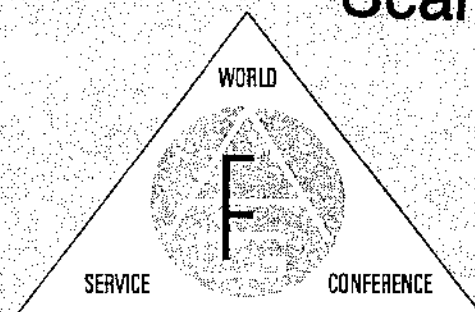


# CONFERENCE SUMMARY 1968

# AL-ANON

EIGHTH ANNUAL WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE  
AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS  
NEW YORK CITY - APRIL 23-27, 1968



Dear Friends in Al-Anon:

Springtime and awakening are synonymous, and April, 1968 brought a freshet of new thoughts and ideas to the 8th Al-Anon World Service Conference being held in New York. Our theme was Responsibility, and many aspects of this challenge were discussed and met in 5 days and nights of meetings and panels. Participating were 51 Delegates from the U.S. and Canada, one Representative from the United Kingdom and another from New Hampshire, 2 distinguished guest speakers, Al-Anon Trustees, and the devoted anchor staff of the Al-Anon World Service Office (Headquarters).

Al-Anon is the great symbol of hope for countless thousands still struggling for help, knowledge and a way of life to combat the hardships and problems of living with alcoholism. To educate these people and society as a whole in the facts of Al-Anon is one of our foremost responsibilities. Rev. Joseph L. Kellermann, Director of the Charlotte Council on Alcoholism, Inc., Charlotte, N.C., guest speaker at the Thursday luncheon, said: "Somewhere, somehow we must initiate an earlier information breakthrough that Al-Anon exists and that it offers understanding, fellowship and insight for the spouse of the alcoholic which may and often does lead to a genuine recovery from alcoholism. Al-Anon today is the only readily available source of therapeutic help for the spouse, parent or other member of the alcoholic's family."

The Conference opened with the banquet Tuesday night, April 22, at which Bill and Lois W. were honored guests. For the first time, Trustees of AA were invited, and their presence added much to a very happy occasion. Speaking after the dinner, Bill W., AA's surviving co-founder, stressed the significance of World Service, to both AA and Al-Anon, today and tomorrow. He emphasized the importance of vigilance, prudence and responsibility in keeping our structure strong and healthy, guided by our 12 Steps and 12 Traditions, so that we may be able to meet any adversity that might come in the future just as we have met adversities in the past. Our adversities and problems, to a point, he said, strengthen us and our unity, and one of the greatest forces for growth in unity has been the World Service idea.

At 9 p.m. that evening, following the banquet and a reception for Bill and Lois, the opening session of the Conference was called to order by the Conference Chairman using for the first time a beautiful gavel handcrafted

by a male member of Connecticut Al-Anon and given to the Conference. It bears a sterling silver plate suitably engraved. Behind the podium the huge white and blue Al-Anon Conference banner, gift of Oklahoma in 1967, hung motionless. The hall was hushed in silent anticipation and gratitude. The clear voice of the Delegate from Alabama answered "Here" and the first roll call of the 1968 World Service Conference had begun. It was a thrilling moment!

A few highlights and "firsts" of the Conference: For the first time a Delegates' Hospitality Committee, doing a wonderful job and night making everybody feel at home, keeping soda and hot coffee always ready and creating a Hospitality Room that invited gaiety or serious conversation; a truly professional display of all Al-Anon Conference Approved Literature in its new format; 18 Delegates here for the first time; more male Delegates than ever before; AA spouses of Delegates going to many AA meetings at all hours around Manhattan, and joining in the tours of the Al-Anon WSO around the corner; Thursday night off and "out-on-the-town" for everybody; 2 splendid photographs of our beloved Lois available for the first time, obligingly autographed for those who bought them; and, another first, an inspiring 3-speaker spiritual meeting to bring the Conference officially to a close on Saturday morning.

But unofficially all was not over. Chartered buses took the Delegates at 1 o'clock to "Stepping Stones", the fascinating home of Bill and Lois out in Bedford Hills. There they enjoyed a delicious luncheon, strolled through grounds gay flowers, dogwood and apple blossoms, and chatted with their charming host and hostess who had who had made all this possible for us to share with the world.

Truly this Conference has awakened us to our present problems and illuminated our vision of Al-Anon's future as never before. And from the very opening session when Ted K., President of the Board of Trustees, introduced by the Conference Chairman, read Al-Anon's 12 Traditions and addressed the Delegates, the members of this Conference demonstrated their deep awareness of the great strength and harmonious guidance that comes to us through group conscience at work!

Gratefully,  
Penny B.  
Conference Chairman

# WORLD SERVICE OFFICE REPORTS

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters

Ted K., President

Another year of World Service has quietly slipped into the annals of Al-Anon history. Much has been accomplished... much more remains to be done. As President of your Board of Trustees I must compliment all Delegates for the work done in your respective areas. Much of our continued growth can only be explained by a tireless dedication to our "people-to-people" approach at the Group, District, and Area levels. Perhaps we may never be able to relax in our efforts to make our fellowship available to all who need it, but see how far a relatively few dedicated people have brought us... in a little over 15 years Al-Anon has grown more than 80 fold! We may not repeat at that rate by 1985, but as long as the potential is with us, we must not let down in our World Service effort.

In preparing a report from the President it is always a temptation to point to the exciting things that have happened throughout the year. I hesitate to call attention to any particular events as being more significant than others, but as usual urge you to study carefully each of the Committee reports. The people who prepared these reports are the ones to whom credit is due for what has been achieved this past year... and as you will see, no department has been without its share of accomplishment.

A word or two is perhaps in order regarding this 8th World Service Conference. Our agenda contains items for discussion and decision that are exciting and challenging: Regional Trustees, a new book for the 1970 International Convention of AA, and Lois' preparation of a Third Legacy manual, "Twelve Concepts for World Service". We will also spend some time discussing older and less stimulating topics that, of necessity, need periodic review. Let us strive to take each matter in its turn, giving it the benefit of the enthusiasm that a Conference such as this generates.

My personal wish for each of you is that this Conference be the Al-Anon highlight of your year. Again, my thanks to you for all your efforts of the past year. May Al-Anon always be blessed with people so willing to give.

---

## OFFICE ACTIVITIES

Henrietta S., General Secretary

The Al-Anon WSO reports annually to the Conference and sends a summary of Conference reports and decisions to each group. Periodic committee and Office work reports are made to the Board of Trustees of Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc., the membership corporation responsible for all budgetary matters, employment of office personnel, improvement of group services, and for publishing and distributing Conference Approved books and pamphlets.

### Personnel

In October, the Trustees approved a Personnel Manual outlining the responsibilities and functions of all employees of the WSO. The General Secretary, who is also Secretary of the Board of Trustees, works with the Executive Committee in routine administrative matters. Employment and supervision of the Al-Anon Staff Secretaries

(Alateen, Conference, Institutional and Public Relations) and the Office Supervisor is the function of the General Secretary, with the approval of the Executive Committee and the Board of Trustees. Employment and supervision of business personnel, those in Publications, Shipping, Group Records, FORUM subscriptions, Bookkeeping and General Clerical, is the function of the Office Supervisor, with the approval of the General Secretary.

