together will be registered and listed as "Open Discussion Groups." All registered groups will continue to be listed in the Directory whether or not they are as yet contributors.

FORUM

Requests were made for more reading material on: how to cope with the alcoholic's dry drunk periods; guidance for families of alcoholics condemned to life

imprisonment; addiction to pills by the sober alcoholic or a member of the family; adjustment to marital discord which continues after sobriety. As it does not appear possible to publish individual pamphlets on these specific subjects in the near future, it was suggested that the FORUM could cover these topics in future issues. This was agreeable to all, because current Al-Anon literature provides help in all these areas through the application of the Twelve Steps and the Slogans.

Margaret expressed her appreciation of the steady increase in FORUM subscriptions and orders for multiple copies that go with the group's free one.

INCOME

The operating expenses of the Conference, as all other worldwide services, will be covered by contributions to one over-all fund at HQ. The Budget Committee will henceforth send out three appeals annually for support of this fund.

The Groups within an Assembly Area will continue to share in the expenses of sending a Delegate to the World Service Conference, by direct contributions to the Area Treasurer.

INTERGROUPS

A workshop type meeting was chaired by Mary S. (HQ) with 5 Delegates on the panel. She told how the Policy Committee had discussed having a brochure to explain the purposes and functions of local service centers, but deferred action until the Conference could review the present status of Intergroups and decide on the nature of the guidelines to be established. Following is a summation of the reports: Each of 3 Delegates described the service center in her Area as having an office in a large metropolitan city, one staffed by volunteers and a part-time paid secretary, another with 3 paid staff, and the third with only volunteers to answer distress calls. One Intergroup holds meetings in the homes of members and has a professional answering service. The other state has 2 registered Intergroups, and representatives only meet to plan for annual events that have become traditional in their cities—special get-togethers for Al-Anons. They have no phone listing or answering service.

During the discussion that followed, it was decided that further information was needed before a guide for local service centers could be written. When the preliminary ideas have been outlined, they will be sent for study and suggestion to all the Delegates who have an Intergroup in their Areas, as well as to the members-at-large on the Literature Committee.

LITERATURE

Alice, Literature Chairman, spoke of the new 2-page bulletin, "Why Conference Approved Literature?" (copies available from HQ) prepared to reply to continued requests for earlier publications or those produced by publishers other than HQ. The explanation also answers questions as to whether this or that piece of literature can have Conference approval. Many seem to have the impression that HQ decides what may be used, but only the Conference can do that.

Reproduction for distribution of Yvelin Gardner's talk on cooperation between the National Council on Alcoholism and Al-Anon, given at the Friday luncheon, was approved.

The Chairman said that the booklet, "Alcoholism and Sex," proposed at 1965's Conference, was still in the works, explaining the difficulties attendant on so touchy a project. A wary approach is important to avoid having Al-Anon criticized by professional counselors, so an attempt is being made to deal with the entire subject from the aspect of the Twelve Steps. The booklet on "Sponsorship" has also been delayed because of heavy time-demands of the books and revisions on other literature, but assurance was given that this would be one of the very next items to be produced.

MAILING ADDRESS

The General Secretary again stressed the importance of accuracy because each returned FORUM costs HQ 8¢ postage, plus staff time and correspondence to confirm changes. The Delegates were urged to enlist the cooperation of their Committeemen and GRs to help HQ keep group records up-to-date. Permanency of mailing addresses and prompt notification to HQ when changes are made would effect a big saving for Al-Anon. The U.S. Post Office now requires that all addresses include their Zip code.

OUTGOING DELEGATES' REPORTS

1. While Ann was Delegate *Calif. (N)* gained 16 Al-Anon and 10 Alateen groups. Her report is given at the June Conference, one of 3 held annually in conjunction with AA. Al-Anon participates at 6 hospitals and a prison, and at the Federal School of Alcoholism, and has had several good newspaper items, radio talks and a very interesting TV program. Ann was thoroughly convinced that the Delegate's term should remain 3 years.

2. In trying to arouse interest in World Service, Cecilia of *Calif. (S)* stressed that all members have a personal responsibility for putting something back in return for taking the Al-Anon privileges back into their lives. On this theme the Area developed 23 Districts and 19 active Committeemen attending every Assembly, plus many extra Area Committee meetings called during the year. The Committeemen, who work within the District in close touch with local groups, are a valuable arm which should be utilized by every Delegate.

