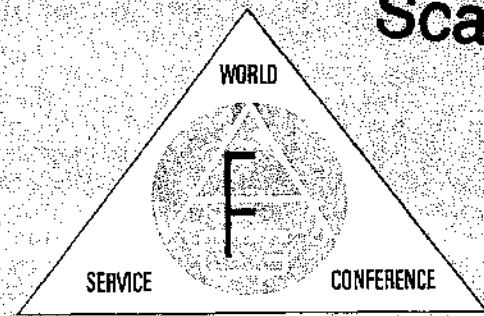


CONFERENCE SUMMARY 1967

AL-ANON

SEVENTH ANNUAL WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE
AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS
NEW YORK CITY — APRIL 19-22, 1967



Scanned

Dear Al-Anon Members,

We wish you all could have been with us at Al-Anon's Seventh Annual World Service Conference in April. It was truly inspiring to meet with 50 Delegates, representing all the Canadian Provinces and 41 States. We thank you all for making possible this yearly gathering which, acting as the conscience of Al-Anon, assures its future and upholds its Traditions.

Preceding the opening of the Conference on Wednesday, there were get-acquainted activities, Delegates' Standing Committee meetings, a good dinner at the George Washington Hotel where the meetings were held, and an encouraging talk by AA's Bill W. on Sponsorship, the theme of this Conference. Bill is so enthusiastic about what the Conference is doing for Al-Anon that it is always most gratifying to hear his talk at the dinner.

Sue, the Conference Chairman, opened the session by introducing Ted K., Chairman of the Board of Trustees, who, after cordially welcoming the Delegates and reading Al-Anon's Twelve Traditions, highlighted the past year's activities at the World Service Office and told how Headquarters was working toward the inclusion of regional trustees on the Board, as the 1966 Conference had suggested.

In her welcome to the Delegates, Lois W. remarked that they seemed to be younger, gayer and happier than those at any previous Conference. She spoke about the importance of Sponsorship, a practice which has been greatly neglected in Al-Anon, and concluded by suggesting that when we aid newcomers to live by the Al-Anon program, we are not only benefiting

them but strengthening ourselves as well.

The meeting room was brightened at one end by a huge white and blue Conference banner, given by Oklahoma. At the other end was an illuminated poster of the Twelve Traditions, a gift from Texas East in 1966. There were also 3 striking displays prepared by the Public Relations Committee, one of translations in 7 or 8 different languages of our literature, and another of newsletters sent out by various Assembly Areas. The third, and most professional of all, was a beautiful layout of our extensive Conference Approved Literature.

After the luncheon on Friday, Dr. Milton A. Maxwell, Executive Director of the Center of Alcohol Studies at Rutgers University, addressed the Conference on "Understanding and Working with Professionals." This was a most interesting and helpful talk.

As the Conference progressed we at the WSO continued to miss the remarkable memory and clear thinking of our General Secretary, Henrietta, who was absent because of illness.

Nevada was with us this year for the first time, but there are still 9 States that have not yet felt able to join the Conference. Even if your Al-Anon attendance is small, we would like to have your ideas and suggestions, so do read and discuss this Summary at your meetings. You will find much valuable material and your members will learn what the WSO is doing for the needy ones throughout the world who still do not know about Al-Anon.

Gratefully,
The Conference Committee

AL-ANON WSO REPORTS

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Ted K., President

The year that comprises our most recent history can only be described as exciting. While it may have lacked the crescendo of such spectacular achievements as the previous year's reception of our marvelous book, or even the pride we felt in our part of the Toronto Convention, it was a truly fantastic 12 months.

To do more than mention the highlights would do an injustice to those who worked so hard all year and prepared their personal reports. They are indeed most worthy of the trust that has been placed in them. I urge you to study their reports and to strive to

become as familiar with their problems as you are of their triumphs. As the trusted servants of Al-Anon's world service endeavor, they need your confidence and your understanding... But on the events of Al-Anon 1966!

There was scarcely a corner of our WSO that did not feel the pressure and excitement of relentless growth. Our physical structure itself expanded in mid-year to include another half floor. We added an Institutional Secretary to handle the increasing work in that field. Aileen received such dramatic attention in national magazines that our staff was literally staggered trying to keep pace with the resulting inquiries... and the Board of Trustees enjoyed its first full year with out-of-town members making valuable

contributions as they began to serve Al-Anon at this new level of 12th Step work.

Major problems handled by the Board included a complete reorganization of the French Literature Committee; the firming up of Al-Anon's salary policies to aid our Director in obtaining and keeping the very best staff possible; a modest beginning of tangible benefits to our employees in the form of guidelines for a guaranteed severance fund (the forerunner of a most modest pension plan, if you please); and perhaps the most heartwarming event of all, an invitation from AA GSO to meet with them and develop a solution to a common problem.

It was again a truly fantastic 12 months, because Al-Anon continues to grow, and so it will if only we meet the challenge. With the framework of our Traditions to guide us, we must continue to grow with it. There will be a time for boldness and a place for prudence. With the blessing and guidance of a Higher Power we can blend these qualities and go forth from this Conference assured that we have given Al-Anon and all those who have yet to find it their very best chance for the future.

May this Conference be just the start of another wonderful year for you... and AL-ANON!

OFFICE ACTIVITIES

Henrietta S., General Secretary

The Al-Anon World Service Office reports annually to the Conference and quarterly to the Board of Trustees of Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc., the membership corporation responsible for over-all business policies; for the prudent administration of the funds of the fellowship; for estimating the annual revenue and controlling expenditure; for authorizing employment of office personnel; for suggesting means by which service to the membership may be improved, and for the publishing and distribution of Conference Approved Literature. Routine administrative decisions required between quarterly Board meetings are made by the Executive Committee.

STAFF

A full-timer and 3 part-timers were added to the staff in 1966, which at year's end comprised: the General Secretary/Office Manager; 4 Al-Anon Secretaries (Conference, Public Relations, Alateen and Institutional); an employee in charge of publications who doubles as receptionist; a stock/shipping clerk who also does all the mimeographing; a bookkeeper; a part-time billing/contribution acknowledgment clerk; a FORUM clerk to record subscriptions, prepare expiration notices and address the FORUM and other groupwide communications; the head of Group Records, assisted by one clerk and part-time file clerk; and a part-time stenographer-typist.

All employees were kept busy with their specific responsibilities, assisting with other work when necessary. The continuous expansion placed an ever greater demand on our volunteer committees, whose chairmen were an inspiration to the staff, not only in suggesting more effective techniques but often aiding personnel in routine work which would be handled by paid staff if finances permitted.

PUBLICATIONS

A subway strike early in the year and a paper shortage delayed delivery of the re-order of LIVING WITH AN ALCOHOLIC, but sales of the basic book exceeded expectations. 3,122 were shipped (47 complimentary to overseas groups), comparing favorably with 2,691 in 1965.

Only 4,337 copies of AL-ANON FACES ALCOHOLISM were distributed (11 complimentary) but it is hoped that a more effective promotion will bring this excellent book to the attention of more workers in the field of alcoholism.

Although gross revenue from book sales was \$6,550 less than 1965's \$35,900, sales of other literature increased a gratifying 34% to \$59,484. This was due not only to wider acceptance of the use of Conference Approved Literature in groups, but also more sales to professionals and outside agencies.

35,906 pieces of free literature, 79% over last year, were distributed to proposed groups, students and professionals. A sample copy of 2 new pamphlets, "Young Wife" and "Allies for Al-Anon in the Field of Alcoholism" went to each registered group.

MAILING AND MIMEOGRAPHING

The 17½% increase in postage and shipping expense to \$8,840 in 1966, included the mailing of more letters, a total of 32,750. 22,918 packages were shipped, 3,000 more than 1965.

233,000 sheets were mimeographed, increasing 25%, yet the "Conference Summary" was printed for the first time in 1966. The mimeography included contribution appeal letters, Conference Review and Handbook, other Conference materials, supplementary literature shown on our price lists, and miscellaneous items for all departments. Early in 1966 the method of handling proposed group letters was revised, effecting a big economy in staff time. Another improvement in routine was to initiate a code for form letters.

FORUMS

89,346 FORUMS were mailed. Part of the 12½% increase was due to service to more groups; the balance covered more paid subscriptions resulting in \$1,400 additional gross revenue from sales. Total subscriptions at year's end compared with 1965 were:

	1965	1966	Increase
Multiple	1,630	2,105	475
Individual	1,753	2,230	477
	3,383	4,335	952

BOOKKEEPING

Total cash receipts were \$147,791.35, a gain of 11% over 1965. Accounts receivable jumped 30% to \$14,775.43, with a consequent increase in billing. Bookkeeping detail grew correspondingly, requiring the hiring in March of a part-timer to do contribution acknowledgments and statements, thus enabling the bookkeeper to handle increased daily entries, to prepare payroll and tax returns, to process bills for payment, to prepare the quarterly financial statements and keep the general books.