Additions to the business staff in 1967 were an assistant shipping clerk and bilingual Spanish stenographer. Other business employees included the one in charge of publications (order processing and stock reorders), who doubles as receptionist; shipping department head; FORUM clerk; head of group records, assisted by one clerk and a file clerk; and 2 part-timers, a stenographer-typist and billing clerk, who also acknowledges contributions. Periodic meetings of the business staff, chaired by the Office Supervisor/Bookkeeper, proved of value in making each one more aware of his/her function.

The cooperative attitude of all personnel and their ability to accommodate themselves to many volunteers of varied personalities was most important in accomplishing the increased volume of work in 1967. The growth of the fellowship placed a greater responsibility on our volunteer committees, whose chairmen were an inspiration to the staff, not only in initiating new projects, but in ensuring their effective conclusion by giving countless hours of effort.

### Publications

Within 2 months of its publication in April, THE DILEMMA OF THE ALCOHOLIC MARRIAGE, required a re-order, and by year's end, 12,451 copies were distributed. Shipments of our basic book, LIVING WITH AN ALCOHOLIC, totaled 4,272 copies, an increase over 1966, but sales of AL-ANON FACES ALCOHOLISM dropped sharply over the previous year, to only 3,139 vs. 4,337. The potential still exists of stimulating further sales of this fine book to bring it to the notice of a wider segment of the professional community in the field of alcoholism.

42,872 free pamphlets and almost 200 complimentary books were given to proposed groups, individuals, students and other public relations contacts. By year's end several pamphlets and leaflets were already in print in a new design which the Trustees approved in adopting a uniform format for literature to provide for a more effective display. The new logo was also incorporated in the masthead of the FORUM and our letterheads.

### Mailing and Mimeographing

A 17½% increase in postage and shipping expense to \$10,590 reflected rising postal rates and heavier volume of correspondence. Almost 39,000 letters were mailed and 27,842 packages were shipped. The 620,000 sheets of mimeography which were processed included the Conference Review, World Service Handbook, Delegates' Brochure, supplementary literature which is on our price list, form letters and miscellaneous items for all departments.

### Forums

105,827 FORUMS were mailed, 18% more than the previous year. More groups were added to the mailing list for free copies and total subscriptions increased 21%.

so that at year's end the comparison with the previous year was:

	1966	1967	Increase
Multiple subscriptions	2,105	2,486	381
Individual subscriptions	2,230	2,768	538
Total subscriptions	4,335	5,254	919

Total cash receipts jumped 26% over 1966 to \$186,210. Our one bookkeeper, who also assumed the duties of Office Supervisor in mid-year, competently handled the greater volume of daily entries and bank deposits, prepared payroll and tax returns, processed bills for payment, administered the employees' Severance Fund accounts, prepared quarterly financial statements and kept the general books.

### Group Records and Directory

In anticipation of computerizing office records to reduce staff time consumed in directory updating, every effort was made to have current information for the data processing concern. All groups from whom no data cards or correspondence had come in for over a year were asked to advise the WSO of their present status. A "last call for 1968 World Directory" notice went to non-responding groups, as well as the proposed groups that were slow to register. Total registrations as of December 31, 1967 were:

Al-Anon Groups . . . . .	3,343
Alateen Groups . . . . .	465
Total Groups . . . . .	3,808
Al-Anon Loners . . . . .	170
Alateen Loners . . . . .	21
Total Loners . . . . .	191
Total Registrations . . . . .	3,999

Returned mail from groups which had not notified us of change of address or forgot to pay P. O. box rent remained a costly item, not only in excess postage paid (10¢ now on each returned FORUM) but in letters required to verify changed addresses. Some groups were off the mailing list for months because no one replied to 1, 2 and even 3 inquiries directed to different group officers.

### Group Services

During 1967 the Al-Anon WSO served close to 4,000 groups and Loners in the U.S., Canada and more than 40 countries overseas. Each proposed group received a welcoming letter, free literature and current FORUM. On registration, each was sent a copy of "Al-Anon Family Groups at Work", the current Directory, a FORUM subscription, and those in an Area with Conference representation got a World Service Handbook. Each Loner also received a Directory, free literature and monthly FORUM ALATEEN TALK went quarterly to all Alateen Groups, and AL-ANON EN ACCION monthly to Spanish Groups. New overseas English-speaking Groups were sent complimentary copies of LIVING WITH AN ALCOHOLIC.

4 groupwide mailings accounted for about 1/3 of the 39,000 outgoing letters. Except for those referred to in committee reports, the rest were replies to individuals seeking help, with referral to the nearest group; business correspondence; and group guidance in the light of our Traditions and experience on such questions as dwindling attendance, eligibility for membership, personality problems and varying program. Some answers were simplified by enclosure of the mimeographed sheet, "Guidelines for Group Separation of AA and Al-Anon". A revision of the article, "Why CAL?" was done in time to reply to numerous requests resulting from an item in the December FORUM.

### Growth in Foreign Language Al-Anon

Some of the highlights of the exciting growth of non-English speaking Al-Anon besides those covered in the reports of the French and Spanish Committees were:

A large supply of the *Japanese* version of "Al-Anon Family Groups at Work" was sent to the WSO by the Mukogawa Hospital Al-Anon Group in return for the expense of approving the translation.

Inge, member of a group in Germany, sent a supply of a *German* version of our laminated Al-Anon Introduction card and a translation of "For Teen-Agers with an Alcoholic Parent," for review. Jean B., secretary of the Zurich Group, worked jointly with Inge in compiling a pamphlet, "Al-Anon Hilf Dir Selbst", including selections from CAL, the translations of which were approved here. This fine piece will do much to stimulate the growth of both *Swiss* and *German* groups. Suggestions for planning the program for a first all Swiss Al-Anon Get-together in October were gratefully acknowledged by Jean.

Translations of "How One AA Wife Lives the 12 Steps" and "Purposes and Suggestions" were reviewed and returned to the *Norwegian* AA who did the work, with the suggestion that the Bergen Al-Anon Group be sent copies.

Al-Anon Central Services (Alvat) of Finland were extended permission to publish LIVING WITH AN ALCOHOLIC and THE DILEMMA, pending approval of the translation here. A generous supply of *Finnish* and *Swedish* Al-Anon literature were sent by Veikko K., the AA secretary, in lieu of a contribution from the Alvat.

### English Al-Anon Overseas

Communication with the *United Kingdom* Al-Anon Central Services, *South Africa* General Service and all the centers in the *Australian* states grew tremendously the past year. Agreement was reached to reduce our contribution appeals to one annually to those overseas countries which were only able to send a limited block donation through their central services once a year because of currency restrictions. Also, initiated with the November FORUM, free group copies were shipped in bulk to Johannesburg G.S. for distribution (postage free) to each group in S. Africa, resulting in savings in both postage and staff time.

Sharing our experience with overseas Al-Anons involved voluminous correspondence with U. K. members relating to registrations; confusion about Al-Anon terminology; advice on whether Eire should be included in their area of service; suggestions on creating a Scottish Al-Anon Sub-Convention Committee; and an initial effort of their Literature Sub-Committee, "A Guide to New Secretaries Forming Al-Anon Family Groups in the U.K. & Eire", submitted for review, so that it could be published as "Conference Approved".

Permission to reprint "Which is in Control - You or Panic?" from the FORUM in the '68 edition of their annual Al-Anon magazine was extended to *New Zealand* Al-Anon Central Services. The Oct. issue of their monthly newsletter reported an idea to establish a central fund for Delegates to the annual conference and N.Z.A.C.S. meeting at Arahina.

