Dear Friends in Al-Anon:

"Practice These Principles" was the theme of the 9th Al-Anon World Service Conference held at the George Washington Hotel in N.Y.C., April 22-26. The love expressed, the enthusiasm and the constructive thinking of the members revealed their splendid and dedicated preparation for this Conference, in accordance with the practice of these principles.

51 Delegates from the U.S. and Canada, one Representative from the U.K. and Eire, Al-Anon Trustees, the devoted staff of the Al-Anon World Service Office, and 2 outstanding guest speakers contributed to the success of this memorable event.

At the opening dinner on Tuesday, Lois W. was never more radiant than when she extended her gracious welcome to the Delegates. She expressed Bill's deep regret at being unable to be with us because of a recent fall from a ladder, from which he has since recovered. Charlie M., an AA Trustee and one of the AA dinner guests, graciously filled in as a speaker at the last moment, bringing us a warm, sincere message. At the banquet, the Panel 9 Al-Anon Delegates stood up as they were introduced, giving their names and the Areas they represented.

The opening session was called to order at 9 P.M. by the Conference Chairman and every Conference member answered the first roll call. The Chairman then introduced Wanda R., Chairman of the Board of Trustees, who briefly outlined this year's activities at the WSO and read Al-Anon's Twelve Traditions.

On Sunday and Monday, preceding the Conference, the members of a Hospitality Committee were at the hotel to welcome every delegate upon arrival. During the rest of the week, the sound of happy voices filled the air in the hospitality room during every free moment. This important function was directed by Myrna H. of the WSO staff, assisted by many volunteers. A very interesting map on display, prepared by the PR Committee, showed the great number of Al-Anon Groups throughout the world, compared with a similar map drawn in 1955.

Wednesday morning Lois thrilled us with her reminiscence of early days in Al-Anon, telling how she and Anne B. started a little office upstairs at Stepping Stones, 87 people, who had written to AA making inquiries and wanting to register, either as groups or individuals, were sent acknowledgments and 50 replied and registered. Growth was so rapid that in 1951 they took an upstairs room at the Old 24th St. Clubhouse in N.Y.C. Lois mentioned that Henrietta, Sue, Margaret, Evelyn, Wanda and sometimes Mary, had "been in on it from the start" and added: "They were a tremendously dedicated and wonderful group of volunteers." She alluded to the immeasurable help Henrietta had been all through the years and spoke of how she organized this service of ours so well, so efficiently and so beautifully that today we continue to grow steadily.

Lois asked Margaret to join in remembering these past events. She told of Lois driving down to Westchester on Tuesdays to pick up her and her typewriter and then stopping to pick up Anne and her typewriter to go to their office for the day. Margaret recalled how imperative frugality was at that time. She said, "Lois even saved Bill's shirt boards to be used for packaging. At the end of each day Lois would comment: 'Well, we did a good day's work!' " The prodigious task of establishing our first office and answering the growing number of letters was accomplished, despite the lack of personnel. Lois concluded with, "I hope we'll always remember our early Al-Anon beginnings."

During the "Delegates Only" meeting Wednesday evening, the WSO Conference members held a capsule meeting in another room to review the action of the day and determine how to make this a fine Conference.

After luncheon on Thursday, Dr. Stanley Gitlow, Associate Clinical Professor of Medicine, Mt. Sinai Medical School and N.Y. Medical College, gave a most enlightening talk on "Alcoholism, the Family Disease," stressing with graphic illustration, the progression of this bilateral disease, which creates a mutually destructive relationship in the family. He strongly urged that: (1) Spouses of the alcoholic go to Al-Anon and (2) show their affection in a strange way that no alcoholic would ever ask of them - stop drinking." Noting the rapid increase in the number of cases of alcoholism, he said: "We are in the middle of an epidemic." He believes that the alcoholic has a vendetta toward the person closest to him, usually the spouse. Wherever possible, he advocated that Al-Anons should get their alcoholics into a general hospital for treatment. As lay supporters of our hospitals, we and not a medical board, should say who will be admitted to our hospitals.

An innovation this year was the programming of a "Humorous Awards" event on Friday night. Each outgoing Delegate was given an "appropriate award", presented with impromptu comments by the Conference Chairman while the room filled with hilarious laughter and applause.

The Conference closed officially at noon on Saturday after an inspiring spiritual meeting, featuring 3 speakers, a member of the Executive Committee, a 2nd-year Delegate and a 1st-year Delegate. At 3 P.M. busses took Conference members and their spouses to Stepping Stones, the lovely home of Bill and Lois W. in Bedford Hills, N.Y. to enjoy a delectable tea and later be returned to the hotel.

We hope that you will carry this Conference Summary with its condensed reports and highlights to your groups for discussion, so that all may have a clear picture of our WSC.

May we go forward firm in our faith and steadfast in our principles.

Penny B., Conference Chairman
WORLD SERVICE OFFICE REPORTS

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc.
Wanda R., President

I welcome you all to the 1969 World Service Conference. It is with enthusiasm we look forward each spring to our annual meeting with the WS Delegates as a time of stimulation and mutual education.

Under the continued guidance of Lois W. and other long-time members, the WSO has continued to expand its objective of serving and communicating with Al-Anon groups worldwide. The end of 1968 found us approaching 5,000 groups (including almost 600 Alateen) after the busiest and most productive year ever.

Despite severe handicap in lack of adequate space and personnel, our WSO staff maintained a high degree of accomplishment throughout the year. Ever-increasing requirements of groups and individuals were accompanied by more work handled by staff and volunteers due to the move into Regional Trustees, many hours devoted by Lois and others to Al-Anon's 12 Concepts, and to planning for our participation in the International AA Convention to be held in Miami Beach, Fla., July 27-30.

You are sure to find the following reports interesting and informative. These will be explored further during the Conference to insure that during the coming year your WSO will be fulfilling its commitment to the members of Al-Anon and carrying the message of the miracle of AA and Al-Anon to others.