GROUP RECORDS AND DIRECTORY

During 1966 new registrations totaled 712 (525

Al-Anon, 124 Alateen Groups and 63 Loners). 285 Al-Anon and 88 Alateen Groups disbanded. 35 former Loners either formed a group or joined a new one in their locality. Total registrations as of December 31, were 3,526 comprising 2,971 Al-Anon Groups, 392 Alateen Groups and 163 Lone Members.

The "status letter" project initiated in August, 1965, was continued in '66. All groups "silent" in over a year were asked to advise the WSO of current activity. Returned mail from groups which failed to notify about address changes or pay P.O. box rent when due continued to be costly, not only in excess postage paid (8¢ on each returned FORUM) but in follow-up correspondence required. Fine cooperation of all members in responding to pleas in the FORUM to send in their Zip Codes enabled completion of necessary corrections on our entire U.S. mailing list before January, 1967.

GROUP SERVICES

During 1966 HQ served about 3,300 groups worldwide. Each proposed group got a welcoming letter, free packet of literature and current FORUM. On registering, each was sent a copy of "Al-Anon Family Groups at Work," the current Directory and those in an Area with Conference representation received a Conference Handbook. All groups and Loners received a free FORUM subscription, the Directory and new literature of general appeal. Quarterly issues of ALATEEN TALK went to all Alateen Groups, and monthly issues of AL-ANON EN ACCION to the Spanish groups. Each new English-speaking overseas group got a complimentary copy of LIVING WITH AN ALCOHOLIC, each new Spanish one receiving its mimeographed counterpart.

5 groupwide mailings account for approximately 15,000 of the 32,850 outgoing letters. Exclusive of those mentioned in the PR and Institutional Committee reports, the balance comprised communications to Assembly members; replies to individuals, with referral to the nearest group; help with internal group problems; suggestions for varying groups program and rotation of responsibility; interpretation of Traditions; guidance to overseas service centers; correspondence about the Intergroup questionnaire; and continuing clarification of the Conference position on Approved Al-Anon literature.

CONFERENCE APPROVED LITERATURE

Alice's article, "Why Conference Approved Literature?", helped tremendously with requests from groups for non-approved material. In June the Missouri Delegate distributed 50 copies to Assembly members, because "in 2 years of talking he was never adequately able to reach the minds of Al-Anons who continue to expend groups funds for non-CAL...this paper explains the matter perfectly and effectively." A suggestion to reproduce the piece in Assembly media was subsequently carried in AREA HIGHLIGHTS.

Cooperation in using only CAL is widespread in English Al-Anon overseas; e.g. permission to reprint selections from CAL with approved credit was extended to both Victorian and New South Wales (Australia) C.S.; reprint permission was also granted to United Kingdom C.S. and it was agreed that they reproduce one or two of their own Al-Anon pieces "free of American idiom" to be submitted for Conference Approval before publication.

GROWTH IN FOREIGN LANGUAGE AL-ANON

The Chairmen of the French and Spanish Committees report on the exciting development of Al-Anon where these languages are native. Items of note in 1966 were:

A Canadian member forwarded a translation of the Serenity Prayer, Welcome and Preamble in the Cree language.

A supply of a very attractive Japanese version of "How to Know an Alcoholic" and "A Guide for the Family of the Alcoholic" was sent gratis by the Mukogawa Hospital Al-Anons.

For many years the Helsinki AA office nurtured growth of the Finnish Alva (Al-Anon Groups), translating and publishing our material into both their language and Swedish "with joy." During 1966, the groundwork was laid for establishing a separate Al-Anon Central Service. Veikko K., AA secretary, wrote: "We have sold much Al-Anon material since 1953, when I first translated Purposes & Suggestions. We expect that next year Al-Anon will print their own material.... The Alvat have also contributed a little to the AA office." Before the year ended, Marjatta of the Alvat C.S. Committee asked that 2 Finnish groups be added to our mailing list for the FORUM, explaining that even if many in Alvat could not read English, most of their children could.

At the annual fall AA Roundup in Wiesbaden, Germany, Al-Anons split into 3 segments of 25 German, 6 Spanish and 6 English members. For years Wiesbaden was the only German-speaking group registered, and if they had any Al-Anon literature, we were unaware of it. During 1966 an excellent Al-Anon piece, "AA for Relatives," was produced by the German AA Publishing Co. Inge B.S., who is much interested in translating further Al-Anon pieces, started a second German-speaking group of Al-Anon in Muhlheim.

An AA of Mandal, Norway, who forwarded translations of Al-Anon literature for review, was advised to work with the one long-established Al-Anon Group in Bergen in any attempt to produce and distribute Al-Anon material.

Though the Reverend Choi of Korea obtained permission to translate Al-Anon CAL, with the understanding that it be sent us for review before production, no translations were forwarded, so we are in the dark about what the Seoul Al-Anons believe the program teaches.

A new Flemish group in Knokke, Belgium, registered through a facsimile of our card sent by Jean W., secretary of the Brugge Al-Anon, who visited HQ the summer of '66. These 2 Flemish Groups hope to form a third French-speaking group from among bilingual members.

Another group in Belgium, at Liege, has added us to its mailing list for the impressive quarterly French Al-Anon magazine, "La Sérénité."

A Sao Paulo AA wrote on behalf of the Al-Anon secretary (unfamiliar with English) about the progress of the first Portuguese-speaking Al-Anon group, registered in November. Another group is starting at an alcoholic treatment hospital in that city. Brazil is the one country in S.A. where Spanish is not in general use, though many people can read it, so our Spanish pieces have served. This group of 7 to 12

is translating both books piecemeal into Portuguese and hints at the possibility of future production.

A selection of CAL went to Hans v.D. of Delft, *Holland*, after a request of AA GSO for "the booklet about Al-Anon," for use in BOEL, a *Dutch* AA monthly. Orders for both our books from the "Samen Sterk" AAs in Rotterdam spurred an inquiry about forming an Al-Anon Group. No news comes from the one registered group there, under the auspices of a government alcoholism program.

ENGLISH-SPEAKING AL-ANON OVERSEAS

There were sizable book and literature orders all year and frequent communication with the secretaries of *United Kingdom* A.C.S., the centers in the *Australian* states and of *South Africa*. Victoria, Australia, sought our advice in drawing up By-Laws. A literature display packet was sent gratis for Al-Anon's participation in the 7th Australian AA Convention in Melbourne.

Of special note was the concern of an officer of U.K.A.C.S. about the difficulty of getting new people to take office. Though responsibilities are rotated, many longtimers in *England* have for years filled various posts. Data on the early groups there was requested with a view to doing a history of Al-Anon's growth in the U.K.

Reprint permission was granted the editor of the annual *New Zealand* Al-Anon magazine for use of Esther B.'s lead article in the Oct. 1966 FORUM.

EXPANSION AND OFFICE EQUIPMENT

Increased staff and volume of work necessitated the renting of additional space. The move of the shipping department and lunchroom to the third floor was accomplished most economically during July with some disruption and inconvenience but no serious impairment of work, because of the fine cooperation of the staff.

Major purchases of new equipment and furniture in 1966 included an electrically-powered addressograph; 4 literature storage racks; 1 new and 2 used desks; 2 electric typewriters and typist chairs; 3 metal tables; 12 Board Room chairs; an additional Kardex unit(used) for group records; and a filing cabinet for bookkeeping records.

GUIDELINES FOR SEPARATION OF AA AND AL-ANON

In November, AA GSO invited some of the Al-Anon Committee Chairmen and staff to meet with their staff secretaries to discuss confusions resulting from groups, who disregarding Traditions, requested registration as AA Family Groups. Our own position, discussed at last year's Conference, was to continue accepting such groups for registration as Open Discussion Groups, but those registered at the Al-Anon WSO must be considered Al-Anon Family Groups, and only non-alcoholics should aspire to hold office in them. A copy of the Guidelines which evolved as the consensus of our meeting with AA is available to any group on request.

FRENCH LITERATURE COMMITTEE

Alberte C., Chairman; Harriet L., Translator

The rapid growth of French Al-Anon in 1966

required organizational changes in the French Literature Committee. As the Chairman (Harriet) suggested, and with the approval of HQ, the former secretary (Alberte) took the chairmanship and assumed responsibility for production and distribution of all translated material, registration of all French-speaking groups and administration of all funds. The past Chairman's duties were to consist of acting as advisor and translating and editing Al-Anon material, with the help of volunteers.

On Sept. 1, the Committee moved to 1621-B Cuvillier St., Montreal 4, Quebec, a location convenient for the new Chairman, giving the Translator opportunity to work undisturbed, at home. A typewriter and table were purchased on monthly instalments. Every Wednesday volunteers are welcomed for assembling, stapling, folding or counting literature.

In January 1966, there were 74 French groups in Canada and overseas. By year's end, 93 registrations were received, including 19 new groups, but 14 were still missing and one group disbanded. Of 3 Lone Members, 2 formed a group and the 3rd joined a new group.

With volunteer help, 8,150 FORUMS were prepared, an increase of 25% over 1965. 1,260 went free to groups and friends, 2,412 copies to individual subscribers and 4,145 through group subscriptions.