A member who spearheaded the foundation of *Victorian* C.S. in Melbourne, Australia, with the guidance of the WSO, (who is now living in Brisbane, *Queensland*, which registered a local center in August) shared the thought with all Australian groups that Al-Anon might form a simple Conference by availing itself of the opportunity afford-

ed at the annual Australian AA Convention in which Al-Anon takes part. Our comments on this proposal were invited by both the secretary of Victorian C.S. and the Central Perth Group, *Western Australia*. The Perth member also asked advice on how to set up the Al-Anon program at the 8th Australian AA Convention to be held there.

#### **Expansion and Office Equipment**

Increased volume in literature shipments and other mailings and the prospect of stocking a 4th book (ODAT), plus a Spanish book, required the rental of more space adjoining the stockroom at year's end. The landlord also agreed to let us use free storage space in the basement for all books formerly stored at the printers. This effected a saving in a newly imposed charge on all stock held by them longer than 3 months.

Major purchases of new equipment and furniture in 1967 included a replacement for our copying machine, 2 typewriters, 1 used secretary's desk, and for the shipping room, 2 additional storage racks and a hand truck.

---

### **FRENCH LITERATURE COMMITTEE**

*Alberte C., Chairman; Harriet L., Translator*

A big step forward was taken by the Committee in 1967 when it decided to start producing some of the French publications more professionally. "A Guide for the Family of the Alcoholic" and "What Do You Do About the Alcoholic's Drinking" were done in offset and "Purposes and Suggestions" was on order.

With an advance from Headquarters, repaid by January 1968, the Committee purchased a secondhand duplicator. This added equipment enabled the mimeographing at the FLC office in Montreal of 29,000 sheets required for the 750 monthly copies of the French FORUMS and 33,000 sheets for other literature and group communications.

As in previous years, the FLC translated and distributed the FORUM and all group-wide correspondence to the French-speaking members. Additions to the literature list were: Balance of the "Fact File", "How One AA Wife Lives the Twelve Steps", Al-Anon Slogans (from LIVING WITH AN ALCOHOLIC), and "The Al-Anon Intergroup". Revisions were made of "A Guide for the Sponsors of Alateen Groups" and "Purposes and Suggestions".

At year's end there were 135 registered French-Speaking Al-Anon and Alateen Groups (including 34 new ones). The majority were located in Quebec, and the rest scattered through Belgium, France, Switzerland, and the Canadian provinces of Ontario and New Brunswick.

Literature sales, which totaled \$2,067 two years ago, more than doubled in 1967, amounting to \$4,144. 540 parcels, 929 letters, including group communications and 60 free new Group packages were mailed.

---

### **SPANISH COMMITTEE**

*Mimi H., Chairman*

Spanish Groups doubled during the year to 120 Al-Anon, 6 Alateen, and 4 Loners. Most of the 200 letters written were not of a routine nature. Some were equivalent to a written meeting; some were an actual proof of fellowship and friendship across the miles; others came from professional people interested in our program or telling us of the work they are doing in alcoholism; a great many were a revelation of the workability of Al-Anon in different cultures and different languages.

Mexico, the country with the greatest number of groups, has done a minimum of media PR work; however, many members have expended very quiet, devoted, and valuable effort in "spreading the message". The number of groups in Honduras doubled as a result of excellent PR. Colombia also gained in groups. Here in the U.S. we increased to 9 groups; 2 in the N.Y. Metropolitan area could very easily be the beginning of many more among the Spanish-speaking population.

"To the Mother and Father of an Alcoholic" and "A Guide for the Family of the Alcoholic" were made available in Spanish. The old edition of LIVING WITH AN ALCOHOLIC is out-of-print; however, the translation of the new edition will soon be completed.

This increased work made it necessary to find a clerk-typist with thorough knowledge of both Spanish and English. Unfortunately, the girl we hired to fill this position resigned. We are again looking for a replacement, because all indications point to another year of further growth for Al-Anon in Spanish.

The monthly bulletin *AL-ANON EN ACCION* continues to be mentioned most favorable in correspondence and this year we are using the articles on the slogans done by Margaret in 1967, plus more serialized articles from *AL-ANON FACES ALCOHOLISM*.

All in all it has been a very good year for Spanish Al-Anon and a most rewarding one for all who have contributed their time and effort.

---

### **LITERATURE COMMITTEE**

*Alice B., Chairman*

#### **Books**

THE DILEMMA OF THE ALCOHOLIC MARRIAGE, our third book appeared in time for the 1967 WSC and has been well received.

Our book of daily readings, ONE DAY AT A TIME IN AL-ANON (ODAT), was the major project of the year. It covers a wide range of Al-Anon principles, ideas and tools, from many different angles. Each page ends with a quotation, which involved much source-searching, and a heavy load of correspondence with writers and publishers responsible for protecting their copyrights. The 6 Delegates on the Committee who read and edited all the material did a stupendous job! Though it became impossible to have books in time for this Conference, the printer has assured us copies before September.

#### **New Items**

"The Al-Anon Intergroup (What It Is -- How It Serves)", a set of mimeographed sheets summarizing results of a questionnaire sent to all Intergroups and Delegates, was made available last fall.

"This Is Al-Anon" crystallizes, in brief readable form, the Al-Anon idea and how it works. It replaces a booklet of this title, generously assigned to the WSC by S. Cal. Intergroup, and embodies much of the same material.

"You Can Sponsor A Newcomer To Al-Anon", a much-needed piece, was based on the Sponsorship Panel at the '67 WSC. From tapes of that beautifully presented session, we were enabled to do justice to this important facet of Al-Anon work.

#### **Reprinting**

"How One AA Wife Lives the Twelve Steps", revised to incorporate some excellent suggestions by a French

member, is one of our earliest pieces, but is still a powerful persuader of Al-Anon's value.

"Al-Anon Family Groups At Work" underwent substantial revision. A dictionary of terms used in Al-Anon was added, which should clear up much confusion. The section on Meeting Ideas and on Sponsorship were also expanded. This manual is now a must, not only for group officers, but for individual members who want a clear picture of what Al-Anon is and how it functions.

"What Do YOU Do About The Alcoholic's Drinking?" became the new title of our pamphlet issued as "Young Wife, Are You Worried About Your Husband's Drinking?" The WSC has proposed a change of title to one more inclusive, since the material is for anybody living with an active alcoholic.

Minor changes were also made in numerous other booklets before reprinting.

The Literature Committee is grateful for the many letters of encouragement, suggestion and experience received from members in many parts of the world, and for the valiant cooperation of everyone concerned in this branch of our work.

---

## PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

*Ellie S., Chairman, Gay G., Secretary (Staff)*

The diligent PR work being carried out by members in the field is not going unnoticed nor unrewarded. Often Al-Anons may make what they feel is a small contribution toward "carrying the message"; however, the endeavor can set off a chain reaction that enables us to reach countless numbers.