While all Committees reported significant achievements this year, the contribution of the Literature Committee through publication of ONE DAY AT A TIME and in the increasing professionalism of our literature is especially deserving of recognition. A new book is planned for distribution at the 1970 AA Convention. Another milestone last year was our participation in the 28th International Congress on Alcoholism.

Because the success of this Conference is so vital to Al-Anon, I hope you will devote your time and attention to the many important items on the agenda. However, it is also an opportunity for us all to become better acquainted and we hope you will find it a time of enjoyment and pleasant experiences.

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 finance, staffing the office, improvement of group services and those to individuals, and for publishing and distributing Conference Approved books and pamphlets.

Personnel
The General Secretary, who is also Secretary of the Board of Trustees, handles routine administration with the aid of the Executive Committee, 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. Employment and supervision of business personnel, those in Publications, Shipping, Group Records, FORUM subscriptions, Bookkeeping and Finance, are the function of the Office Supervisor, with the approval of the General Secretary. Seventeen employees, some of them part-time, comprised the WSO paid members in 1968.

The cooperation of the staff with each other and with committee chairmen and other volunteers at the office during 1968 was an essential ingredient of the successful accomplishment of the increased volume of work. All willingly helped in other departments when the need arose and their own assignments permitted. As in the past, all volunteer committee members were an inspiration to the staff, not only in initiating new projects, but in the many hours given to bring them to effective conclusion.

Publications
ONE DAY AT A TIME IN AL-ANON was received with overwhelming enthusiasm, when it finally came off the press in late September. Several very capable volunteer packers expedited shipment of the backlog of advance orders. By year's end, 16,732 copies had been distributed. 3,979 copies of our basic book, LIVING WITH AN ALCOHOLIC, were shipped, of which 106 were complimentary to newly formed overseas groups. Sales of Al-Anon Faces ALCOHOLISM dropped to 2,692 vs. 3,128 in 1967. Distribution of THE DILEMMA OF THE ALCOHOLIC MARRIAGE totaled 4,614 copies, or a bit more than ¼ the number shipped the previous year when first published. Nevertheless, the gross revenue from both sales jumped $33,000 over 1967, due wholly to the popularity of ODAT. The 26% increase in sales of other literature resulted from the more attractive format, increased in groups, adherence to the principle of using only CAI at group meetings and more substantial sales to professionals and outside agencies.

58,500, pieces of free literature, an increase of 24% over last year, were distributed to proposed groups, individuals and PR contacts. Each registered group received a sample copy of three pieces, "Al-Anon-Family Treatment Tool", "Why Is Al-Anon Anonymous?" and the revised "Guide For Alateen Sponsors".

Mailing and Mimeographing
The 33% increase in postage and shipping expenses to $15,667 resulted from higher postage, more orders and greater volume of correspondence. Over 1,000 letters were mailed, and 3,595 packages shipped. The 287,000 sheets of mimeography which were processed included the WS Handbook, Delegates' Brochure, Conference Review, supplementary literature on our price list, form letters and miscellaneous items for all departments.

Forums
114,853 FORUMS were mailed, 11% more than in 1967. More groups were added to the mailing list for a free copy and total subscriptions increased 10%, comparing at year's end with 1967 as follows:

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<th>1967</th>
<th>1968</th>
<th>Increase</th>
<th>Decrease</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Multiple</td>
<td>2,486</td>
<td>2,322</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>164</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual</td>
<td>2,768</td>
<td>3,455</td>
<td>687</td>
<td>523</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>5,254</td>
<td>5,777</td>
<td>523</td>
<td>164</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Bookkeeping
Total cash receipts in 1968 were more than $290,000, a gain of 34% over 1967. Our one bookkeeper, who doubles as Office Supervisor, competently handled the greater volume in daily entries and bank deposits, prepared payroll and tax returns, handled accounts receivables and payables, administered the employees' Severance Fund, prepared the quarterly financial statements and kept the general books.

Group Records
Computerizing the mailing list reduced staff time needed to update office records. Every effort was made to compile the most current data. All groups out of touch for over a year were asked to advise us of their present status. A 'last call for 1969 World Directory' notice went to non-responding groups and to proposed groups slow to register. On the mailing list as of December 31, 1968 were:

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<table>
<thead>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Al-Anon Groups</td>
<td>3,761</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alateen Groups</td>
<td>595</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Groups</td>
<td>4,356</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
English Al-Anon Overseas

Many letters exchanged with English speaking Al-Anon overseas concerned new groups and changes in records. Other matters worthy of note were:

United Kingdom & Eire — A shoot for welfare workers sent by their literature sub-committee was approved with revision before being produced by them in mimeography. Permission to reprint was extended for 7 pieces of CAL and file copies subsequently forwarded to the WSO. Al-Anon's participation (a first) in late spring at the Durban Scottish AA Convention inspired formation of new groups in Ailes, Inverness, Longden and 3rd group in Glasgow.

Australia — An excellent leaflet, "What Is Al-Anon?", published and supplied free to groups by the Coordinating Committee on Alcoholism, Brisbane, was forwarded by a local group. By mid-year, the Brisbane, Queensland intergroup had grown into a state service center and subsequently announced publication of a monthly newsletter. Western Australia also registered a Central Services, in Perth. Victorian C.S. opened an office in Melbourne and planned an annual state Al-Anon Anniversary. Other correspondence related to a proposed Al-Anon Australian Conference, tentatively to be held in Sydney, New South Wales, in 1970.

Meeting With AA GSO Members

Among the many matters of mutual concern discussed at a very fruitful and pleasant meeting in early December of the AA General Manager and a few staff secretaries of AA GSO with Al-Anon WSO members, were the following:

a. Contributions From AA Conferences & Conventions

The matter of Al-Anon WSO accepting contributions from AA Convention Committees would be further explored by the Al-Anon Policy Committee and 1969 WSO.

b. Joint Central Offices and Intergroups

It was clarified that if Al-Anon is approached for its opinion on the wisdom of a joint facility with AA or an outside professional agency, its policy is to discourage it. In most places where Al-Anon may once have had desk space in an AA Central Office, a separate Al-Anon intergroup has since evolved. The overseas groups which sought our guidance established separate Al-Anon C.S.C.'s from the start.

c. Regional Trustees

AA's experience in indoctrinating RTs was willingly shared to help guide Al-Anon in this new undertaking. Though AA leaves the seat vacant upon resignation or death of a RT until another election can be held in the region, Al-Anon expects to provide for election of an Alternate RT simultaneously at the 1969 WSO to serve out any unexpired term.

d. Aleteens

AA agreed that it might prove useful to have an occasional brief item explaining that Aleteen is a junior segment of Al-Anon, printed in its bulletin, BOX 4-5-9, for the information of AA members who are confused as to whose function it is to service Aleteen groups.