19,700 pamphlets and leaflets were printed. 11,442 were sold to groups and 350 went free to proposed groups and individuals. 342 copies of the 1,000 printed of the new publication, "So You Love an Alcoholic?" were already sold. The 16,680 sheets of mimeography included the WSC Handbook, Report of the Al-Anon WSC and group communications. The Committee also mailed 49 packages of free literature for new groups, 468 packets of literature orders, and 861 letters, including HQ communications.

Total cash receipts for literature and FORUM sales increased 55% over 1965 to \$3,204.28, all of which was required for operational expenses.

Translations, amounting to approximately 65,000 words, fell into 4 categories—1) The FORUM; 2) Pamphlet and leaflet literature, including chapters from *LIVING WITH AN ALCOHOLIC*; 3) Communications to groups; and 4) Service and WSC material. Included were: "So You Love an Alcoholic?", "Young Wife," complete translation of the revised WSC Handbook, the Conference Summary, "Fact File," "Whys & Wherefores," and "A Guide for Sponsors of Alateen Groups." There will be a chance to do more inspirational material now that the Handbook and "Fact File" are done.

Editing is a very important part of our function. Most translations are simply reviewed by our Committee, but to avoid any confusion at the October election Assembly, the ex-Delegate and ex-Alternate graciously cooperated by looking over the Handbook before it was printed. The leaflets and pamphlets and part of the "Fact File" were reviewed by our Literary Committee in Paris to insure uniformity in the vocabulary and at HQ to make sure we always keep in line with the spirit and principles of Al-Anon. This procedure took time, but we feel it is essential if we want to show Al-Anon in "its true light" as stated in "Why CAL?" We are conscious of our responsibilities toward Al-Anon and the French-speaking element in different countries, and with the help of God we hope

to continue to give a true image of the principles of our fellowship.

SPANISH COMMITTEE

Mimi H., Chairman

Appeals for help and new groups increased encouragingly and last year came most often directly from non-alcoholics. Yet, the AAs' lively and valuable cooperation and interest continued. Al-Anons were the main factors in fostering new groups, as a result of a better grasp of the program. Evidence of this is a gain of 6 groups in Mexico through contact with Al-Anon people or groups. In Central America, small countries reached out and sponsored new groups in neighboring ones and in South America, Peru fostered the first group in Argentina.

Colombia and Honduras did excellent public relations jobs, without the orientation of our "Fact File." A countrywide, all Al-Anon Conference in Colombia, with well-planned programs and workshops, interested a woman columnist—the equivalent of our Ann Landers—to lend her understanding cooperation. Through later misinterpreting of the difference between "attraction" and "promotion," the need to provide a Spanish "Fact File" became evident. In Honduras a splendid one-week radio series on Al-Anon, in conjunction with a group's first anniversary, reached all the Central American countries.

Spain's San Sebastian Group has sponsored new groups nearby and won the interest and cooperation of the clergy and medical profession. Indirectly, they gave us a contact which promises to encourage the formation of Spanish Groups in the N.Y. metropolitan area, where they are much needed. We hope that they may then spread to other Spanish communities in the U.S., where we have not made any appreciable strides.

Alateen has a new group in Mexico City and Central and South America are valiantly struggling to start some. The lack of Spanish Alateen literature may soon be overcome through an interested AA in Mexico City.

Paid orders for VIVIENDO CON ALCOHOLICO and the 2 available Spanish pamphlets grew. Contributions, in response to a second appeal letter, increased in number. The dollar amount is still low because of the rate of exchange and very low income of most members.

A start was made in the important effort to provide more Spanish literature by the production of "To the Father and Mother of an Alcoholic." This was chosen as a substitute to "Basic Concepts on AA" because the parents are such an inextricable part of family life in Spanish cultures. A translation of the third edition of LIVING WITH AN ALCOHOLIC is underway, since we are almost out of stock of the first one. This year, the Spanish monthly bulletin, which continued to be most gratefully acknowledged, is using the FORUM interpretations of the 12 Traditions plus serialized translations of articles from AL-ANON FACES ALCOHOLISM.

According to my records, we acquired 31 new Spanish groups, lost 3 and wrote 135 letters. Besides the World Directory and monthly bulletin, we sent 31 free books, 428 free pieces of literature and 2 Alateen new group packets in English.

LITERATURE COMMITTEE

Alice B., Chairman

BOOKS

Those who were at the Conference in April 1966 will recall the disappointment over the non-delivery of the revised version of our Basic Book, LIVING WITH AN ALCOHOLIC. Finished books were delivered soon after the Delegates had all gone back home, but they had the small pleasure, at least, of seeing the rough-bound copies provided by the printer to serve as samples. Both the 1965 and 1966 Conferences had voted for a book on marriage problems in families troubled by alcoholism. *The Marriage Book* has finally been completed with the valuable help of the 6 Delegate members of the Literature Committee.

When Lois read the manuscript, she proposed exactly the right title, THE DILEMMA OF THE ALCOHOLIC MARRIAGE.

Without wanting to seem over-optimistic, I believe this title will get the book into the hands of many thousands of people who need it and might never have responded to a more prosaic title.

NEW ITEMS

The WSC had also approved the publication of the Reverend Yvelin Gardner's talk at our 1966 Conference luncheon. "Allies for Al-Anon in Helping the Family" is an excellent guide to working with professional counselors such as clergymen, doctors, social workers and local Councils.

Copy has now been completed on the Intergroup guidelines authorized by the WSC last year.

Beginning in May, we prepared an extensive questionnaire which was sent to the Delegates in States and Provinces where Intergroups are now functioning.

Over a period of several months, these questionnaires came back with a wealth of information, which was carefully collated and analyzed by your Conference Chairman.

The resulting guidelines, in mimeographed forms, are now a new item on our price list.

REPRINTING

"Operation Alateen" and "Youth and the Alcoholic Parent" required some updating, and were accordingly revised when the current supply of the older versions had been exhausted.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There were numerous requests for guides on conducting successful meetings. Material based on suggestions received at our World Service Office was used in preparing these guides. One Delegate on our Literature Committee, Phyllis of Maine, suggested incorporating these meeting ideas into our handbook, "Al-Anon Family Groups at Work," which deals with structure and proceedings.

The material will be condensed and included in the next printing of "Al-Anon Family Groups at Work," thus increasing its usefulness.

The long-planned booklet on "Sponsorship" has not yet been produced, due largely to the pressures of other work.

Our book of daily readings, ONE DAY AT A TIME IN AL-ANON, could not be completed in time

for this Conference. It has proved to be unexpectedly time-consuming piece of work, 1095 pieces of copy to be written for it (365 x 3), and while some of them come easily, some have to be hammered out word by word and revised again and again to make the points clear, simple, and above all, *penetrating*.

ONE DAY AT A TIME IN AL-ANON will have gilt-edged priority from now on until it is completed.

CONFERENCE-APPROVED LITERATURE (CAL)

The practically universal acceptance of the concept of Conference Approved Literature is gratifying demonstration of Al-Anon's unity. It also reveals the enormous amount of spadework our Delegates have done at the local level. It is personal enthusiasm in spreading the word that has won such acceptance for our Al-Anon message.

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Ellie S., Chairman; Gun K., Secretary (Staff)

Increased activity in Public Relations during the past year was due to wider radio, magazine, and newspaper coverage; expanding knowledge and understanding of Al-Anon by "outside" agencies; but most of all to the untiring efforts of Al-Anon members who realized the vital importance of "carrying the message" to professionals and the general public.

SUMMER SCHOOLS

Al-Anon had speakers at 8 summer schools on alcohol studies, all of which had displays of Al-Anon literature. 3 other schools also had displays. Response to our summer school speakers was excellent and in some instances led to other speaking engagements.

SPEAKERS TO OUTSIDE ORGANIZATIONS

Talks by Al-Anon members to groups and organizations other than Al-Anon and AA increased greatly in the past year. Al-Anons spoke at high schools, universities, community councils, institutes on alcoholism, clergy workshops, adult church classes on alcoholism, hospitals and nursing schools, and to various professional groups in the field of alcoholism.

MAGAZINES AND NEWSPAPER COVERAGE

NURSING OUTLOOK recommended "What's Next?", bringing in many requests for this pamphlet.

THE SIGN (June) published an article entitled "Al-Anon, a Story of Hope," which also brought many inquiries.

CHRISTIANITY TODAY mentioned our book, AL-ANON FACES ALCOHOLISM—April 15 issue.

PARENTS MAGAZINE and SOCIAL WORK carried excellent reviews of AL-ANON FACES ALCOHOLISM.

PAGEANT (Apr.) and MC LEANS (June-Canada) both had articles on Alateen, as well as SCOPE and SEVENTEEN, covered in the Alateen report.