### Newspaper, Magazine, Radio & TV

Articles have appeared in newspapers throughout the world. These have taken various forms - interviews and personal stories, factual write-ups, and coverage of meetings and anniversaries. An article about Alateen, "When a Parent Drinks Too Much", (July - PARENTS) provided impetus for a 30-minute radio program. Other Alateen articles have appeared in TEEN (March), IN (June), and THE GRAPEVINE (December). ANN LANDERS' mention of our fellowship in her syndicated column, resulted in an inundation of inquiries not only from the approximately 750 individuals mentioned in the Alateen report, but also many from clergymen, teachers, counselors, etc. The N.Y. TIMES printed a story about Alateen; consequently, 4 Alateen members appeared on a CBS TV program, and the Alateen Secretary taped an interview for future use on the Betty Furness show. An Al-Anon and 2 Alateens appeared in a series of programs, "Alcoholism: Dread Disease"

### Cooperation

Mention of Al-Anon and Alateen in newsletters, bulletins and community resource pamphlets of local alcoholism councils and information centers is growing with rapidity. On the "international scene", a doctor connected with the Chilean Public Health Service and director of an alcoholism clinic, visited the WSO and obtained information and Spanish literature with the hope of forming Al-Anon groups in his country. A paper by a German doctor mentioned Al-Anon's effectiveness. Through correspondence from overseas groups, it is evident that most of them have been active in PR work. Participation in, and speaking at Summer Schools has grown to a high level. The results are more understanding of Al-Anon by profes-

sionals and a much wider area of contact with various agencies, churches, organizations, etc.

### Guidelines

Now available separately @ 5¢ a copy or as part of the "Fact File", are guidelines for starting a PR framework or implementing present ones; these are also designed to aid members in making effective contacts with professionals.

### Public Education

Correspondence to clergymen, councils and commissions on alcoholism, educators, lawyers, industry, the medical profession, social agencies, writers, students and individuals, numbered 1145. Wide acceptance of "The Dilemma of the Alcoholic Marriage" prompted the mailing of approximately 700 letters to professionals announcing the book. This resulted in literature purchases in excess of \$400, in addition to the many books ordered.

### 28th International Congress on Alcohol & Alcoholism

An innovation in Al-Anon's history has been the invitation to participate in this Congress which will be held in Washington, D. C., Sept. 15-20, 1968.

### NAAAP

The annual meeting of the North American Association of Alcoholism Programs was attended by 3 members from the WSO. NAAAP offered suggestions for furthering relations between Al-Anon and their organization, and displayed keen interest in having Al-Anon members contact NAAAP members within their states.

### Display

The new display produced for use at the International Congress and other national conventions will make an effective showcase for our CAL in its new format.

---

## ALATEEN COMMITTEE

*Rita C., Chairman; Timmy W., Secretary (Staff)*

Alateen grew tremendously during its 10th year - 195 new groups registered. Many Spanish and French groups have started. Interesting letters from overseas included some from the Durban Alateens, (Natal, So. Africa), Chingola Alateens Zambia, Africa), and the Byculla Alateens (Bombay, India).

AAs welcomed Alateen participation in their Conventions in N. Y., Texas and No. Cal. Canadian Alateens planned their own special programs at AA Conventions in Ont., B. C. and Que. The Eastern Seaboard Alateen Conference (ESAC), June 23-25 in Haverford, Pa. was attended by more than 350 persons. The S. E. Alateen Roundup met Dec. 8, 9 and 10 in Louisville, Ky.

2 Alateens from the N.Y. area spoke at the First Youth and Alcoholism Conference Aug. 21 and 22 in Lincoln, Neb. The aim of the Conference: to help teenagers living with family drinking problems and encourage their attendance at Alateen meetings.

Ann Landers' mention of Alateen twice during the year resulted in a flood of inquiries - - between 750 and 800.

3 special "appeal" letters brought gratifying response. Alateens are becoming World Service-conscious and some groups contribute regularly.

The first Washington, D.C. Alateen Group was started at the specific request of social workers. Many professional people in other areas learned about Alateen for the

first time, thus pointing up the need for more groups. We urge Al-Anons everywhere to accept their responsibility for sponsoring these Alateen Groups.

We are deeply grateful, too, for the dedicated volunteer chairmen and members who have given lengthy service on all the following committees:

Alateen	Policy
Budget	Institutions
Conference	Public Relations
Literature	Volunteers

---

### INSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEE

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

Interest in institutional Al-Anon has grown with astonishing rapidity. This uptrend in activity can be attributed to the vigorous efforts of Al-Anons in the field, and the splendid cooperation of our Delegate members. Many ideas of the Committee that were in the planning stage at Conference time last year have become realities.

In expressing our appreciation for the many hours given during 1967 to all our WSO volunteers, we cannot overlook all the Delegates who have done so much for Al-Anon as a whole.

#### New Institutional Groups

More than 1/3 of all the institutional groups registered with the WSO were formed this year. Groups were started in Ala., Cal. (4), Conn., D.C., Ia., Mass., Minn. (4), Mo. Ohio, Ore., Pa. (2), Wis. (2); Manitoba, Canada; and overseas in Australia (2), England, and Scotland. Institutional Committees have been formed in S. Cal., Ks., and Minn.

The formation of a group at Chit Chat Farms in Wernersville, Pa. was particularly encouraging, since we have been cognizant of the need to develop this practically unexplored area (sanitariums, rehabilitation centers, etc.).

#### Letter to AA Institutional Groups

With the ever present vision of reaching more families, our Committee annually sends a letter offering Al-Anon's help and guidance to friends and relative of alcoholics confined to institutions. Response to the 1400 letters mailed was overwhelming! A follow-up encouraged the responding AA groups to continue sending us referrals on a regular basis.

#### Literature Discount to Institutional Groups

Since institutional groups frequently experience a financial struggle because their membership is usually of a transient nature, a recommendation was made that an Institutional Discount Package be made available. The need for this service was evidenced by the significant increase in the registration of institutional groups. The discount is now being offered to institutional groups and sponsoring groups.

#### Guidelines for Institutional Work

The 1967 WSC provided impetus for Guidelines, which were developed. It is hoped that they will prove of assistance to the fellowship worldwide.

---

### VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE

*Evelyn C., Chairman*

There are always some faithful volunteers who are willing to give their services, time and effort at least once a month at the WSO. The miscellaneous tasks with which they assist the staff include: processing the FORUM for mailing; collating of mimeographed sheets; assembling varied packs of literature used in answering inquiries; counting literature into packs of 10s and 20s to expedite the filling of orders; and stuffing thousands of letters sent in groupwide mailings throughout the year.

---

### CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

*Penny B., Chairman; Holly C., Secretary (Staff)*

Before the plan for an Al-Anon Conference was presented to the groups in 1960 and during the formative years of the Conference, Sue, past Chairman of the Conference, worked side by side with Lois and gave of her time unselfishly and diligently. Al-Anon as a whole has been enriched by her dedicated service. This year Penny was appointed to serve as the 1968 Conference Chairman.

*Conference Committee Activities* - The Committee, which is comprised of the Conference Chairman and the Al-Anon Staff Secretaries, meets monthly, and works in close conjunction with the Delegates serving on the 4 following Sub-Committees: ADMISSIONS, AGENDA, HANDBOOK, and HOSPITALITY. The Committee arranged the many details, e.g. selecting luncheon speaker, planning menus and arranging meeting rooms at the hotel. RESPONSIBILITY was chosen as the theme for the '68 WSC, and 3 Workshops were planned.

*Handbook (Revised Oct. 1967)* - The wording and phrases have been changed for clarity, but the original procedure for conducting an Assembly has not varied since the very first Handbook. Changes in procedure occasionally necessitate revision, e.g., 3 annual appeals (Mar., July, Nov.) for contributions now cover all world-wide 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 WSC, by direct contributions to the Area Treasurer).

*Delegates' Fund* - Since the Conference was extended an additional day, it was necessary to increase contributions toward the Delegates' Fund from \$240 to \$250.