FRENCH LITERATURE COMMITTEE

Alberte C., Chairman

The Montreal French Literature Committee is the agent of the WSO in the translation, production and distribution of the FORUM and CAL and services all French groups in both Canada and overseas. During 1968 serious personal problems of both the Chairman and Translator (Harriet) and moving the office to more convenient premises drastically affected its functions, further hampered by a Canadian mail strike of more than a month's duration.

The new enlarged FORUM and huge raise in postal rates put a financial strain on the Committee, but it nevertheless took a big step forward in printing the French version in a format similar to the English original. The FLC hoped to catch up with the 1968

Al-Anon Loners ......................... 147
Alateen Loners ......................... 24
Total Loners ........................... 201
Total Registrations ..................... 4,537

Returned mail from many groups that failed to notify the WSO of change of address or forgot to pay P.O. box rent was increasingly costly, because of the 10¢ charge on each return and in correspondence required to verify each change.

Group Services

In 1968, the WSO served over 4,500 groups and Loners in the U.S., Canada and 52 other countries. Each English-speaking proposed group received a welcoming letter, free literature and current FORUM. After registering, each was mailed a copy of "Al-Anon Family Groups at Work", a free monthly FORUM, the current Directory, and those in a Conference Area get a World Service Handbook. Loners also received the FORUM, Directory and free literature. ALATEEN TALK went quarterly to all Alateen Groups and Loners and AL-ANON EN ACCION monthly to the Spanish Groups. All new English-speaking groups overseas got a complimentary copy of LIVING WITH AN ALCOHOLIC.

5 groupwide mailings accounted for 21,900 of the over 51,000 letters mailed. The balance included communications referred to in Committee reports; replies to individuals seeking help, with referral to the nearest group; business correspondence; and guidance to overseas service centers. Highlights of answers to group queries covered explanation of why the tri-annual contribution appeals have replaced the semi-annual ones; outline of our policy re: joint AA-Al-Anon Groups that applied for registrations, the advisability of restricting money raising projects to within the group; retreat sponsorship; information on skits, newcomer's classes and tapes; suggestions on the use of CAL as an aid to better programs; and many relating to personality problems as a deterrent to group unity and growth.

Foreign Language Al-Anon

Some of the highlights of the exciting growth of non-English speaking Al-Anon other than French were:

Publication, in August, of a Spanish paperbound edition of our basic book, VIVIENDO CON UN ALCOHOLICO. 2 price lists of Spanish material to include the book, in line with our dual pricing policy (at a reduction outside the U.S. & Canada), were distributed to Spanish groups. Subsequently, the price overseas was further reduced to $1.00, because the difference in currency values prevented purchase of this much needed book in any quantity. Though Mimi H., who so capably chaired the Spanish Committee for some time, had to resign in mid-year, there was a steady flow of correspondence handled by another Spanish volunteer, Cecilia W., resulting in a year of growth for Spanish Al-Anon. 49 additional groups were added to the roster, with year end registrations totaling 160 Al-Anon Groups, 6 Alateen and 4 Loners. The most dramatic increase in groups occurred in Mexico and El Salvador, where thought is being given to the formation of Al-Anon Central Services for their respective countries.

Initiation in October of a new German Al-Anon magazine produced in Chur, Switzerland, “Mitelnander/Fremdlingen”, and an upsurge in new German-speaking groups in December, with 5 new ones formed in various cities in Germany. A member, who had lived in England for many years, moved back to her native Switzerland, where she started a group in Bern, and 2 other German-Swiss groups registered in Lucel and St. Gallen.

Addition to our Finnish CAL, OF THE DILEMMA OF THE ALCOHOLIC MARRIAGE in pamphlet form produced by the Al-Anon Kustannus r.y. in Helsinki. Translations of LIVING WITH AN ALCOHOLIC and "Youth and the Alcoholic Parent" were approved here.

"Unias", published monthly by South Africa's Al-Anon General Service, printed many articles in Afrikaans and reported establishment of a translation fund for literature in that language.
issues on which it was backlogged by sending a past month's issue with each current 1969 edition until all had been made up.

Because of the increased size of the FORUM, Harriet is now primarily limited to its translation and that of WSO communications to the groups, but assists the Chairman in other tasks. Translation of LIVING WITH AN ALCOHOLIC and pamphlets are now being done by volunteers. "It's a Teen-Aged Affair", "Al-Anon. You and the Alcoholic" and an excerpt of "For Teen-Agers" have been submitted for revision. "Al-Anon at Work" has been revised and about to be sent to the WSO for final approval. 2 leaflets, "Purposes & Suggestions" and "Just For Today", were added to the printed list, instead of being mimeographed.

During 1968, 177 groups were served by the FLC. This included 3 Inter-groups, 6 Colonies and 28 Alateen groups throughout Quebec, New Brunswick, Ontario, Belgium, France and Switzerland. 574 parcels, 1034 letters and 39 new group packages were mailed. About 110,000 sheets were mimeographed.

**LITERATURE COMMITTEE**

**Alice B., Chairman**

One Day at a Time in Al-Anon

As in 1967, the most absorbing task of the past year was our book of daily readings, ODAT. We had hoped to have it completed in time for the 1968 WSO, but that was not possible. The great burden of reading, editing and correcting over the past 2 years was borne by the 8 Delegate members who worked on the project since its earliest days. Revision and organizing continued until June 1st when completed manuscript was sent to the printer. Promised, in writing, to have books ready on or before Sept. 1st. But due to unforeseen delays, the first shipment did not arrive until Sept. 30th. The original edition was so depleted by mid-December that a second printing was ordered.