Newspaper articles about Al-Anon and Alateen were much more numerous than last year. News stories were published in Scotland, Canada, England, South America and Australia. Information about Al-Anon appeared in such well-known syndicated columns as Dr. Joyce Brothers, Dr. Joseph Molner, Mary Hay-

worth, Dr. Walter Alvarez, Ann Landers, Sylvia Reice, and Ele and Walt Dulaney.

TV & RADIO

Al-Anon activity on TV and radio brought favorable response. TV coverage and 3 radio spots in one city resulted in such a deluge of inquiries that a temporary answering service had to be set up. Another high spot of the year was the appearance of one of our Delegates on the Mike Wallace TV show, with an audience of 20,000,000.

COOPERATION

Greater activity aimed at cooperation with outside agencies, to deepen their understanding of Al-Anon, led to many contacts with health, welfare and social agencies, hospitals and institutions. Cooperation increased between Al-Anon and local alcoholism councils and information centers, and in many places Al-Anon members served on these councils as individuals. Several radio and TV programs on Al-Anon resulted from this cooperation. At the Federal level, interest in Al-Anon was evidenced by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, and several of the anti-poverty programs, such as VISTA and HARYOU.

For the second time, 3 HQ members attended the annual meeting of the Executive Committee and Directors of the North American Association of Alcoholism Programs. They also attended the 4th Planning Session of the 1968 International Congress on Alcoholism, in which Al-Anon will participate as a cooperating agency. A Washington, D.C. Al-Anon is working with NAAAP on plans for the Congress. One of our Delegates represented Al-Anon at the NAAAP Annual Convention in New Mexico in October.

MISCELLANEOUS

The "Fact File" has been revised and the article, "Al-Anon, a Treatment Tool in Alcoholism," is now included.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

1966 correspondence, in response to requests for information and literature, falls into the following categories: Students and individuals—446; Clergy—105; Medical profession—64; Educators—77; Social Agencies—74; Councils, Committees on Alcoholism—73; Magazines—27. The only appreciable increase over previous years was in the growing interest among social agencies and councils and commissions on alcoholism.

ALATEEN COMMITTEE

Rita C., Chairman" Timmy W., Secretary [Staff]

As Alateen entered its 10th year recent national publicity started a chain reaction which will continue in greater growth. In September SCOPE Magazine (published by Scholastic and distributed through the schools) had an article; in SEVENTEEN's October issue an interview with an Alateen member appeared, resulting in 300 letters of inquiry at the WSO. Most were from teen-agers seeking help for themselves (and wanting desperately to help their parents also), but many came from students, counselors, teachers

and pastors. Fortunately in most cases the teen-ager was referred to a group. If no Alateen Group was close enough, they were given the address of our Meeting-by-Mail Group, WORLD HELLO, or phone number of a nearby Al-Anon member to contact for personal help.

Alateen continued to take part in AA and Al-Anon activities all over the world. The July issue of ALATEEN TALK, our quarterly Newsletter, mentioned such participation in California, Newfoundland and Durban, Natal, South Africa, showing the worldwide acceptance of Alateen by the parent fellowships (1) Alateens participated in the 9th International Conference of Young People in AA in St. Louis, Mo., in August. (2) At the 15th Annual S. Cal. Convention of AA, 13 of the 16 Alateen Groups in that area were represented, by a workshop and an afternoon Alateen Speakers Meeting, with more than a dozen Alateens on the latter program. (3) A Canadian Alateen sponsor reported a "first" in Alateen activities when 2 Alateens spoke at the Joyceville Farm Annex (Penitentiary), Ontario, in October. (4) A panel of Alateens and Al-Anons spoke for the graduating class of Louisville (Ky.) Kent School of Social Workers, which reluctantly let the panel go after 2½ hours. The professor said that in all his years of teaching he had never seen a class respond like that to a panel.

Alateen Groups increased in juvenile Training Schools. The boys and girls who learn the program in these groups often continue to attend meetings when they leave. No one can estimate how many of these young people are prevented from returning to these institutions through the Alateen program. During 1966 an Alateen Group was started at the Minnesota Boys' Training School with tremendous response. Young alcoholics, glue sniffers, pill users and drug addicts began coming to the meetings, with the result that the group became a combination AA-Alateen. When some of the boys left the school, 2 new AA Groups for Young People were started in the Twin City Area. Both are doing a terrific job.

Last year 124 new Alateen Groups registered and 5 Alateen Loners. Mexico City; Tegucigalpa, Honduras; and Chingola, Zambia, Central Africa, each have an Alateen Group. With Lone Members in Ghana, West Africa, and Gympie, Queensland, Australia, Alateens are gradually circling the globe.

VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE

Evelyn C., Chairman

Though many of the long-time volunteers seemed to have gone back to work and the younger Al-Anon members had children to take care of, during 1966 there were a few faithful workers always ready when called and more than willing to come on whatever day they were needed. There are 2 volunteers who make a practice of coming into the WSO at least once a week to do what they can to help.

The work done by volunteers includes sealing, stuffing and tying the FORUM for mailing; collating mimeographed material; assembling Al-Anon, Alateen and individual packs of literature sent out to proposed groups and people inquiring about Al-Anon; counting literature into packs of 10s and 20s to facilitate the packing of many daily orders; and stuffing the thousands of letters sent in groupwide mailings through the course of the year.

Dedicated volunteers have served for many years on the following committees:

Alateen	Policy
Budget	Institutions
Conference	Public Relations
Literature	Volunteer

To all of our volunteers we say many thanks and express our appreciation for the time and effort they have given through the years.

INSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEE

Jo K., Chairman; Betty M., Secretary (Staff)

Progress in the growth of Al-Anon Groups at Institutions was the keynote during 1966. The response to 1216 letters, with a copy of "Homeward Bound," sent to AA Institutional Groups offering Al-Anon's help to families and friends of alcoholics, was tremendous. AA GSO cooperated, as in the past, by addressing the envelopes. All requests were answered with cordial letters and literatures. When possible, a phone number was given where the relative might inquire about a group near home.

Many requests came from Eastern State Hospital, Tenn.; Marquette Prison, Mich.; Georgia State Prison; Missouri State Prison, and numbers of Veterans Administration Hospitals. The letters thanking us from these groups indicate that numerous families contacted are being helped. We now have 40 institutional groups, the newest being those at Danville, Ky.; Johnstown, Pa.; Edmonton, Alta., Can. and Wells, Somerset, England.

Activity at the group level increased, with the Al-Anon Boosters in California continuing their worthy project and the Yankton, S.D., Group during admirable work at the State Hospital. One heartwarming letter described the notable program at the Correctional Institution for Women at Pee Wee Valley, Ky., where the Commissioner of Corrections was so impressed at the Group's first anniversary that he said he would try to bring Al-Anon to other state institutions. Our Delegates in Ind., Fla., Utah, Conn., Sask. and Minn. all report increased interest in Al-Anon in institutions in their Areas.

The sizable orders for Al-Anon literature and books from institutions in the U.S. and Canada are indicative that Al-Anon is considered a valuable tool in their work with alcoholics and their families.

Considerable correspondence throughout the year included replies to hospitals and prisons requesting information, acknowledgments of literature orders, helpful suggestions to intergroups forming institutional committees and letters to new institutional groups.

Although we have been doing this work for only a short time, it has been most rewarding. When the alcoholic requires institutionalizing, his family is devastated and their need for help is very great.

FORUM

By Margaret D., Editor

One of the great rewards of producing the FORUM is the realization of the warm acceptance given it by all Al-Anon. Every time I speak, no matter where, people tell me of something published months, or

years, ago, which still is helping them to live the program.

I happily take credit for selecting such items for printing. But I well know the real credit goes to the persons who sent them to me. Where I can give credit, I do. But many times this is impossible. Such a case in point is the following letter received from the Executive Director of the Alcoholic Education Service in Winnipeg, Manitoba. On November 2, 1966, he wrote:

Dear Margaret D.:

I have been reading the Al-Anon Family Group FORUM for a number of years, and I doubt that I have found a more practical and inspirational number than the November issue.

I am writing to thank you for it, and, of course, for all the other numbers which have been excellent too.

Please keep up the good work—for the ripples of real blessing that go out from your office do travel far, wide and are helpful!

Sincerely,

[s] Wm. Potoroka
Executive Director

That letter engendered a glow in my heart which still warms it. I reread it each time I begin work on a new issue, always with a prayer that the new one will measure up or be better. I cannot write each contributor to that November issue but I hope each of them will read Mr. Potoroka's letter in this Conference Summary. It is written for them, really, and this way will reach them. I hope that that letter will inspire others to write me so that, God willing, their contributions may prompt other such letters.

Remember, I can't print what you don't write to me. It may take just exactly your personal experience to match that of another person and to give him hope. Are you going to let him continue to live in despair because you do not think you are a finished writer? It might be said that "finished writers" are dead writers, so while you are living, why not take up your pen and help someone? If you'd done it last summer, you might have been one of those blessed contributors to the November issue!

Today's a good day to begin.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

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

WSC COMMITTEE

Members met regularly to plan for the 7th Annual Conference. Reports from the Conference Secretary enabled the Chairman, who contacted the office daily, to learn how plans were progressing. Numerous letters from Assembly Area members were answered, in reply to inquiries as to their duties and new procedures that resulted when the WSC Handbook was revised April 1966.