3. *Florida* participated successfully in the Summer Schools of Alcohol Studies, panels for the clergy, TV and radio, but Peggy recounted a devastating experience in connection with an open line appearance when newspapers identified her by full name as the "President of Al-Anon"! Flourishing Beginners Classes are attracting many old members to return. "Al-Anon A-Go-Go," an unrehearsed skit with coffee-house singers, is scheduled for replay at the S. E. Conference in Miami Beach in August. With the help of Mimi (HQ Spanish Committee) Peggy hopes to spearhead a project to bring Al-Anon to the 100,000 Latin American people of S. Florida among whom alcoholism is a terrible problem. Remembering a great

lamented man, she did not so much wonder what the Conference could do for her and her state, but with God's help what they can do for the Conference — because it is for all of us.

4. The *Illinois* groups have grown to over 100 and are more united than when the Conference was initiated, with growing involvement in the State Assembly and interest in World Service. Joan, who married a sober alcoholic, was Assembly Treasurer before serving as Delegate. Always a member of a large group, she gained a better understanding of the problems of the small ones. On the personal side, she did Helen of N.M. (who had a baby while Delegate) one better—she became a mother in the space of 10 days by adopting a baby girl, who went to her first Al-Anon meeting at the age of one month. Activity of both partners in the companion-fellowships have further enriched an already fine marriage.

5. Ruth reported a gain of 15 Al-Anon and 5 Alateen groups in *Indiana* the past year, and through trial and error the Assembly is off the ground at last and eventually hopes to set up Districts and Committeemen. Al-Anon took part in two workshops on alcoholism; has cooperated in producing a film (reviewed by Conference members); and distributed Alateen literature to school superintendents and guidance counselors, using an article on alcoholism "snatched" from No. Dakota as an entree in this project. Ruth felt the fine friendships made during a Delegate's term are a real bonus, recalling Madeline's (Atlantic Provinces' Delegate) wonderful hospitality in Nova Scotia last summer.

6. The compensations that result from being asked to talk at schools, from having doctors call for help with patients, calls from probate and police courts were among the fine rewards enjoyed by Lois in her 3 years as *Kansas* Delegate. She hoped she would never reach a plateau of complacency where she would be unable to help the newcomer, because she had forgotten what it was like to live with the active alcoholic. She was most grateful for the knowledge gained at the Conference and the prompt answer from HQ to all questions.

7. *Kentucky* gave Aurelia no instructions except to express their gratitude for the help they get from HQ. A highlight this year was the Alathon (one-day Conference) for which 251 registered at \$1.00 each, with 109 at the banquet (\$3.50 a ticket). The host committee planned 4 meetings, including one very successful Alateen, with the last given to AAs, who showed the film, "Bill's Own Story." Three invited speakers came at their own expense, so costs were held at a minimum enabling many members with active drinkers to attend.

8. Dreams about attending a meeting where she was to talk but was mute while Sue kept saying, "Talk louder!" haunted Beverly before she came. *Manitoba* has found a way to repay what the program has given its members, through increased activity in World Service, reflected in participation in American and Canadian TV, radio programs, good newspaper coverage and the first institutional meeting at a Federal prison. Growing in popularity, the Sharing Sessions have emphasized the need for unity and importance of the Traditions. Committeeman's

questionnaires spurred those who had not been too active, as they had to find out what was going on in their groups to be able to answer.

9. Jean felt that *Maryland* has laid a firm foundation for its Al-Anon future, though the outward appearance of her delegateship might seem unimpressive. Progress has been slow but unity is growing. In December a hugely successful luncheon brought in members from 10 groups of metropolitan Washington to a stateside Area function for the first time. Many referrals have resulted from the Al-Anon listing (first through alphabetical happenstance) in the state's directory of specialized services for alcoholics and the invitations to address 800 social workers at 6 seminar meetings. Several Al-Anon Firsts this year were: invitation to Al-Anons and Alateens (instead of AA spouses) to attend AA's 21st Area Banquet; a TV Show; and regularly scheduled radio programs. Without the WSC no worldwide unity would be possible, but unity depends on a firm foundation, on unity in the local groups.