**Book Revisions**

Our basic book, LIVING WITH AN ALCOHOLIC, needed a considerable amount of revision; our second book, AL-ANON FACES ALCOHOLISM, needed only minor changes to prepare it for its second printing. Both are now off the press in plentiful supply.

**Alateen**

"A Guide for Sponsors of Alateen Groups" was substantially revised.

"Step-4 Inventory for Alateens." An enterprising group in Stamford, Conn., devised an excellent inventory which was so good that we asked for - and of course received - permission to share it. Now included in our price list, it is being enthusiastically used by many Alateen groups.

**Revisions**

"Al-Anon Family Groups at Work." Our comprehensive basic manual again needed revising for its new printing early in 1968 to bring it up-to-date and incorporate new ideas and procedures made necessary by Al-Anon's growth. This manual should certainly be in the hands of every group officer and every member should be familiar with its contents.

"Whys and Wherefores." Minor changes had to be made before reprinting this leaflet which explains the functions of our WSO.

"Homeward Bound." This booklet of hope and encouragement for the families of alcoholics in hospitals and institutions was rewritten to include more basic facts about the Al-Anon fellowship.

**New Items**

"Why is Al-Anon Anonymous?" Suggested by the 1966 WSC, this booklet finally appeared near year's end. Sample copies were sent as usual to all groups, and the heavy response shows there was a real need for some strong words on the subject of anonymity and gossip.

"Price List." We have a NEW price list. Many felt that merely listing our literature by title did not give enough information to help groups order precisely the material they needed. The price list now includes individual descriptions of each piece of literature, keyed to the list on the detachable order blank. Our thanks to AA whose descriptive price list provided guidance in this undertaking.

**ALATEEN COMMITTEE**

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

Growth of Alateen continued at an amazing rate - 248 new groups registered during 1968 - 50 more than in 1967.

Alateens carried the message effectively in a variety of places - to inmates in a minimum security institution (Ont.) where they were warmly received; to a teachers' group (No. Calif.) which opened the doors to high schools in the area; to a Young People's Forum in a church on Long Island (N.Y.).

A group in Man. wrote to all the Alateen Groups listed in the World Directory, asking for stories for a "Big Book" for Alateens which they felt was needed. They were encouraged to send the material to WSO for future consideration when the book may be written.

Alateens attended and/or participated in AA Conventions in Calif., Conn., Fla., Ky., N.Y., Tex., B.C., Ont. and Que. The 7th Annual Eastern Seaboard Alateen Conference (ESAC) held in Haverford, Pa. in June had a total registration of 561. Acceptance of Alateen as a vital part of the family recovery program is becoming more widespread by AA, Al-Anon and outside agencies.

These Assembly Areas now have an Alateen Committee, Coordinator or other special group to assist in and promote Alateen development: Ariz., Calif., Conn., Mass., N.J., Ore., Tex., Ont., Que.

Alateens continued to support World Service generously and regularly. Money is earned in many ways - baby sitting, car washes, spaghetti suppers and a "slave auction" at which members of one group were auctioned off to the highest bidder for a day's work!

Two mimeographed sheets, written by Alateens, were edited and added in the publications order form. "Step 4 Inventory Sheet for Alateens" (Conn. group) and "Suggested Programs for Alateen Group Meetings" (Tex. group).

2 mentions of Alateen in Ann Landers' column again brought approximately 750 letters. A reprint of one of Ann's letters in Dec. READERS DIGEST resulted in about 20 letters. A columnist called "Arnold Arnold" mentioned Alateen and some 50 individuals wrote.

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE**

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

When one Conference adjourns, even before the reports are completed, work on the next year's WSC begins. For the first few months following the 1968 WSC, Penny devoted the major part of the monthly Committee meetings with the General Secretary and the staff secretaries to completion of the '68 CONFERENCE SUMMARY (12 printed pages - 4,125 copies mailed with Aug. FORUM to each group, plus 727 copies sent to Delegates for distribution to Area Committees) and the '68 CONFERENCE DIGEST (107 mimeographed pages - a more detailed report sent to 74 Conference members, including 51 Delegates). A letter of Welcome was sent to each of the 15 delegates serving on Panel 9 (1959-1971). In addition to the quarterly report, AREA HIGH-LIGHTS, this Committee is concerned with:

**WORLD SERVICE HANDBOOK**

** MAILINGS TO DELEGATES**

** EQUALIZED EXPENSES**

** WSC BUDGET**

**HOSPITALITY**

** AGENDA**

** THEME FOR WSC**

** HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS**
The cooperation of the Delegates has been a great help, for which we are most appreciative, but this is a large "bill" to fill and more hands could be used to carry out the details which include daily correspondence with GRS and Area Officers who may write. Hopefully, as the members gain knowledge through reports and the activities of their own Area WSC Committee, the application of the 12 Traditions and overall policy will develop at the Assembly, District and the Group level.

FORUM
Margaret B., Editor

The year-old FORUM Editorial Board — Lois and Alice of the WSC, Esther B., Editor of New Jersey's "Alanotes", and Father Fred of Al-Anon and Alateen — meets monthly with the Editor, who deeply appreciates their devotion and loyalty and also that of all FORUM correspondents. The FORUM's wide acceptance is undoubtedly due to the many who take time to write their experiences, hopes and feelings about Al-Anon.

The editorial policy still is to print maximum communications from all wide a base as possible; to make it vitally interesting to the majority and adhere strictly to Al-Anon philosophy.

Not all letters, even condensed, can be published. Content may be: too repetitious; too bitter; too critical to appear, even anonymously; interesting to the tiniest minority; because they are personal puffs merely. But all are welcome because they get things off the writers' chests and thus do good.