PANEL 7 ('67-'69)

A letter of welcome, including information about the WSC, was sent to each new Delegate. A great deal of correspondence was necessary to complete the list of names and addresses of the Assembly Area officers,

which is important to have. Nevada joined the Conference this year, bringing the total Delegates up to 50.

MAILINGS

A copy of each groupwide mailing is sent to all Delegates. During 1966, each Delegate also received: a 1966 Conference Digest and Summary; a revised WSC Handbook; AREA HIGHLIGHTS (quarterly report); information on new groups in the Area; inquiries about status of non-responsive registered groups; a duplicate of the acknowledgment sent to any group in the Area that had contributed to the WSO, a questionnaire from the Public Relations Committee; the tentative Agenda and the annual reports from all Committees to study in advance of the Conference.

DELEGATES' FUND (comprising \$240 from each of the Assembly Areas)

The groups within an Assembly Area continue to share in the expenses of sending a Delegate to the WSC, by direct contributions to their Area Treasurer who then forwards \$240 to HQ on or before Feb. 1st. (Canadian Areas vary this procedure to save on exchange.) From this fund, the Delegates were mailed checks to cover travel and hotel expenses to attend the Conference. The additional expenses of the Conference, as all other worldwide services, are covered by tri-annual contributions to one over-all fund at HQ.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR 1967 WSC

Well in advance of the Conference all arrangements were completed for: meeting rooms at hotel; reservations for a dinner, two luncheons, a coffee break; a Hospitality Committee; the distribution of Portfolios to all WSC members; stenographers to take notes and equipment to tape record the WSC sessions. An invitation had been extended to Dr. Milton A. Maxwell, Executive Director of the Center of Alcohol Studies at Rutgers University, to address the Conference after the Friday luncheon.

REPORTING

After the Conference, the tapes and notes are transcribed, edited and assembled in a Conference Summary to the groups, with a more detailed account sent to the Delegates as a Digest.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Vi F., Chairman, Budget Committee

All Conference members had an opportunity to review a balance sheet and related income statement, prepared by Smith and Flanagan, Certified Public accounts, presenting the financial position of Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc. as of December 31, 1966. A copy of this income statement is available to any group on request.

Our heartfelt thanks go to the Literature Committee for the gross profit figure of \$63,546 from literature sales, which is surely a comforting one.

Again, congratulations and our warm thanks go to the Delegates for their work during the year, which was reflected in a 5% increase in the number of groups

contributing. The total amount contributed increased 21%, a wonderful increase.

Despite these increases, the contributions from our groups, which should be our mainstay, is little over one-third of our total income. This disturbing situation is a trend also evidenced in the copy of the Proposed Budget for 1967 (prepared by the General Secretary, with the approval of the Executive Committee) which was included in the Delegates' Brochure.

New groups are forming like wildfire. This means more expense in a number of ways: more correspondence, more recording, more filing, more bookkeeping, more free FORUMs, a larger Directory, more free literature distributed. Our present staff is adequate for this week—but not for long. More staff means more space and more space means more rent.

This is a report for 1966—one with which we are very happy. But we must keep in mind that 1967 is the first year when there will not be a separate Conference appeal letter. Instead we will have the 3 appeals voted at the last Conference, March, July and November. We ask your continued help in explaining this to your groups.

We want to end on a high note—1966 was one of our banner years. Help us make '67 top it!

POLICY COMMITTEE

Lois W., Chairman

The Policy Committee held only quarterly meetings since the change in HQ structure on January 1, 1965. The Committee comprises, as formerly, Chairmen of all Committees and Al-Anon secretaries.

Over the years a backlog of policy decisions, formed in the light of the 12 Traditions, has been

built up. HQ's secretaries refer to these when occasion arises. Fewer new policies need to be worked out now.

1/25—a. The Committee reiterated the need for a guide sheet for Intergroups, pointing out their duties and functions, which the Literature Committee was asked to produce.

b. It was hoped that the format of the FORUM could soon be enlarged and that the editor would appoint a committee to help her.

4/12—a. Because of a letter from Belgium stating that many Europeans felt there was too much about God in Al-Anon literature, the Committee suggested that perhaps the FORUM should curtail some of this slant.

b. The consensus was that the mother of a retarded child could use the 12 Steps to help other mothers of retarded children.

c. To a question from Australia, it recommended that Alateen social activities should be left to the discretion of the sponsor.

7/26— Upon request from a group to issue flyers to the general public, it decided that this would be promotional, but that pamphlets could be distributed to doctors' offices, libraries, church literature racks, etc.

b. To a suggestion from an Alberta ex-Delegate that the chapter, "Why Alateens?" in AL-ANON FACES ALCOHOLISM be reprinted separately, it decided that, since this was a duplication, the time and money were not warranted.

10/18— Since it was found that Alatot meetings usually disintegrated into babysitting sessions it decided to discourage their formation.

OUTGOING DELEGATES' REPORTS

These were interspersed through the Conference sessions.

1. A solid Assembly structure was ensured in Alabama by adhering word by word to the WSC Handbook. Evelyn felt the Area has a long way to go along the Al-Anon road, but groups and contributions to HQ are increasing and in attempting to emulate its sister states, there is more cooperation with outside agencies and radio publicity work. There's been a breakthrough in carrying Al-Anon to penal institutions. Huntsville hosted the first S.E. Alateen Roundup in 1965, followed by an even more successful turnout at Birmingham in '66 with 60 teenagers from 6 states attending. In reporting to her groups, Evelyn begins by describing the layout of the office, each person, particularly Lois, and tries to impart the inspiration of seeing Al-Anon's WSO in action before covering the business end.

2. Helping the groups in Alberta feel that they have shared in the WSC is accomplished by Eunice by visiting all 8 Districts upon her return from N.Y. The Committeeman chairs each meeting, where Eunice reports in sections, with each part followed by questions and answers. 3 thriving Institutional groups have swelled the steadily rising number in the province and there was

an encouraging increase in financial contributions. Being Delegate was a tremendously rewarding experience with personal growth in many aspects of the program.

3. Following the first Delegate's (Elsie) lead, Dovie continued to stress the importance of CAL and HQ in Arizona. Al-Anon has shared speaker's privileges at the annual AA Convention banquet the past two years, and Al-Anon and Alateen each have one of the 24 meetings at the Xmas Alkathon in Phoenix. Dovie served on the Governor's Advisory Committee on Alcoholism last year and many other Al-Anons are active on County Councils on Alcoholism being formed throughout the state, as well as participating in TV and radio programs.

4. Mad came to the '61 WSC as an observer, thinking of 19 groups in the Atlantic Provinces, returned in '64 as Delegate for 41 groups, and is now concerned with 60 plus groups. To detail each project in which the Area is involved would make it sound as though they were world beaters, but a rather soft-sell type of Public Relations is being effectively conducted by the more emotionally mature members serving on Provincial Alcoholism Research Councils which puts them in touch with other helping agencies. In stressing CAL, Mad has had to cut

the legs from under some of her best friends, but advised that the axe be used if needed. Strict observance of the suggestions in the Handbook helped form a smooth-running Assembly, and there is confidence that whatever problems exist in the Area will resolve themselves in time.

5. Al-Anon and Alateen in British Columbia went ahead in leaps and bounds since Nora, the Alternate, became Delegate last year in February. Two-thirds of the 61 Al-Anon and 7 Alateen groups contributed to WSO in 1966, and with the provincial structure now well developed, a better percentage is hoped for this year. Frequent District (called Zone there) meetings were held throughout the year, Assembly officers met as required and the business sessions, workshops and Al-Anon meetings at their 2-day November Conference were well supported by all groups. All but one of the B.C. Intergroups have merged with their Zones (Districts) and the Al-Anon Information Centre Office in Vancouver has proved a big step forward in the promise of greater unity and growth in the province.

6. Myrtle, representing Colorado because of Dubby's illness, only became Alternate April 1st. As State Treasurer the two previous years, her concern was fund raising and she pushed so hard to sell praying hands pens and stationery (over 700 each) that members suspected that her husband was jobless. The Al-Anons speak regularly at churches, schools, Women's Prison, and on special occasions also at the Men's Prison. Many referrals come from the El Paso Co. Council on Alcoholism. Members attend meetings of the State Health Board of Alcoholism in Denver and also participate frequently on the far reaching Monday night KOA radio program called "Ask An Alcoholic."

7. As did all the Delegates, Mary expressed her gratitude to the staff at HQ during Georgia's first term of participation in the WSC. The Committeemen of all 5 Districts in the state are active and District meetings have brought unity among the groups. A State speakers' committee was formed and the first issue of a tri-annual Area newsletter is about to be mailed.