*Mailings* - The WSO made a special effort to keep Delegates well informed by sending copies of important letters. A copy of each groupwide mailing is sent to all Delegates.

*Reporting* - Annually, the WSO is faced with the mammoth task of transcribing and editing the tapes and notes of all sessions, and a complete report is prepared for the Delegates (Digest). The Summary is a condensation of that report.

---

### FORUM

By the time this reaches you, the new FORUM, hopefully, will have all the bugs ironed out of it. Even with the most intensive, careful planning, it is all but impossible to attain perfection immediately. And very possibly

that perfection will never be attained but I can promise you there will be improvements.

The most important thing in this whole new situation is our great need of more material worthy of being printed. I want never just to fill up space. Were the FORUM the size of TIME MAGAZINE, I would still want every word in it to be of some help to someone, and really what I aim at is that every word will be a lot of help to a lot of people.

Apparently this has been true in the past, if people meant what they wrote. I hope it will continue in the future. But it will only if enough members stir themselves to communicate their ideas and experiences.

It might seem repetitious to some of you for me to say that you need not be a published author to contribute excellent pieces to the FORUM. I believe I said once before, finished writers are dead writers. We are looking for live ones who need only to be able to put words on paper. It's their experiences and their ideas we need — not purple passages. Alice B. and I were talking about how diffident some people are about writing, and she said a thing which seldom leaves my mind: "If people can talk, they can write."

I believe she's right. Esther G. promised me a piece a couple of years ago and when she found difficulty writing it she didn't let it go and give up. She's a lady and keeps her word. She got over her difficulty by talking to herself in a mirror. "After all," she said to herself, "You speak at meetings. You have no difficulty saying things," so she talked her piece. Then, quick like a fox, she sat down and wrote what she'd been saying. That's several years back but letters still come in from grateful people who are using her method. I don't call it copy-catting — just being smart.

The important thing is to write — and WRITE — AND WRITE!

Panting to hear from you, I am as always,

*Margaret D., Editor*

---

### 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 Accountants, presenting the financial position of Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc. as of Dec. 31, 1967. A copy of the statement is available to any group on request.

Gross sales of books and other literature in 1967 increased by \$23,300 but, because of greater costs of production, the percentage of gross profit decreased from 66.3% in 1966 to 65% in 1967.

---

## CONFERENCE DISCUSSIONS AND DECISIONS

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

**ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE** — The WSC members accepted the Committee's recommendation to seat the Representatives from New Hampshire and the United Kingdom, each having paid a \$30 registration fee to share in the Conference expenses.

**ALATEENS** — Alateens requested that their 5th Tradition be changed inasmuch as it im-

plied that the entire family was welcome at their meetings. It now reads: "Each Alateen Group has but one purpose: to help other teenagers of alcoholics. We do this by practicing the 12 Steps of AA ourselves and by encouraging and understanding the members of our immediate family."

Post Teens, members in their late teens, are meeting separately in several areas for

Contributions during 1967 increased 25.5% which, in these days of rapidly rising costs, is certainly to be commended. During this time 60% of all groups contributed, which we believe is the best response we have ever had. We congratulate the Delegates for their yeoman work in making this possible. We hope you carry back to all your groups our grateful thanks.

All work done at the WSO has snowballed. New groups and Lone Members increased dramatically. Our cooperation with outside agencies, is now greater and involves more expense, as do all the other services.

This financial picture for 1967 looks good on paper. What is not shown is our great need of more space and more staff, a matter of great concern to the Budget Committee. We need to be able to afford both when opportunity offers.

Al-Anon never stands still — we hope it never will. The need becomes greater every day as world population grows. We thank all Delegates for what they have done to make 1967 better than 1966. We hope 1968 will be even better — it can be with your help.

---

### POLICY COMMITTEE

*Lois W., Chairman*

At quarterly meetings the Policy Committee, comprised of Chairmen of all Committees and Al-Anon Staff members, made the following decisions which it submitted for the Conference's final approval. Only those decisions are mentioned here which have not been included in other Committee Reports.

1. A group should not be called an Al-Anon or Alateen Group if its purposes are dual, such as helping the families of drug addicts.
2. Al-Anon will take no official position on "planned intervention".
3. We neither register Alateen groups nor encourage their formation.
4. When overseas AAs offer to help start Al-Anon groups we will graciously accept their aid until they can function on their own.
5. If a proposed pamphlet by an overseas group contains material other than CAL, permission will be refused to imprint WSC triangle.
6. All contributions should be general, and not earmarked for special purposes.
7. WSO does not distribute NCA material but our Delegates can cooperate with local alcoholism councils.
8. Al-Anon should begin thinking along the lines of AA's recent project — the formation of an International Committee for the establishment of service centers in other countries similar to our WSO.

discussion of their more "mature" problems. Hopefully, these Post Teens will develop into sponsors — always one of Alateens' most pressing problems.

Marcy W. (W. Tex.) gave interesting highlights on Alateens in her Area. They try to use both Al-Anon and AA co-sponsors — preferably those who had alcoholic parents.

Alateens are encouraged to conduct the meetings and do 12th Step work.

During the FORUM Session, Margaret encouraged teenagers to express their strength, hope and experience for possible inclusion in a forthcoming issue. At some future date this might also be the basis of an Alateen book.

**ASK-IT-BASKET** — The Ask-It-Basket panel consisted of Barbara N. (Utah), Jewel S. (Ill.) and Paul L. (Trustee) with very able backup from Alice B. and Henrietta S. of the WSO. Approximately 75 questions were turned in; most of them were answered in the session to which they pertained. A few of the more general questions follow:

- Q. Unfortunately, several groups have adopted undignified names which would affect the Al-Anon image as a whole (Spouses of the Souses), or names that would connote affiliation with other causes (Freedom Riders). What can be done to remedy this?
- A. *All members are asked to be mindful of the fact that Al-Anon is a serious program. Outside agencies would hesitate to send referrals to a group whose name implied frivolity. Groups were also urged to spell Al-Anon and Alateen correctly.*
- Q. Would it be possible for the WSO to inform all the Welfare Directors in the U. S. of the help available in the Al-Anon fellowship?
- A. *Responsibility for projects of this nature lies with the local Al-Anon Service Center or groups. The Fact File, available through the WSO, would serve as an excellent tool.*
- Q. How can groups that meet only once a month be encouraged to hold weekly meetings?
- A. *Experience has shown the importance of sustained study and communication. It is often difficult for a newcomer to grasp the program when there is too long a gap between meetings.*
- Q. How do you keep religion out of the meetings?
- A. *By using Conference Approved Literature as a guide, and by stressing that world-wide. Al-Anon has no religious affiliation. The program is spiritual and we should never inject any particular religion.*

Many of the questions received might well have been answered at the group or District level. Although growth in Al-Anon has no bounds, we would be keeping it limited and not fulfilling our responsibilities if Conference time was devoted to questions peculiar to the group level. The WSO is geared to increase the knowledge and inspiration of Al-Anon so that Delegates can bring back to their Districts the world-wide picture.

**BUDGET** — The 1968 Budget was reviewed and accepted. The Delegates considered the fact that operating expenses will exceed last year's by \$30,000, and they left the Conference with a promise to relay to the groups the ever increasing need for supporting the WSO.

**CIRCLE WITHIN THE TRIANGLE** — This symbol was approved for Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters' use on stationery, posters and in the new format adopted for literature.

The original emblem with the letters "AFG" appearing within the circle will be retained on all CAL.