10. One of the "bearded sisters," Ed traveled 8,000 miles throughout *Michigan* to report to the groups. Many new members came into the program through his regular Wednesday night talks to the patients' wives or husbands at a hospital alcoholic ward. He looked forward to addressing a clergyman's seminar this year, and meeting all again sometime, someplace.

11. *Minnesota* grew from 34 to almost 100 groups since 1960. Alma spent much time with the ex-Delegate, Officers and Committeemen her first year redistricting the state, projecting, as they thought, 10 years ahead, but the Districts now are even more lopsided than before! She concentrated on straightening out the confusion about money in the groups, but found repeated explanation necessary as new people joined. N.Y. is no longer just a bunch of people way off in limbo somewhere, as strides were made in the area of contributions with the realization that this is a shared responsibility. Only Conference Approved Literature is used throughout Minnesota. Before the end of the year, when Alma will be moving to Seattle, she hopes to inspire the Committeemen and GRs to greater activity.

12. Dorothy, *New York's* Alternate, thinks it is of great benefit, at times, to ride on AA's coattails, because in upper N.Y. state, the many Al-Anon panels at AA Conferences have progressed to having no opposing AA meeting coincide with at least one Al-Anon meeting. Collections at a monthly area Al-Anon meeting, which grew from wives coming along for the ride to a Sunday afternoon AA District meeting, are sent to the Assembly Treasurer. Though it may stumble and flounder periodically, the Assembly paper, "Stateside," is a project that should help unify the Area.

13. Serving as Delegate was a privilege that Virginia will always cherish, but she was excited about the freedom she will have in a new phase of World Service activity when someone else from *Ohio* has the thrilling experience of attending next year's Conference.

14. Having the honesty part of the program, Wynne admitted to feeling tired and glad that her 3

years of service was almost ended before she left *Ontario*, but felt re-invigorated at the Conference. She hoped to be of as much help to the future Delegate as Ede, their former one (still working hard as Board member of the Toronto Council on Alcoholism) was to her.

15. The Committeemen and GRs plus Holly's infinite patience were of great help to Dell in establishing communication between the *Pennsylvania* groups, lacking before the WSC. The Philadelphia groups rotate in sponsoring a Saturday morning meeting for wives of men on probation at the municipal court.

16. Miles of travel in *Quebec* during her first year as Delegate to explain the Conference structure, created more interest when Terry revisited the groups the second year. Now there is understanding of the service the Conference performs and the (almost 100) groups are very proud of being part of this great big worldwide family. Alateen, grown from 1 to 14 last year, has one group with 85 to 90 at a meeting. Contributions doubled over last year; there are close AA-Al-Anon relations and fine press, radio and TV coverage. As Delegate, she learned to put her pride in her pocket, and principles above personalities. With gratitude for the wonderful warmth and friendships found at the Conference, any members who might be planning to visit the Montreal World's Fair next year were invited to see Terry.

17. *Tennessee* came a long way during Bernice's service though the Assembly structure is not fully developed as yet. Cooperation with the Alcoholism Information Center brought in many new Al-Anons, 4 of whose mates have since come into AA thru the back door. Public meetings are held every 3 months; subscriptions to the FORUM increased; and the "four-fold" fund (each individual who wishes gives \$4.00 sometime during the year) resulted in doubled contributions to HQ, and a special "love offering" from her group to the Conference Fund.

18. Celia was grateful for a better organized and better run Conference, compared with her first, and also for receiving the annual HQ reports in advance. *Texas (E.)* has done much work with parole and probation officers, and public relations in industry. Their slogan, her first year, was "Peace through understanding"; last year, "Responsibility," and this year, they decided on "Perpetuation," because we are trying for unification and certainly want perpetuation. Al-Anon in her Area employs the universal language of love.

19. The pictures Dorothy took at her first Conference made the members of *Texas (W.)* realize that HQ is a place of love, staffed by people with as much love in their hearts as back home. They have enjoyed real growth in her Area, but never do a job to their complete satisfaction, so will never quit trying the "Easy Way Does It" way.