8. The groups in Massachusetts enjoyed vibrant and energetic growth during Josephine's term, with leadership developing among the younger Al-Anons. There is a working relationship with the professional community and with the community at large, without violating our traditions of anonymity or non-affiliation. Jo was grateful for having learned at the WSC to listen to all sides of a problem, and to respect the reasons why each believes in his opinion, having witnessed decisions made with love and understanding.

9. Ruth first attended a WSC as an observer, when she was greeted as "a foreigner" because she had been grouped with 3 other observers from the United Kingdom, Finland and Puerto Rico. As Delegate from Mississippi the 3 succeeding years, she experienced a depth and vision broadening her Al-Anon life and came to feel an intrinsic part of a worldwide fellowship. The butterfly story appealed to Ruth from the moment she heard it from Marcy W., the new Delegate from Texas W., because it symbolized the miracle of Al-Anon, which like the butterfly emerges from ugliness to leave more beauty on earth after it is gone than when it came. She thanked the Conference for the shared love, knowledge and experiences which made her world and Mississippi Al-Anon more beautiful.

10. The 4 Districts which have developed in Montana and the election of Committeemen and GRs have contributed to more personal contact which has improved unity in the groups during Laura's term as Delegate. Members give enthusiastic support to the assembly paper, "News and Views" and the use of CAL has been

stressed. Al-Anon holds separate meetings at the 2 yearly State Conference held jointly with AA.

11. At last year's WSC which Emily attended upon resignation of the former New Jersey Delegate, she was impressed with all that is accomplished despite so many different views. The recently formed Intergroup, manned entirely by volunteers, has made great strides, an Assembly newspaper, "Progress," is being launched, and there is talk of getting an institutional project underway. Dr. Maxwell gave assurances that Al-Anon's literature display would be welcome every year at the Rutgers Summer School of Alcohol Studies as it was last summer.

12. Cletus, North Carolina's Alternate, gave the report prepared by Anna, who during her recuperation from two major operations since January, has realized that Al-Anon is the greatest group in the world. In her first year as Delegate, Anna served punch at a lovely tea given by the Governor of N.C. and his wife for Al-Anon and her husband boasted that it was in order to get his wife into the Governor's Mansion that he had to drink a lot of whiskey. Al-Anon has entree to the Woman's State Penitentiary, and the PR Committee appointed in November has suggested to the House of Representatives the idea of placing copies of our books in all Senior High Schools and public libraries in the state. The success of a first Area meeting held in Concord in April, attended by 120 Al-Anons, led to plans for more such meetings. 3 members of the Winston-Salem Group were panelists at the Summer School on Alcoholism at a State Teachers' meeting.

13. North Dakota's understanding of Al-Anon teaching grew greatly during Irene's term as Delegate, with only CAL now used and a much wider understanding of the importance of support of the World Service Office. The GRs and Committeemen gain much from the tri-annual Assemblies. All groups in the state are larger, and two new and one reactivated group have recently registered. Speaking at the N. D. Mental Health Clinic on Alcoholism was wonderful experience for Irene, who feels she laid the groundwork so that her successor can really get things rolling.

14. From 12 groups in 1960, Oklahoma has grown to 46. Each group has a State Committeeman, GR and an alternate, all of whom are invited to attend the 3 State Committee meetings and one WSC Assembly each year, but as yet Lita has not succeeded in setting up Districts. A proposed budget prepared each year by the Treasurer is voted on by the groups, so there have been no money problems. Staggering election of officers is beneficial. PR efforts have resulted in a request to start a group in the city jail and brought in referrals from the Central State Hospital in Norman, the City Council on Alcoholism and many doctors and ministers. Copies have been distributed of the article on CAL by which all groups abide. To Lita the theme of the WSC is to strive for improvement in every project with patience, understanding and love. A good foundation was laid by HQ and the first Delegates but the WSC is still an infant entrusted to our care to pass on to others.

15. Phyllis, Alternate, spoke of the 4 Assemblies held each year in Oregon, which have brought the groups together with much greater understanding. Open speaker meetings have proved very educational for both Al-Anon and AA. A letter from their live-wire State Chairman to the State Welfare Board sparked an invitation in January for a panel of Al-Anons to address 15 social workers who supervise the 36 county public welfare departments. They used the Fact File to present each phase of the program. So much interest was created that similar programs have been set up in several counties with Al-Anon providing the names and addresses

of all Committeemen and the Welfare Board reciprocating with the names of all county welfare supervisors.

16. Unity grew during Beryle's 3 years as Delegate from Virginia, as the few groups who had still been using the old auxiliary 12 Steps and Objectives came around to accept CAL. There is full representation and cooperation from 4 of the 5 Districts, and the fifth one has just been heard from. There has been growth in many ways, by addition of new groups, reactivation of a few old ones, in institutional programs and public school relations.

17. Each of Washington's 64 groups is obligated to stand its GR's expenses and the state funds defray the expenses of Committeemen (one for every 5 groups), Officers and Delegate. Jeannette's one problem has been in obtaining a functional state secretary, so that most of the time she has had to do this work herself. A tremendous telephone response to a series of 9 TV programs on which the Seattle Al-Anons cooperated with the State Board on Alcoholism and AA required Al-Anons to man switchboards at the station, and brought many

new people to meetings. After Jeannette's return to Spokane, she will serve with other Al-Anons in the Neighborhood Centers sponsored by the Poverty Program, where 80% of the families that are counseled have a problem of alcoholism. The recently initiated 2-hour Al-Anon seminar for registered nurses at two of the city's largest hospitals is to become a part of the regular curriculum.

18. The wheels are finally turning to establish a complete WSC structure in Wisconsin, where the Assembly operated with GRs only thus far. Donna and Freda, the past Delegate, are very happy to be able to get it underway for the new Delegate to be elected at the fall Assembly, where Area Committeemen from designated Districts will also be elected for the first time. Both Al-Anon and Alateen are growing, there is a very active Intergroup in Milwaukee, and a new one is starting in the southeast section of the state. PR highlights were the terrific response from a very fine panel on Milwaukee TV and good newspaper articles.

CONFERENCE DISCUSSIONS AND DECISIONS

Following the approval of HQ reports the Conference proceeded smoothly to the matters here-with classified for easy reference

ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE

In reply to the request to seat a Representative from a state that already has a Delegate, it was clarified that a state may send a Representative (at their own expense) *only* if they have never had a Delegate. Requests for additional Delegates will have to be considered, but the consensus was that at this time or until all states are participating, each state or province be limited to 2 Delegates.

Alaska expressed a desire to join the WSC and hopes to elect a Delegate by 1969.

AL-ANON/ALATEEN PARTICIPATION IN AA CONVENTIONS

The majority reported that Al-Anon has a planning committee to coordinate with the AA Convention Committee in the host city. Funds to meet Al-Anon expenses were usually raised by planning a breakfast or luncheon meeting for all, as part of the weekend activities. At most Conventions, the Al-Anons paid the same registration fee as the AAs, but when an Al-Anon GR attended merely to go to the Al-Anon Assembly, the registration fee was usually waived. The consensus was that it was an unfavorable time to hold an Area WSC Assembly at an AA Convention, since it invariably conflicted with a panel or workshop. All reports indicated that the Alateens, being so much a part of the Al-Anon family, were included on the Convention Program along with Al-Anon.

ALATEENS

Discussion of several questions about Alateen participation in Area Assemblies—Should they have voice and vote? Who should be their GR? What should the age bracket be?—concluded in agreement

with the consensus of the Alateen Committee's Pre-Conference meeting, e.g. each Assembly is autonomous and must decide for itself how Alateen representation should be handled. Specific conclusions were that: (1) the older members (17-20) be advised of the meaning of World Service and be welcomed at the Assembly with voice, if not vote; (2) Alateens be encouraged to participate at the District level; (3) the GR from an Alateen Group be an Alateen, *not* the sponsor, unless the group insists that the sponsor serve as GR. A revision of "A Guide for Sponsors of Alateen Groups" is contemplated in the undetermined future to meet the need for more information on sponsorship of Alateens. It was suggested that when Al-Anon groups order literature, it become automatic to get Alateen literature, so plenty is available for new members with teen-aged children. Though the suggested age limit of Alateens remains 12-20, with respect to those invited to speak in public to present a "true image" of Alateen, it was felt that an individual in his early 20s could give an account of how Alateen had changed his life and helped him to solve his problems, thus showing the continuing effectiveness of the program for children of alcoholics.

AREA ACTIVITIES — Holly C.

A poster, with a series of 4 circles drawn one within the other, was the focal point for this session. The core, or heart of the circle, represented the individual group. The next circle was for the District, through which GRs keep the lines of communication open with their Committeemen. The third circle was to denote the Area Assembly, where GRs select Committeemen who then are eligible for office or to be elected Delegate. The outer circle stood for World Service, which embraces all Al-Anon, with Delegates sharing their experience at the annual WSC, so that the Al-Anon message can be carried worldwide more effectively by the WSO.

Delegates had been sent a questionnaire to select a topic for discussion at the WSC. Reports on those

relating to improvement in Area World Service activities follow.