**CONFERENCE CHARTER** — The last phrase of the Charter's introductory paragraph, "but will hold no authority over conferences in other countries", was deleted by unanimous approval by the Conference on recommendation of the Policy Committee. Later, certain countries of the world, for language or geographic considerations, may desire to establish their own headquarters and regional conference. Some guidance may be needed from the WSO in N. Y., so that the policies of the new offices will truly represent Al-Anon. The consensus was that we should not bind ourselves with the "no authority" phrase, since it might be a deterrent to overseas groups seeking assistance from the WSO.

**CONTRIBUTIONS** — Vi, Chairman of the Budget Committee, was grateful for the responsibility evidenced by the majority of the groups in their support of World Services and reminded all of the need for larger contributions from members who can afford it to compensate for the many individuals who cannot. The Conference voted unanimously to increase the limit on all personal donations and gifts from members of Al-Anon to the World Service Office (HQ) to \$200 per year and all bequests from Al-Anon members or their immediate families to \$200.

The "Birthday Plan" (\$1 per year on your Al-Anon birthday, not to exceed \$10) was suggested as a supplemental fund-raising device. It was decided to leave it up to the Areas to try to stimulate interest in the idea, keeping in mind that this would be a means for our members who no longer attend meetings on a regular basis to show their gratitude to Al-Anon.

The Delegates were alerted that fund raising by means of lottery tickets sent through the mails is illegal, a breach of a postal regulation prohibiting solicitation of money by sale of chances on a prize.

**DIRECTORY** — It was agreed not to incur the extra expense and additional detail involved in showing days of meetings, because the World Directory is a confidential list of mailing addresses and telephone contacts of Al-Anon and Alateen Groups, Loners, Intergroups and Service Centers, and does not purport to be a meeting list. Within a month of its annual publication, approximately 200 changes in group listings occur. The importance of notifying the WSO immediately of changes was stressed. The 1968 edition has two new features, an introductory page defining "The Al-Anon Group" and pointing up our Tradition of Anonymity, and a list of Al-Anon CAL on the last pages.

**FORUM** — Margaret expressed thanks for the many letters received in appreciation of the new, enlarged FORUM. The question of dropping the listing of new groups was raised, but an overwhelming majority were in favor of retaining this feature because it gives new groups a feeling of belonging, welcomes them into the fellowship and creates a sense of pride and accomplishment. The copy of the FORUM, received as a gift from the WSO every month, is intended for group use; it is the secretary's responsibility to have it available at all meetings and to make members aware of its contents. Since meetings are not

the place for private reading, each member does not have the opportunity to read the group copy. By having a special "kitty", many groups extend subscriptions to new members. Frequently members cannot afford \$2.50, so many groups pay for multiple subscriptions from the group treasury. Members can purchase a copy at 25¢, which most can manage without too much hardship. In this way the group nets 50¢ on each subscription, and has the further benefit of intensified interest in the program, stimulated by the FORUM. Since experience has shown that FORUM subscribers stay with their groups and reflect better Al-Anon thinking, the Delegates were urged to work toward a goal, "A FORUM EVERY MONTH IN EVERY MEMBER'S HANDS!"

Ark. chaired a workshop, "FORUM — Helpful Tool of the Program", in which N. M., Sask. and S. C. participated. It was suggested that the group copy be retained in a folder as reference for planning future programs. Articles can be the basis for open discussion on the slogans, Steps and Traditions. Because new and long-time members find help in identifying with the personal stories, all are encouraged to share experiences through the FORUM. The Chairman closed by saying, "F-O-R-U-M stands for Full Of Real Urgent Messages. Read it and carry the message!"

**INSTITUTIONS** — 3 Delegates on the panel chaired, by Jo, gave stirring reports of progress in institutional work in their Areas. An inspiring poem from a former inmate, expressing deep thanks for Al-Anon's help, was read by Jean of Ont., who spoke of the excellent cooperation between Al-Anon and the penal institutions in the Province. AA and Al-Anon are an integral part of all alcoholism programs in Minn., where great strides in institutions were made resulting in the formation of 6 Al-Anon institutional groups in 1967. The No. Cal. Hospitals & Institutions Committee was extremely active. A doctor from NAPA State Hospital in Cal. has requested a Marathon of Al-Anon meetings to be held from Sat. 9 A.M. to Sun. 10 P.M. Doctors, nurses, policemen, social workers, and clergymen have been invited to attend the Marathon.

**LITERATURE** — The Conference agreed on the need for a pamphlet interpreting anonymity. It would include the dangers of gossiping, mentioning names when speaking and visitors at meetings who imperil anonymity. Alice said that she will not begin work until such time as enough material has been gathered from members to implement the project.

A future undertaking will be preparation of an index referring members to the appropriate Conference Approved leaflet or Al-Anon book containing the answer to a specific problem.

The consensus was that the most useful pieces for newcomers are: "This Is Al-Anon", "A Guide for the Family of the Alcoholic", "Purposes and Suggestions", and "So You Love an Alcoholic".

**1970 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION (35th AA Anniversary)** Miami, Fla. - July 3-5 — The Conference enthusiastically accepted AA's kind invitation to participate in the Al-Anon activities scheduled for this event, at which time another Al-Anon book called THE BEST OF MARGARET (excerpts from the FORUM) will be introduced.



**NOMINATING COMMITTEE—Wanda R., Chairman** — The slate of officers to serve on the Al-Anon Family Group HQ Board of Trustees was presented and accepted unanimously.

**OPEN AND CLOSED MEETINGS** — The Conference unanimously approved the following Policy Committee statement: "Open meetings are for anyone interested in alcoholism. Closed meetings are for regular Al-Anon members only, those whose personal lives are, or have been, deeply affected by close contact with a problem drinker." Hopefully this will clarify the age-old question as to "Who is eligible to attend Al-Anon meetings?"

**PUBLIC RELATIONS** — The WSO was apprised of Al-Anon's role in the 28th International Congress on Alcohol and Alcoholism, and the research involved in preparing our presentation. The information gathered through world-wide research provided impetus for the development of "Health Agencies Guidelines". Future plans of the Committee were outlined, e.g., revision of the "Fact File", and preparation of inexpensive posters and additional guidelines. The Milwaukee Al-Anons are participating in the monthly meetings of the new Inter-Agency Coordinating Committee which was formed to further understand the functions and purposes of each agency; how they might help the alcoholic and his family in the community; and how they might help each other in their common field of alcohol problems.

2 PR Workshops were held, "Responsibilities for Public Information" (Trustee, Conn., Man., Minn., and Ohio) and "Speaking to Outside Agencies" (Ore., Texas (E), Nev., and N. D.), out of which many excellent suggestions evolved: 1) the importance of being conversant with the information in the "Fact File"; 2) the necessity of emphasizing anonymity by stating the 11th and 12th Traditions; 3) utilizing members cognizant of Al-Anon philosophy and Traditions for speaking engagements; 4) effectiveness of combination talks with AA members; 5) necessity for reviewing all articles prior to publication; 6) reaching more professionals through their own channels (meetings, journals, etc.); 7) the importance of brevity; 8) relating the me-

chanics of our fellowship, and providing ample time for question and answer period; 9) being alert for any article pertaining to alcoholism since it might be a prelude to Al-Anon coverage. A concise report of the concentrated efforts of one Minn. group during "Alcoholism Information Week" was given. Excellent radio and press coverage was planned well in advance. The community felt the impact of the project. In keeping with the theme of the Conference, the panel members particularly stressed the RESPONSIBILITY of all members to "carry the message" outside of Al-Anon.