Subscriptions did not increase sufficiently to meet '69's estimate but it is possible that if GRS sustain year-round drives for bulk and personal subscriptions, the '69 goal will be met and through wider use of the FORUM, meetings and performance will improve. It is disheartening to get letters from good, active Al-Anon members which say they have been in Al-Anon two years — in some cases four or more — and had just learned of the FORUM! Secretaries are urged to use the group's complimentary copy for members and to plus individual subscriptions.

The FORUM isn't perfect but it is hoped, with the Editorial Board's help, that each issue will be nearer to perfection.

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

Deep interest, enthusiastic dedication and gratitude were evident in the growth in institutional work. Activity was at a high peak in the excellent cooperation of our Delegate members, Institutional Committees, and participating groups this past year. Groups have tripled since 1966. Our Delegates have stressed the importance of sharing. As a consequence, we received an abundance of valuable material re: formats, development of programming and public relations, which was channeled to members.

New Institutional Groups

Groups were formed in Ala., Ariz., Cal. (9), Ind. (Alateen), Ill., Me., Mass. (2), Mich., Minn. (3), Mo. (2), N.J. (4), N.Y. (2), Va. (2), Wisc. (4), Canada, Australia, South Africa, Eire. An encouraging breakthrough was the formation of groups at rehabilitation centers and honor courts.

1968 Letter to AA Institutional Groups

Annually a letter is sent to all AA Institutional groups offering Al-Anon's help to friends and relatives of alcoholics confined to institutions. With AA GSO's cooperation in addressing the envelopes, 1400 letters were mailed. The undertaking resulted in hundreds of requests for referral. Several institutions sent letters of appreciation praising Al-Anon as an essential element in rehabilitating the alcoholic.

Guidelines for Institutional Work

The Guidelines, which were approved for distribution at the 1968 WSC, were recently revised. Requests received for them indicate the need for this tool. The S. Cal. Institutional Committee ordered a sizeable supply.

Literature Sales and Literature Discount Package

Substantial orders from institutions for both our literature and books continue. Hospitals are now included in all PR mailings, which served to stimulate sales. One hospital in the midwest placed orders for 94 copies of AL-ANON FACES ALCOHOLISM for sale in their gift shop. Institutional and sponsoring groups are ordering the discount package, made available in early 1969. In satisfactory quantities. The package has become more attractive to our groups since "Homeward Bound" was revised.

Correspondence

Requests from AA sponsors of Institutional Groups, social workers, probation officers, chaplains, doctors, etc. were more numerous. Correspondence with Al-Anon members is also running high.

Pilot Project

Where an Institution has sent us hundreds of referrals annually, it was decided to suggest to the Delegate of that Area that the possibility of forming a group at that institution be explored.

POLICY COMMITTEE
Mary S., Chairman

At quarterly meetings the Policy Committee, comprising chairmen of all committees and Al-Anon staff secretaries, made the following decisions which it submitted for the Conference's final approval. Those listed here are the decisions which have not been included in other Committee Reports.

1. No changes of our CAL can be sanctioned in translations. Members in other countries may be informed, on such request, that they can interpret what they think are Christian usages or phrases into any other religious or non-religious approach they prefer.

2. Permission to a religious organization to read our literature onto tape was refused because it might dilute our copyrights and connote affiliation with a religious sect.

3. Fund raising activities should not be directed beyond the membership of Al-Anon, Alateen and AA.

4. When a group or individual is offered money in excess of expenses, the speaker should recommend that such money be used by the organization for the purchase of Al-Anon/Alateen literature for distribution by that organization as an educational service.

5. Any group which exists solely to serve AA is an Auxiliary Group, in no way related to Al-Anon. If a group follows Al-Anon's stated purposes, it is in fact an Al-Anon Group even if it retains its original name of Auxiliary.

6. The policy that every Alateen Group should have a sponsor was reaffirmed.

7. Al-Anon Groups functioning in Honor Courts are to be registered.

8. Registered institutional groups are to be sent contribution appeal letters.

9. Future policy decisions of universal interest to the membership are to be listed in AREA HIGHLIGHTS so that they may be printed in Area newsletters.

10. Intergroup bulletins and Area newsletters should not be used as organs to promote or announce retreats of any kind.

11. Al-Anon members, as individuals, can work for legislation or any outside enterprise, but the group should not be involved. Members should not distribute material on legislation at Al-Anon meetings.
12. Any Al-Anon group wishing to be listed as a resource in a community directory should preserve anonymity by listing a P.O. Box number, rather than an individual's name and address.

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE
Gay C., Secretary (Staff)

1968 was a most favorable year in public relations. The large volume of Al-Anon literature purchased by professionals in the field of alcoholism, as well as those in the helping professions, is indicative that an ever increasing number have become cognizant of the value of the Al-Anon program as an effective tool in alcoholic rehabilitative programs. We attribute this recognition to the 'yeoman' work our members are doing out in the field.

28th International Congress
A first in Al-Anon's history was our presentation at the 28th International Congress on Alcohol and Alcoholism. The Congress was held in the U.S. for the first time in half a century. A distinguished assemblage of experts (more than 1,800 from all over the world) attended the conference in Sept., 1968, in Washington, D.C. Subsequent publication of our paper, "Al-Anon Group Impact on Professional Rehabilitation of the Alcoholic," further supplemented our literature designed for professionals in the health field. Al-Anon's exhibit was very well attended, as was the open Al-Anon-Alateen meeting sponsored by the Washington Intergroup. Professionals at various sessions often referred to Al-Anon as a distinguished assemblage of experts (more than 1,800 from all over the world).

Communications Media
Newspaper articles and notices increased in volume and variety. "Anx. Landers" column referring the wife of an alcoholic to Al-Anon yielded more than 1,400 inquiries. Magazine coverage was on the uptrend, indicated by the following: TODAY had a piece entitled "Alcoholics Parents? Alateen Has an Answer"; articles appeared in GUIDPOSTS (Mar.), EXTENSION (Mar.), and MARRIAGE (Apr.). Al-Anon was mentioned in a piece about alcoholism in industry in the May 16 issue of LOOK; other articles appeared in REDBOOK (May), LISTEN (Nov.), and THE UNITED CHURCH OBSERVER (Dec.). AL-Anon FACES ALCOHOLISM was reviewed by PHYSICIANS ALCOHOL NEWSLETTER, while THE DILEMMA OF THE ALCOHOLIC MARRIAGE was reviewed in the RUTGERS QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF STUDIES ON ALCOHOLISM. Al-Anon participation on radio and TV increased considerably.