1. **AREA WSC COMMITTEE**—An active committee can be formed if each District shares in the expense of having its CM meet regularly with the Delegate and other CM. An interesting and informative agenda can be planned for the Assembly and District meetings, plus an exchange of ideas for a bulletin to GRs. Holly said, "If 2 Al-Anon Groups exchange a dollar, they still have but one dollar each, but when they exchange an idea, each group has 2 ideas."

In their monthly meetings, the Conn. Delegate and CM compiled a meeting list of all groups and phone numbers in major cities where Al-Anon has a 24-hour answering service. The state has a service handbook listing the name, address and telephone of every CM and alternate.

The Calif. (S) Area WSC Committee sets 2 of its 4 yearly meetings to coincide with the semi-annual Area Assembly. The Assembly has a plan, similar to the one used by our WSC to equalize Delegates' expenses, and underwrites GR's and CM's expenses beyond a 50-mile radius on a pro-rated basis.

The CM helped the Alberta Delegate make up an itinerary for her visit to each District to give her Conference report, whereas in Mo., until such time as an active Area WSC Committee can be established, the Chairman or Delegate visited each group, with the advance itinerary of both published in their Area newsletter.

2. **NEWSLETTERS**—More than half the Delegates indicated that this method of communicating with GRs had been most helpful and economical. Messages from the CM and officers are included as well as financial reports from the Area Treasurer. "The Round Robin" (Mo.) prints a list of groups contributing to support of the Area Treasury and the WSO.

3. **MOST ACTIVE DISTRICTS**—The Alternate helped redistrict Conn. to create more CM. With less groups (app. 6) per District, a CM finds it far easier to write, phone or visit each one. Calif. (S) increased Districts from 11 to 23, also with 6 groups per District. Many Districts hold meetings which may include a pot luck supper or some social activity and share proceeds with the Area Treasurer and the WSO. CM have joined efforts to hold a meeting comprising groups in 2 or 3 Districts, thus reducing the number of trips Delegates had to make to give a Conference report.

4. **WSO MAILINGS**—It was voted that instead of one copy of important information from HQ, such as **AREA HIGHLIGHTS**, each Delegate be sent a minimum of 3 in the future.

ASK-IT-BASKET

Most of the questions were answered in the sessions to which they pertained. Ruth (Miss.) chaired the session for the more general questions, a few of which follow:

Q: Should meeting time be spent on the study of symptoms and progression of the disease of alcoholism? A: It is more informative to hold a panel or workshop type meeting and invite professionals to discuss the disease concept. Meetings should be to discuss the Al-Anon program.

Q: How to keep meetings on the subject? A: Use the gavel! But when a Chairman cannot be firm, it is

the responsibility of the more experienced member to bring the meeting back to the topic.

Q: Do rummage sales to outsiders violate the Traditions if Al-Anon is not mentioned? A: As individuals, members can do as they please—hold rummage sales, etc., and if a number of individual Al-Anons engage in such a project, they should be careful about anonymity.

Q: Shouldn't the host group make it clear that they are prepared to pay traveling expenses, in part or full, and provide accommodations for a speaker?

A: Yes, and it is up to the speaker to have this clarified when invited.

CHARTER

In 1966 the WSC voted that the Conference Charter be presented for ratification this year, so after considerable discussion about whether we were really ready to adopt a charter at this time, it was finally decided to make a few revisions first and then vote on the Charter's ratification. This was carried unanimously.

The principal revision concerned the proportion of HQ members who could vote at the Conference. The other revisions were merely clarification of wording.

Though not a legal document the Charter is now the accepted traditional framework within which the Conference can carry on its activities. (A copy is appended.)

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE WSO

The Delegates were urged to remind their groups to be sure to put the group's name on anything they send to the World Service Office, e.g., letters, FORUM subscriptions, contributions and literature orders. The staff spends many precious hours trying to determine which group is to be credited when no name appears.

CONTRIBUTIONS

As voted at the '66 Conference, the Budget Committee now sends out 3 appeals annually (Mar., July, Nov.) for contributions to cover Al-Anon worldwide services, including the operating expenses of the Conference. The groups within an Assembly area continue to share in the expense of sending a Delegate to the World Service Conference, by direct contributions to the Area Treasurer.

Ted, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, explained that a group cannot receive credit in the previous year for contributions reaching HQ after Dec. 31. As a corporation, bound by corporate laws, "we are powerless." It is just not feasible to deposit the amount in the bank on one date, and predate credit in book-keeping.

Vi, Chairman of the Budget Committee, stressed the need for larger contributions from members who can afford it to compensate for the many individuals who cannot.

DIRECTORY

The possibility of computerizing our group records is being explored. A comprehensive study has not yet been done, but upon preliminary investigation, the whole project seems feasible. If we do go to a computer—our records can only be as accurate as your data cards. The computer cannot determine what you mean—it only knows what you tell it.

This conversion may enable us to include additional information in the World Directory, to be decided after a thorough study has been completed.

FORUM

Plans are being considered to enlarge the FORUM to 12 pages, with half again as many words as now, by using smaller print set in two columns with less space between lines. Extra costs would approximate \$3,300 a year.

Everyone would like to see a section on humor, so members were urged to send in one of their favorite ab libs, a boner, or a fluff. Be it humor or something of human interest, the main ideas must come from the members worldwide.

One letter, presented by a Delegate, objected to the adhesive sticker used to seal the FORUM, because "anyone can peer in either corner to see the name." These are postal regulations when envelopes are too costly. An alternative would be to have groups order multiple subscriptions to sell at meetings. In Alberta the profit realized by several groups from FORUM sales at meetings was passed on to the Area Treasurer.

Another letter suggested the FORUM needed a shot in the arm, with less reference to personal experience in the editorial and more emphasis on the program tools. The editor said she used the personal stories only as a springboard to bring out a point and the program tool is there if you look for it.

As she has done so often in the past, Margaret again urged the Delegates to "get your people to write me."

HANDBOOK

In order that the WS Handbook be made as clear and simple as possible, an out-of-town section of 7 Delegates (Miss., N.Y., N.D., Ohio, Sask., Cal. S. and Va.) was appointed to the HQ Handbook Committee. The many questions about the Handbook brought up at the Conference will be considered by this enlarged Committee, we hope with satisfactory results.

INSTITUTIONS

A heartwarming report of work being done at 14 penal institutions in B.C. led off a stimulating workshop type meeting, with 4 Delegates on the panel chaired by Jo. More than 900 people have been introduced to Al-Anon since a group was formed in 1964 at the State Hospital, San Antonio, Texas. E. 3 State Hospitals in Minn. use Al-Anon resources, speakers and literature constantly, and Conn. is starting its first institutional group. With a working nucleus of HQ members, plus 5 Delegates experienced in this phase of Al-Anon, the Committee hopes to bring the program to an untold number of desperate families.

LITERATURE

The Chairman announced publication of THE DILEMMA OF THE ALCOHOLIC MARRIAGE, and indicated that work would proceed shortly on the book of daily readings, ONE DAY AT A TIME IN AL-ANON. The Delegates voted unanimously to produce a booklet for beginners, titled "This is Al-Anon" (similar to one formerly distributed by S. Cal. Inter-group), and another for men members, stressing the

spiritual side of the program. The Chairman suggested that the substantially-enlarged revision of "Al-Anon Family Groups at Work" might well be required reading for every member. A "Group Inventory" has been prepared and will be added to the next list of Al-Anon literature.

MAILING ADDRESS

The importance of keeping the WSO informed of a change in the group's permanent mailing address was emphasized. Each returned FORUM cost HQ 8¢ postage, plus staff time spent in trying to obtain a correct address. The group's cooperation in helping the office keep accurate, up-to-date records, could result in considerable saving to Al-Anon, of both time and money.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

This session was concerned primarily with: 1) ways to set up a PR framework within a state/province or local area, if there is none, and improvement of existing ones when necessary; 2) suggestions for setting up an effective PR program, and the securing and training of volunteers for contacts with professionals and the general public. Members were urged to do more than in-group work and to participate in the field of alcoholism at the community and state level. Many not now involved in PR projects would welcome this activity and Al-Anons should be mindful that the help and information they can offer is badly needed by professionals and agencies in the alcoholism field.

Future "Fact Files" will include a PR Guidelines, prepared for the Delegates on the above topics, with suggestions for possible PR projects, for making effective contacts with professionals, and follow-up techniques.

Some of the ideas and suggestions submitted by Delegates were: 1) regular PR committee meetings for sharing information and problem-solving; 2) state/province newsletter to further Area-wide communications; 3) telephone answering service, with listing in phone directory; 4) preparation of meeting lists to be left in hospital waiting rooms, church racks, etc.; 5) small newspaper ad stating purpose, time and place of meetings; 6) letter, based on one in "Fact File," to professionals, accompanied by literature; 7) cooperation with local Alcoholism Centers, including them in certain Al-Anon activities; 8) exhibits at Alcoholism Fairs; 9) Al-Anon in some sections has worked closely with Public Welfare Departments, Aid to Dependent Children (Area level), PTA, Governors' Committees on Alcoholism.