**REGIONAL TRUSTEES** — The 1968 WSO approved adoption of a 3-Year Experimental Plan for Regional Trustees. The Conference carefully considered the expense involved in initiating the plan. Since the venture will be financed entirely by the WSO General Fund, it will be costly in monetary terms. It will also require many valuable hours of staff time to coordinate the ensuing details. However, the Trustees felt it was of sufficient importance to have representative "grass-roots" opinions to guide their deliberations.

During the experimental period, one Regional Trustee to serve for a 3-year term will be added annually as follows:

1969 — U. S. Western Region (All Assembly Areas west of the Mississippi River)

1970 — Canadian Region (E. or W. to be drawn by lot — West- B. C., Sask., Alberta, Manitoba, East- Ont., Que., Atlantic Provinces)

1971 — U. S. Eastern Region

As a Region becomes eligible, the Delegate/Chairman, having been notified by the WSO, will in turn alert all the groups in his/her Assembly Area.

**TWELVE CONCEPTS OF SERVICE** — In the early days of AA's General Service Office, Bill recognized the need for guidelines for service. He spent several years developing the 12 Concepts of Service which became AA's 3rd Legacy, the first being the Steps, and the second, the Traditions.

Work has begun on adapting AA's Concepts for Al-Anon's service structure. These concepts would help guide the interrelationship of all service functions to assure that they would be as democratic and efficient as possible. After Lois presented the Introductory Chapter, the Conference unanimously approved the project.

**TRANSLATIONS** — A growing list of foreign language publications of Al-Anon CAL includes a wide assortment in French (available through the Montreal Literature Committee); 5 Finnish pamphlets; 2 Swedish; 3 in Japanese; and 4 Spanish pieces, with our basic book now in production in Spanish. A substantial pamphlet is soon to augment the 2 present German items. Where the publishing has been done overseas, our policy of requesting the opportunity to review translations before extending permission to reprint has been consistently observed to assure that the Al-Anon program will be universally interpreted in the same way.

**UNDERSTANDING THE HANDBOOK** — A panel type meeting, chaired by Ruth R., Neb., included Delegates from Calif. (S), Maine, and Mich. The Handbook now seems to be generally accepted by the States and Provinces participating in the Conference. 16 Areas are following the Handbook in its entirety, and, consequently, are functioning with fewer problems. It is recommended that in large geographic areas with scattered groups, study sessions, perhaps involving 2 or 3 members at first, be initiated. Eventually, it would prove helpful to form Handbook Committees. Constant referral to the Handbook serves as insurance against future problems in the structure of Al-Anon World Service. It is suggested that Assembly members have only World Service as their primary Al-Anon interest. Otherwise, if they are heavily engaged in local or Intergroup activities, their interest may be divided. These 2 efforts should remain separate and distinct, but well informed about each other. Committeemen are asked to educate the GRs in the use of the Handbook.

---

## REPRESENTATIVE FROM UNITED KINGDOM CENTRAL SERVICES

Dorothy H. brought with her greetings from the Channel Islands, Eire, England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. She expressed their gratitude to the WSO for wonderful help always given so willingly.

She told of the slow growth of Al-Anon abroad and felt that perhaps this was due to differences in accepted practices. In her homeland women do not enjoy the freedom they have here. Groups are far behind on structure, she said, but the FORUM does much to inform and unify the groups with the rest of world Al-Anon.

Al-Anon has been invited to provide a speaker at AA's open meeting as well as at a closed meeting at AA's Mini-Conventions.

One radio talk last year produced 30 inquiries and this year when England and Wales celebrated their 21st AA Anniversary, Al-Anon took part in a broadcast which had a fine response. Open meetings, both AA and Al-Anon, are attracting more and more outside agencies, resulting in speakers being invited to prisons, schools, colleges, clergy groups, etc. There is a noticeable increase in letters to the newspapers about alcoholism.

In closing, Dorothy reiterated her profound thanks to those in the U. S. who started Al-Anon and "made it possible for us to benefit from it." Bearing out the theme of the Conference, "Responsibility", she said: "I am responsible for passing on to all the members of Al-Anon in the U. K. and Eire all that I have learned and experienced at this Conference."

## OUTGOING DELEGATES' REPORTS

1. The ideas Ruth brought back to ARKANSAS from the WSC and put into practice strengthened their State structure and resulted in an increase in the number of groups and contributions to the WSO. The Delegate's reports were given at annual all day meetings, where much good Al-Anon fellowship flavored the pot luck lunches. She felt blessed and grateful to have met Lois, Bill and all the WSO members.

2. Planned action, pioneering and patience activated Sylvia to increase CONNECTICUT'S 6 Districts to 8, to urge all groups to be represented by a GR and an alternate, and all Districts to elect alternate Committeemen. Stressing the dialogue of service made the Handbook come alive. The State Committee met monthly, and more frequent communication was facilitated through recent publication of a state directory of service-connected members. The literature was dramatized at 2 separate Assemblies, once in the form of a play on the 12 Steps, and the next year on the 12 Traditions. Every group treasurer, secretary and GR was given a small index card with information of due dates of contributions to the WSO and State. "Dear Editor" letters, signed "name withheld" appeared in various newspapers about every 6 weeks - a personal story with referral to one of the 6 24-hour telephone answering services supported by a collective number of groups in each locality. Other highlights of the breathtaking PR activity were the Delegate's talks to 450 teaching nuns on retreat and to Senior Assemblies of Guidance Counselors. She participated with industry, clergy and AA in monthly meetings of a Chamber of Commerce project, "Industry's Biggest Cover Up." A state meeting schedule, published twice a year, went free to groups and outside agencies. Institutional Groups and Alateens grew, the latter to 11 active groups with Sponsors meeting monthly with a co-ordinator. Serving Al-Anon in her state was painted as a tremendous opportunity for many rather than a few, so that the feeling of belonging came early to the newcomer. Sylvia hoped that her gratitude for all at the WSO for the rich tools of recovery would continue to be expressed in close working relationships in the growth of World Service and confidence in new ventures.

3. Since its first Assembly 6 years ago, IOWA grew from 23 to 45 groups, with greater contributions despite the few groups still disinterested in World Service. Sarah served on the County Alcoholism Commission and Mental Health Steering Committee, and helped establish Al-Anon groups in State Mental Health Hospitals, as well as a group for 4 new AAs' spouses, 2 men and 2 women, which has grown to 15 members. Al-Anons appeared on TV and radio programs frequently. Sarah shared the program at an area AA Convention with Jewel of Illinois, met the former Delegate from the same state at another Convention and planned to attend the Nebraska June Convention at that Delegate's invitation. She hoped to cross the paths of many others in her travels before meeting all again in Florida in 1970.

4. A written report of each WSC sent to all Districts preceded Elsie's verbal report to an Assembly held soon after her return to LOUISIANA. Particular emphasis was placed on the use of CAL and the importance of contributions to the WSO. The groups grew to 47 and the Districts to 5, with 4 annual Assemblies. Excellent Public Relations efforts included much cooperation with outside agencies, such as Al-Anon's participation in the program

for the Religious and Medical Professions sponsored by The Greater New Orleans Committee on Alcoholism. Elsie thanked the Conference members for all she had learned while Delegate, which she tried to pass on to those at home.