P.R. Materials
A P.R. Literature Discount Package containing 165 items in an assortment of 16 Conference-approved titles was developed. Valued at $7.95, the discount price is $6.00. A poster for general use on bulletin boards was designed and the streamer and montage demonstrating how to make up a display were updated. A printed Fact File for professionals was also prepared.

Public Education
The P.R. Department answered hundreds of requests for information and literature from clergymen, councils and commissions on alcoholism, educators, industry, journalists, members of the legal and medical professions, social agencies, students and individuals. 1,000 copies each of "Al-Anon - Family Treatment Tool in Alcoholism," and "Al-Anon Group Impact on Professional Rehabilitation of the Alcoholic" were sent to professionals.

VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE
Evelyn C., Chairman

During last year the number of clerical volunteers at the WSO has decreased to about 15, but these are usually available to assist the staff at least one day a month with the following: processing the FORUM for mailing; collating of mimeographed sheets; assembling various packs of literature used in answering inquiries; counting literature into packs of 108 and 250 to expedite the folding of orders; and stuffing thousands of letters sent in groupwide and special mailings throughout the year.

We are also grateful for the dedicated volunteer chairmen and their committee members for all the hours served on the following committees:

Alateen  
Policy  
Budget  
Institutions  
Conference  
Public Relations  
Concepts  
Regional Trustees  
Literature  
Volunteer

TREASURER'S REPORT
Evelyn C., Chairman, Budget Committee

All Conference members reviewed 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, 1968. A copy of the statement is available to any group on request.

Sales of books increased by $83,200 while sales of other products improved by $24,000. Since the gross profit on the new book, ONE DAY AT A TIME, was higher than on the other books and there was a more realistic mark up on other literature, the over-all gross profit expressed as a percentage of sales went up from 65.0% in 1967 to 67.4% in 1968. Contributions increased by 10.6% in 1968 with only 50% of all groups contributing. This was less than expected on the basis of past years' support. So, we have to make daily use of our faith in a Higher Power, who has never yet let us down.

The financial picture for 1968 looks good on paper, but does not show that we are very understaffed and need more working space. When suitable new quarters can be rented, there will be a sharp cut in excess of income and greater expenses for equipment and staff. Therefore, the need for increased contributions should be apparent.

The Delegates have done a wonderful job during 1968 and we hope that with their continued help groupwide support of the WSO will improve in 1969.

CONFERENCE DISCUSSIONS AND DECISIONS

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

ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE - The Delegate from N.H. was welcomed. The WSC members accepted the Committee's recommendation to seat Dorothy, the Representative of United Kingdom and Eire, who paid a $30 registration fee to share in the Conference expenses.

ALATEENS - Rita expressed heartfelt thanks to the Committee members for their cooperation. She bade goodbye to the Panel 7 Delegates (Calif., N., Fla., and Ky.) and welcomed the new Panel 9 members (Me., Mo., and So. Dak.). The basic problem with Alateen is still sponsors. WSO has
little control over who becomes a sponsor. Local groups, Area Assemblies and Intergroups have much more control and can be of help. These local groups need to feel their responsibility to the Alateens. Sometimes outside people, including professionals, want to sponsor groups. We suggest orientation to our fellowship’s principles by reading the literature and attending meetings if possible. Hopefully an Al-Anon member or group will cooperate with them.

The 6 Committee members presented an Alateen Workshop chaired by Timmy. (1.) Mona (Miss.) – Sponsor, ideally should be active Al-Anon and AA members. Individuals who have lived in an alcoholic home themselves have a peculiar empathy for the teenagers. A sponsor’s role is to be a friend and listen in order to help the teenager find his own answers. He/she must also be able to administer from behind the scenes without taking away the responsibility from the Alateens. It is a great help if the sponsor has encouragement from the husband or wife, from members of the Al-Anon and AA group and from the Alateens themselves. (2.) Phyllis (Ore.) – In this Area Alateens have not as yet participated in District Meetings; however, this year at the Assembly it was decided that if Alateen was to become a full part of the program, the groups would need to be represented at the state level. Alateens were given the privilege of electing a GR, sending him/her to the Assembly and allowing them to vote. Both Al-Anons and Alateens are pleased with the start made in District participation. (3.) Muriel (Calif. N.) – Alateens cooperate closely with Al-Anon in No. Calif., although they are very much a separate entity. At the AA Conference (where both Al-Anon and Alateen participate) they elect their own chairmen and secretaries, hold their own workshops and discuss their own problems. At both the Alateens and Sponsors Workshops specific problems and their solutions are shared and many new ideas are gleaned. (4.) Marilyn (Ky.) – The 4th Southeast Alateen Roundup, held Dec. 6, 7 and 8 at Gilbertsville, Ky. on beautiful Kentucky Lake was a great success. 210 registered, most of them Alateens, coming from 16 states. There were two family sessions with AA, Al-Anon and Alateen speakers. The others were strictly Alateen with speakers from Tenna., La., Kans. and N.C., all of whom were great. One of the Louisville sponsors recruited several Alateens. They made a quick trip to Ky. State Boys Camp at Gilbertsville and an Alateen Group has subsequently been started there. (5.) Maggie (Fla.) – Alateen growth in Fla. has been slow, with a group starting one month only to disband in another month or two. However, now there are several active groups in the Area and this year there is a definite program being planned for Alateen participation in the AA Convention. (6.) Barbara (B.C.) – After this Area adopted the use of the Handbook and the resultant Districts were formed, several chose Alateens as their project for “carrying the message.” They immediately called on the school counselors in the Districts and were received so favorably that Al-Anon invited one of these counselors to participate on a panel at the Public Information meeting at the Assembly. (He had already attended an Alateen meeting and was greatly impressed.) He promised there would be no counselor in B.C. who would not be aware of Alateen. The promise was made good when he wrote an excellent article explaining Alateen and its benefits for a teachers’ magazine.