In dealing with professionals, the consensus was that one must be brief, specific, and leave reliable contact telephone number or address, express interest in work of professional, let him know how he can be helpful to Al-Anon, as well as suggesting how Al-Anon might cooperate with him.

REGIONAL TRUSTEES

At a session on the development of a plan for introducing regional representation into Al-Anon's Board of Trustees, the Delegates discussed the major issues at great length and made recommendations which are to be used as guidelines at the 1968 WSC, when the final plan is expected to be voted upon. In the meantime, the Delegates felt it would be of great value to discuss the matter in their Area during the

coming year so that the local groups can ask questions and make recommendations which may be brought to the 1968 WSC. The recommendations made this year are as follows:

1. For purposes of Charter formulas regarding voting, Regional Trustees will be considered in the same context as Delegates.
2. The recommended term of office will be four years.
3. The original plan should include two Trustees from the U.S., one eastern and one western, and one Trustee from Canada. Canada will be divided East and West, a Trustee from one region to serve a full term, then a Trustee from the other region to serve a full term. The choice of the first region to have a Trustee would be made by lot.
4. The method of election of Regional Trustees would closely follow the AA method. Each Area would nominate its own candidate, bringing a resume of that candidate's experience to the Conference. At the Conference, the Delegates of each region, along with a small Conference Committee, would elect the Regional Trustee from the nominees presented by the Delegates.
5. Delegates would not be eligible for election as Regional Trustees until after expiration of their 3-year term.

RECOMMENDATIONS — DELEGATES ONLY MEETING

1. Standing Committees wish to be informed on a monthly basis by Chairman of each Committee, Ted, President of the Board of Trustees, pointed out that this might not be practicable, as some committees do not always have enough activity, and others might need more frequent communication, e.g. Literature.
2. Ted was happy that Delegates wished to take a more active part in the Conference. Upon their recommendation he appointed the N.Y. Delegate to chair a

Committee to take care of spouses of Delegates, and the Md. and Conn. Delegates to co-chair the Hospitality Committee, with the understanding that both Committees would cooperate closely with the Conference Secretary and Chairman in activating plans.

3. Commenting on the recommendation that future WSC Chairmen be selected from 2nd and 3rd year Delegates, Ted said he would respect any recommendation that fell within the framework of the Delegates' prerogatives. However, it is the prerogative of the President of the Board of Trustees to appoint committee chairmen, and the choice for next year's Conference Chairman had already been made. Tremendous applause followed.

SPONSORSHIP

A workshop type meeting, chaired by Penny B., HQ Trustee, with 4 Delegates (Fla., Ill., Md., Ont.) on the panel, provided some practical suggestions. Try to be a good listener, considerate, patient, tolerant, honest and frank; guide, share, counsel; make them feel needed and helpful; get them to meetings; demonstrate what service means to help newcomers to grow; be flexible; try to identify with them; stick to your own sex; keep a sense of humor; stress the importance of gratitude; and above all, remember you came in as a newcomer. The advantages of group sponsorship, or careful selection of one's own sponsor were discussed. Members were reminded not to advise, dominate, control or dictate and not to allow the newcomer to idolize and monopolize the sponsor. Al-Anons cannot carry the person, but can try to carry the message of hope.

As the Conference ended, at the suggestion of the Delegate from Texas W., all present joined hands to form a large circle, signifying UNITY, and recited the Lord's Prayer.

*Prepared by
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AL-ANON WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE CHARTER

INTRODUCTION

The Al-Anon World Service Conference Charter is a body of principles and relationships through which Al-Anon as a whole can function. The provisions of the document are not legal, but traditional, since the Conference is not incorporated. This charter is an informal agreement between all Al-Anon and its service center. Later, certain countries of the world, for language or geographic considerations, may desire to establish their own HQ and regional conference. This World Service Conference will then become the Senior Conference but will hold no authority over conferences in other countries.

CHARTER

1. Purpose

- a. To be the guardian of both Al-Anon's world services and its 12 Traditions.
- b. To be a service body, not a government.

2. Composition

- a. State, Provincial and Territorial Delegates from the U.S. and Canada and HQ members, the latter to include the Trustees of Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc.
- b. Delegates from other countries when these countries as well as the Conference may be ready for their participation.

3. Relation to Al-Anon

- a. The Conference acts for Al-Anon in the perpetuation and guidance of its HQ services.
- b. The Conference is a vehicle by which Al-Anon can express its views on policy and note deviations from Traditions.
- c. Delegates are free to vote as their conscience dictates and not necessarily as instructed by their areas.
- d. But no changes are to be made in the Traditions, Steps or General Warranties of the Conference Charter (Item 12) without written consent of three-quarters of the Al-Anon groups.
- e. The Charter may be changed (with the exception of items 3-d and 12) by the vote of three-quarters of the Conference members.

4. Relation to Headquarters

- a. Traditional two-thirds vote of Conference members in attendance is binding upon Trustees and any related corporate services.
- b. The above does not impair legal rights of HQ in conducting routine business and making contracts relative thereto.
- c. Traditionally three-fourths of all members registered at the Conference may bring about a reorganization of HQ if or when it is deemed essential and may request resignations and nominate new Trustees regardless of legal prerogatives of the Board. For this purpose only, the number of HQ members voting shall be limited to one-fourth of the total vote.

5. State and Provincial Assemblies: Purpose of

- a. Assemblies convene at least every three years and as often in between as is deemed necessary for the purpose of electing Committeemen (if not elected in their own districts), Assembly Officers, a Delegate to the WSC, and an Alternate.
- b. Assemblies are concerned primarily with World Service affairs of Al-Anon.

6. Assemblies: Composition of

- a. In each state and province elected representatives of all Al-Anon groups desiring participation meet together in a central location.
- b. Those areas with large Al-Anon populations may choose additional Assembly Areas as provided for in the Conference Handbook.

7. Assemblies: Preferred Method of Election

- a. Committeemen are elected from Group Representatives (GRs) by written ballot.
- b. Delegates are chosen from Committeemen by a two-thirds written ballot or by lot.

c. Alternates are elected at the same time and for the same term of office.

d. It is strongly advised that the term of office of the Chairman, other Assembly officers and Committeemen follow the same pattern.

8. Panels and Delegates' Terms of Office

A third of the Delegates, called a Panel, are elected every three years for a three-year term. The election of each of the three panels is held on each of three consecutive years. This staggered election and tenure of office is provided so that a Conference shall always include a Panel of Delegates with three years' experience. (This method was adopted because some AAs found that their two-year plan resulted in too fast turnover and the valuable experience of two-year Delegates was lost to the Conference.)

9. Conference Meetings

The Conference meets annually in New York City unless otherwise agreed upon. In a grave emergency, special meetings may be called. Conference members may also be asked by HQ to render advisory opinions at any time by mail or telephone poll.

10. Board of Trustees: Composition, Jurisdiction, Responsibilities

- a. The Board of Trustees of Al-Anon HQ is an incorporated trusteeship composed of members of families of alcoholics. It chooses its own successors, subject to the approval of the Conference or a Committee thereof.
- b. The Board is the chief service arm of the Conference and is also custodial in character. Excepting for decisions affecting Al-Anon as a whole, concerning policy, finance, or the Al-Anon Traditions, the Board has entire freedom to conduct the routine policy and business affairs of HQ. It may appoint suitable committees and elect members to its Executive Committee.
- c. If any subsidiary services are later formed the Board of Trustees will be primarily responsible for their policy and financial integrity.
- d. The By-Laws of the Board of Trustees or any amendments thereto are always subject to approval of the Conference by a two-thirds vote of all its members.
- e. Except in great emergency the Trustees ought never take action liable to greatly affect Al-Anon as a whole without consulting the Conference. However, it is understood that the Board shall reserve the right to decide which of its decisions may require the approval of the Conference.

11. Conference Procedure

- a. The Conference hears financial and policy reports of the Board of Trustees and HQ services.
- b. Delegates and HQ members take under advisement all matters affecting Al-Anon as a whole, engage in debate, appoint necessary committees and pass suitable motions for the direction of the Board of Trustees and HQ.
- c. The Conference may recommend action respecting serious deviation from Al-Anon Traditions.
- d. The Conference may draft By-Laws and elect any needed officers by a method of its choosing.
- e. A quorum shall consist of two-thirds of the members registered at the Conference.
- f. At the close of each yearly session the Conference will send a full report of its proceedings to all Conference members and a condensation thereof to Committeemen and Al-Anon groups throughout the world.

12. General Warranties of the Conference

In all proceedings the World Service Conference of Al-Anon shall observe the spirit of the Traditions; that only sufficient operating funds, including an ample reserve, be its prudent financial principle; that no Conference member shall be placed in unqualified authority over other members; that all decisions be reached by discussion vote and whenever possible by unanimity; that no Conference action ever be personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy; that though the Conference serves Al-Anon it shall never perform any act of government; and that like the fellowship of Al-Anon Family Groups which it serves, it shall always remain democratic in thought and action.