5. Because she represented so few groups, before her first WSC, Phyllis felt totally inadequate personally and thought that MAINE would have very little experience or strength to share. She soon learned that she was one among many and that through the sharing at the WSC, all gain in understanding, knowledge and the ability to grow. GRs grew by using the Handbook, developing ability to help others understand it. Each member was made to feel an integral part of World Service, which created willingness and responsibility in the groups. Individual dedication fostered growth of Alateen and greater involvement in PR projects. Among these were Al-Anon cooperation with Public Health Offices of Alcoholic Rehabilitation and participation in a program for the State Association of Medical Assistants - an entree to more doctors' offices. A few unintentional breaks in Traditions provided opportunities to review them, making groups far more aware of using Traditions to gain harmony. Annual picnics and occasional "Altogethers" nurtured the respect and cooperation of AA. In possibly the most "disorganized area of this disorganized organization", the last 3 years were productive ones in which Maine grew in World Service.

6. MISSOURI spent 2 years educating Al-Anons on our structure and why it exists. The effort to identify willing and able leaders resulted in newly-elected Committeemen who share the heavy responsibility of carrying the service message. Members were encouraged to visit Al-Anon events outside the state to gain fresh views and ideas to replace futile concepts and attitudes. Al-Anon has emerged as a respectable fellowship, independent of AA, with the following results: (a) no Al-Anon business meetings at AA conventions; (b) regular Al-Anon District meetings plus Area Assemblies and Roundups; (c) carefully planned Area budgets and increased contributions to WSO; (d) almost universal adherence to using only CAL; and (e) a wide and happy road on which Al-Anons walk erect. Bob planned to devote the last year of his term to trying to replace trusted servants with knowledgeable leaders.

7. While growing from 19 groups in 1964 to 31+ groups today, NEBRASKA developed a completely organized State structure by following the Handbook to the letter, with a State Committee working in unison. Ruth reported that CAL has 100% acceptance. Renewed interest in Alateens all over the State was sparked by the 2-day "Youth and Alcoholism Conference" sponsored by the Lincoln Council on Alcoholism, University of Nebraska and Lincoln Action Group. Al-Anon has been given a full evening every 3 months at the State Hospital Alcoholism ward. The length of hospitalization being a compulsory 90 days, all patients are reached. Male members approached the Warden at the Men's State Pen, where they have a strict ruling - "no women"; to permit regular Al-Anon meetings.

8. Evaluating Al-Anon's usefulness during her 2-year term as Delegate in the light of the 5th Tradition: "Al-Anon has but one purpose - to help the families of alcoholics", Margie felt that the increase in meetings in southern NEVADA and the new Intergroup had assured the helping hand of Al-Anon to continue to be extended to families of alcoholics. Born of a need for funds for Al-

Anon's participation in the first southern Nevada Round-up and the Intergroup, a monthly Al-Anon dinner helped to fulfill this "one" purpose by bringing the families together socially and making the newcomer feel truly a part of the fellowship. A good PR Committee informed the public about the help available to the families affected by the cunning and baffling disease of alcoholism. Much remains undone in the State, but rotating the Delegate from north to south, as AA does, should improve communication between the two sections.

9. In 1966, Ann came to the WSC a little frightened, kept her mouth shut and listened. Afterwards in reporting personally to all of NEW MEXICO'S 20 groups, she described the WSO members as people not just names, and stressed the use of CAL and study of the 12 Traditions. In 1967, she was not frightened but apprehensive about how she could better the groups' understanding of the WSC. Referring to the many listings of groups outside the U. S. in the World Directory, helped her make the 24 groups to whom she reported realize they belonged to a worldwide fellowship in which unity, service and contributions will always be important. In 1968, though sad it was her last year, she knew that every ending is followed by another beginning. She planned to do her best to carry the message, because as long as there is alcohol there will be alcoholics and affected families.

10. When Audrey asked the Provincial Committee what they considered the biggest thing in SASKATCHEWAN Al-Anon had been during her term, the answer was: "Optimism!" The doubling of contributions to the WSO in 2 years and generous support of all Assembly expenses stemmed from more knowledge about World Service. Enormous interest was stimulated by opening the 2 annual Assemblies to all members and the 4 yearly Committee meetings to all GRs, as well as by the monthly newsletter. Members became more willing to "carry the message" to outside agencies. Excellent relations were developed with the clergy and the Alcoholism Bureau, and Al-Anons were encouraged to establish Institutional groups. As Al-Anon continued to emerge as an entity separate from AA, the groups were working toward an Al-Anon Day of meetings and workshops. With a heart full of gratitude for the opportunity to serve and grow and what she personally and the whole Province had gained from the WSC, the Delegate hoped they could now start "giving" and not only "taking."

11. SOUTH CAROLINA started using the Handbook when Julia became Delegate. This stimulated far better attendance at quarterly Assemblies, unified the groups and attracted more members. She stressed cooperation with local Alcoholism Committees, herself serving a year on the Board of Directors of the Alcoholism Council in her home town and working closely with the Director of

the State Commission on Alcoholism. Our books appeared on a TV program on which she and the State Chairman explained Al-Anon's purposes. Cooperation with the counselor on Alcoholism at the Department of Corrections led to contact of inmates' families. A State Speakers' Roster was compiled to fill invitations from student nurses, their instructors, church groups and other outside agencies. Al-Anon's inclusion on the program of the past 4 annual AA Conventions engendered better understanding of Al-Anon among AAs. Al-Anons were frequently invited to speak at open AA meetings - almost unheard of a few years ago. CAL has been in general use. Knowledge of the WSC and the need to support it and the WSO grew. Service as Delegate proved a most rewarding experience, in which she gained much insight and inspiration.

12. During Marguerite's term, SOUTH DAKOTA Districts met at least once or twice a year, and a WSC Committee was established. Statewide unity was evidenced by better attendance at the spring and fall Assemblies. CAL is used everywhere and many groups donated books to libraries and schools. The newsletter, Tele-A-Non, grew in popularity, with 800 monthly copies distributed. Regular Saturday meetings at the Yankton State Hospital were the responsibility of a group other than the local one. Al-Anon was also active at the Fort Meade Veterans Center; in the seminar on Alcoholism at the U. of S.D; at an Alumni Convention for alcoholics at the State Rehabilitation Center; and in panel discussions at many high schools and colleges. A previous Delegate served on an Alcoholism Council at Sioux Falls. Attendance at the WSC was an unforgettable experience, which gave Marguerite the strength and courage to know herself and find a purpose in life.

13. UTAH recently developed 8 Districts, presaging future harmony and unity among the groups separated by many miles. The 2-year-old Intergroup functioned smoothly, and CAL improved the quality of the sharing, learning and study at meetings. Al-Anons were the "first and only" outside women allowed in the maximum security division at the State Prison. The growing PR activity included frequent invitations from the State Health Program in the public schools and from private religious classes; public acclaim for outstanding work in the disease of alcoholism by the U. of Utah School of Alcohol Studies (enrollment of over 700), where Al-Anon participated in the "open public" meeting; participation in seminars at other State universities; and excellent cooperation with the Utah Alcoholism Foundation. An example of fine relations between AA and Al-Anon, benefiting both fellowships, was Al-Anon's support, both financial and in volunteer service, of the new AA Central Office in Salt Lake City in an hour of mixed emotions, Barbara knew that she would forever keep the treasures and pleasures of serving as Delegate in her "Golden Memory Book".

*Prepared by  
Conference Committee  
Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters  
P. O. Box 182, Madison SQ. Sta.  
N. Y., N. Y. 10010, U. S. A.*