The suggestion to change the last part of the 4th Tradition as follows: “Each group should be autonomous, except in matters affecting another group or Al-Anon. AA or Alateen as a whole!” was deemed unnecessary inasmuch as Alateen’s own Tradition 4 reads: “Each group should be autonomous, except in matters affecting other Alateen and Al-Anon Family Groups or AA as a whole.”

**BUDGET** – The 1969 Budget was reviewed and accepted. The Delegates considered the fact that operating expenses will probably exceed last year’s by nearly $40,000, leaving the Conference knowing that it would be their responsibility to impress the members of their Areas with the ever increasing need to support the WSO.

**CONCEPTS** – After AA had established its GSO, of which our WSO is the counterpart, Bill W. spent several years developing the Twelve Concepts of Service, known as AA’s Third Legacy, the First and Second Legacies being the Steps and Traditions.

In 1968 our Conference unanimously approved working out Twelve Concepts of Service for Al-Anon.

After a year’s work, the Concepts Committee had eleven of the twelve ready for the Delegates; the Twelfth is to be sent shortly. Copies were also sent to seven long-time members across the continent.

Suggestions for change or improvement are to be sent in by September 1, 1969; those which serve to strengthen and
clarify the document will be used. Re-edited copies will be sent to Panels 8, 9 and 10 by February 1, 1970 for a final reading before the 1970 Conference votes on its acceptance.

Al-Anon's future may depend on how clearly and firmly these Concepts outline the fundamentals on which our service structure is based. Lois concluded.

CONTRIBUTIONS — The Conference voted that the WSO no longer accept contributions from AA Conventions, in line with our Tradition of being fully self-supporting. It was suggested that at future AA Conventions, Al-Anon might arrange for a separate Al-Anon sponsored function, the proceeds of which could be accepted. AA's position on this matter is that though many Al-Anons cooperate in Convention functions, expenses for facilities and speakers are paid from AA Convention funds. In keeping with AA's Tradition of self-support and non-endorsement, all monies (registration, etc.) are handled by AA and any profit is for AA, not Al-Anon.

DELEGATE'S RESPONSIBILITIES — From Frances (Minn.) came enlightening observations — the fruits of her three years' experience as a WSC Delegate.

Empowered to act as the communications link between an Area and the WSO, the Delegate's main functions at the WSC are to give information and get information, to bring from his or her Area, and back to it, questions, views and decisions concerning the Al-Anon fellowship.

Each year, well before Conference time, each Area is given an opportunity to submit ideas to be placed on the WSC agenda. Part of the Delegate's responsibility is to encourage the groups to do this. An Assembly meeting, held prior to the Delegate's leaving for the WSC to discuss the Conference agenda topics, makes it possible for the Delegate to reflect the views of the Area when necessary.

Relating her own experience in her first year, Frances stressed the need of the new Delegate for thorough preparation, not only by being briefed by the preceding Delegate, but from a study of the informative material which goes out from the WSO all through the year: the Handbook, Conference Summaries, both current and prior, the Delegate's Brochure, Area Highlights, the FORUM and each piece of new literature. Fulfilling the responsibility for keeping informed is possible only if the Delegate keeps up with every bit of information as it is received from the WSO.

The Delegate who arrives well informed will, even the first year, have no reason to feel inadequate or disappointed, either with the Conference proceedings or his or her own participation.

The new Delegate who is inadequately prepared may have the idea that this is the place to bring up local problems for solution. It soon becomes clear that precious Conference time is only devoted to matters which concern the whole fellowship. Area problems can either be handled locally by commonsense application of the Twelve Traditions or by putting specific questions to WSO staff members between Conference sessions.

Thus the Delegate becomes aware of the true nature of Al-Anon worldwide, its oneness, its universality.

DIRECTORY — The 1969 edition was enlarged to an 8½" x 11" book, with group listings in double columns on each page, to effect economy in production. The cover design was improved to include translations in 5 foreign languages of: "CONFIDENTIAL — Not to be used as mailing list for any purpose outside Al-Anon". Technical difficulties of converting to a computerized method of production delayed completion of the book, so that copies would have to be mailed to Conference Members when the group mailing went out.

Within a month of its annual publication, approximately 250 changes in group listings occur. The importance of notifying the WSO immediately of changes was stressed and also how helpful it would be for groups to retain the same mailing address from year to year. Several ways to achieve this is to get a convenient P.O. Box on which the rent is paid on time, or to use the address of the GR, or any long-time responsible member. The addresses which have proved the most unreliable have been the church or AA Clubhouse where the group meets, much mail being lost when other people occupying the premises fail to route the mail to the Al-Anon Group.

FINANCE WORKSHOP — Evelyn, Chairman of the Budget Committee, expressed astonishment that so many groups and members, and even some WSO people, had no clear understanding of the reasons and need for our tri-annual appeal for funds. She explained that it is an opportunity for every Al-Anon member to make an individual person-to-person contribution toward the ever-growing worldwide Twelfth Step work done by the WSO.

Ruth (Ga.) described a Mini-Workshop held by her Area to explain the many WSO services that need to be supported in addition to the regular group contributions and the small profit derived from the sale of literature.

Sue (WSO) indicated the need for increasing the amount of equalized expenses to cover higher costs overall and anticipated rising transportation rates. A unanimous vote conferred on the Conference Committee the responsibility for determining how much the equalized expenses should be increased.

Another member of the Budget Committee quoted from a letter from Barbara (B.C.): "Our responsibility to carry the message to others means money for our WSO, so they can continue the wonderful job they have been doing in our behalf."

FORUM — The first Alateen Issue of the FORUM, Margaret told the Conference, met with great enthusiasm.

She suggested that when Delegates discern a problem arising, a couple of lines to the FORUM about such a potential threat to Al-Anon unity would produce a timely (anonymous) article that might prevent its spread. Typical of such problems is the heavy emphasis placed by some groups on specific religions. Newcomers, assured the program is only spiritual, are disappointed and fall to return; often members of longer standing drop out in protest.