DISCUSSIONS AND DECISIONS Continued

PUBLIC RELATIONS

The development of ways in which Al-Anon can build understanding and cooperation with people and agencies involved in the field of alcoholism provided the theme for this session.

Suggestions for the furtherance of this program were: (1) Offer to speak to outside organizations. In order to present a true Al-Anon image, speakers should be enlisted through and approved by the Al-Anon Speakers' Bureau, if one exists, or the Inter-group, or Assembly. (2) Prepare and donate packets of literature to summer schools. Have an Al-Anon speaker on the program whenever possible. Delegates have been sent lists of schools. (3) Members should be encouraged to become involved in community affairs and to serve as individuals in outside agencies, such as local information centers, private, local and state health and social agencies and hospitals. Suggest distribution of literature packets to these agencies. Delegates have been sent list of key agencies in their states/provinces. (4) Increase efforts to place our two books in libraries. If libraries receive 10 individual requests for a book, they will purchase a copy. (5) Arrange TV panels or discussions; place articles in newspapers. (6) Work with municipal and juvenile courts, councils of churches, PTA, prisons and institutions. (7) Contact clergymen, doctors, judges, women's organizations, medical societies. (8) Write letters and lobby for passage of legislation relative to

alcoholism (as individuals). (9) Participate in Alcoholism Information Week each November. (10) Place "Are You Living With a Severe Drinking Problem?" in strategic places, such as literature racks in churches, doctors' offices, etc. (11) Increase cooperation with AA. (12) Always keep in mind our PR policy and the 11th Tradition. (13) Put a contact number or address on all literature given to non-members. (14) The Display Roster is now available at the price of \$5.00.

Al-Anon will be a cooperating agency in the 28th International Congress on Alcoholism, sponsored by the North American Association of Alcoholism Programs, in Washington, D.C., September, 1968.

The following statement was presented to and approved by the Conference:

POLICY STATEMENT ON PUBLIC RELATIONS

It is the consensus of this Sixth World Service Conference that if Al-Anon is to continue to exist, it must continue to grow. There is no standing still without retrogression. Al-Anon must continue to grow if it is going to fulfill its primary purpose of reaching the millions who need Al-Anon's help but who are not yet aware of the existence of our fellowship.

We will fulfill this primary purpose most effectively by attraction and cooperation—not promotion or affiliation. For the guidance of our fellowship here are

authoritative definitions of these sometimes controversial terms:-

- to attract:* to draw by other than physical influence; to invite; to draw to; to cause to approach.
- to promote:* to push forward, to further or advance, as in a business venture; (implies "hard sell," advancement for profit).
- Cooperation:* joint operation or action (implies a coming together of two or more people to work together for a common goal or benefit or on a common problem).
- Affiliation:* association or close connection; a uniting; (implies lending one's name, endorsement, legal or financial association).

Al-Anon is *attracting* when it tells people why we are, what we are, what we do and how; we let them know that we are available *if* and *when* help is needed. We state the facts which are communicated via the press, radio and TV, always stressing anonymity at the public level.

Al-Anon is *cooperating* when it works with others,* rather than alone. In working with others, our scope and contacts are broader, and we reach many more of those in need.

* Examples are: Federal, State, Provincial and Municipal Alcoholism Agencies; private health agencies; law enforcement, judicial and correctional agencies and institutions; General hospitals and state, county,

or city mental hospitals; councils of churches; doctors, nurses, clergymen, social workers, educators.

RECOMMENDATION

GRs customarily participate in the State or Provincial Assembly of the Area in which their group is located. There are remote cases where a GR finds it more convenient to attend the Assembly adjoining. The Delegates who had a question about this matter held a meeting and the consensus was that GRs should be a part of their own Area Assembly if at all possible and to support it. However where this situation arises, it can be settled between the groups involved and the neighboring Assemblies.

TRUSTEES

Delegates were pleased at Ted's report that the Board will include 2 out-of-town (Conn. and Ky.) Trustees this year. Prohibitive costs prevent Al-Anon from having Regional Trustees at this time, but the Delegates recommended that this item be on the Conference Agenda in 1967.

The Conference was closed with all members joining in the recitation of the Lord's Prayer. However, before departing for home, many attended the Open House for both AA and Al-Anon Delegates held by Bill and Lois W. at Stepping Stones, their home in the country.