Delegates were asked to encourage members to write their thoughts, suggestions or criticisms to the FORUM for it is truly the voice of the membership.

Such letters should be addressed to the FORUM just as other WSO letters should be addressed to the department concerned — PR, Alateen and so on. Those for more than one department should be written on separate sheets, but may be sent in the same envelope.

Estimated FORUM earnings for 1969 are a matter of concern. Not only could our goal be reached by a wider readership but this would also further the FORUM's purpose: to knit all Al-Anon together. It links groups all over the world by giving individuals enlightenment and inspiration: it is a bridge between the groups and the WSO.

Al-Anon's program and philosophy are packed into each issue. An analysis of the first quarter's contents shows it wide range of subjects. Ideally every member should subscribe in order to have a personal copy always at hand. GRs, too, should encourage members to subscribe.
When one Delegate commented that the FORUM is too metropolitan in outlook for her groups, another Delegate pointed out that the entire FORUM reflects Al-Anon principles which are neither metropolitan nor rural, but universal.

To a suggestion that it might be well to have a column of "gripes" which could be answered by member readers, Margaret answered that members are encouraged to write in whatever bothers them about the program, their groups or meetings, and readers answer from all over.

**IMPROVING THE HANDBOOK — Chaired by Holly C. and Lois W. Eric (Ariz.), Betty (Maine) and Lillian (Texas E.) were prepared to offer suggestions for improving the HANDBOOK and also answered pertinent questions from the Ask-E-Basket. A chart was displayed graphically portraying the presentation to GRs for a vote. A mail poll may be used in times were prepared to offer suggestions for improving the plethora a newsletter and to make recommendations for structure equally in the expenses for the 50th group discount on books. All Districts can share equally in the expenses for the CM to meet regularly with the Delegate to plan interesting Assembly agendas, compile a newsletter and to make recommendations for presentation to GRs for a vote. A mail poll may be used in times of emergency, though not recommended as common practice.

An Area WSC Committee can plan an annual budget to provide for operating expenses. Provisions can be made for the CM to distribute the CONFERENCE SUMMARY to all local committees for liaison. Members can also be encouraged to review the FACT FILE and various "guidelines" at Study-Discussion meetings.

**AREA HIGHLIGHTS** will announce how much the "equalized expenses" will be increased and each outgoing Treasurer should be responsible for seeing that these funds are sent to the WSO before Feb. 1, 1970.

Sometimes the HANDBOOK cannot be followed completely the first time around, but its suggestions state the best general procedure for all and each Area should try to develop the ideal set-up. Lois asked Delegates to write and tell us of their actual experiences in following the HANDBOOK, which might be used in a preface in the revised edition (fall 1969).

**INSTITUTIONS** — Many experiences and ideas were shared at the Standing Committee Meeting, from which the following suggestions evolved: (1) That guidelines be developed for Al-Anon members contemplating institutional work; (2) That the Institutional Discount Package include, "What's Next? Asks the Husband of an Alcoholic" and "To the Mother and Father of an Alcoholic"; (3) That the WSO encourage all Institutional Committees and groups to work out a method of follow-up on families and relatives of alcoholics who have been introduced to our program at their institutions.

2 Delegates on a panel, chaired by Jo, gave interesting and informative reports. Dee (Va.) spoke on "Why Al-Anon in Institutions." She related a true incident which precipitated the formation of an Al-Anon Group at a hospital. Patient in the institutionalized Al-Anon group was IL reportedly having made fine progress; returned home to find house closed, family gone, leaving no forwarding address. This is evidence of the need for Al-Anon in Institutions, its contribution in rehabilitation of the family.

Norris (Calif. S.), in a talk on "Progres in Institutional Work" in his Area, described the structure of their intergroup's Institutional Committee. In addition to hospitals and penal institutions, the Committee works with the county courts, where they present "Orientation Sessions for Al-Anon" and the Naval Rehabilitation Clinic.

Jean (Ont.) and Frances (Minn.) served on a question and answer panel, chaired by Betty. Their wide and varied experience, Jean in penal institutions and Frances in hospitals, provided an interesting session.

**LITERATURE** — The WSC again discussed reasons why group study is best limited to Conference-Approved Literature which consistently presents our program in relation to our Al-Anon Steps, Traditions and Slogans. We thus avoid the distortions and confusions of personal points of view — and also those which originate in other disciplines — and learn to use our own program in depth to meet our own problems.

The booklet, "A Merry-Go-Round Named Denial", will be edited to reflect more specifically the Al-Anon idea. The author, Reverend Joseph Kellermann, who used this as his topic in his address to the 1968 WSC, granted us permission to revise it as a CAL publication.

First item on our production agenda is a new booklet for men, previously requested by the 1968 WSC to encourage greater numbers of male relatives of alcoholics to turn to Al-Anon for help.

It was agreed that there is no need for a separate piece of literature for wives whose spouses have achieved sobriety in AA. That is, and has been since the early days, a built-in part of our program and our literature.

Request for a wallet card for Alateen was approved and one will be prepared.

1978 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION (35th AA Anniversary) Miami, Fla. — July 3-5 — Wanda reported that the Al-Anon Convention activities will all take place at the Eden Roc Hotel, with Henrietta serving as General Chairman and Holly as Convention Secretary, all big meetings to be chaired by Al-Anon World Service Trustees. Florida has selected an Al-Anon Host Committee to make arrangements for hospitality and concurrent social events. Delegates were asked for ideas or suggestions for types of meetings and names of speakers they would like to hear. No one can register until the official Registration and Housing Forms are mailed out by AA GSO on Oct. 15, 1969. The best of Margaret's editorials from the FORUM over the years are being compiled for a book to make its debut at the Convention.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE** — Ted K., Chairman — The slate of officers and trustees to serve on the Al-Anon Family Group HQ Board of Trustees was presented and unanimously accepted. It included for the first time a Regional Trustee Nominee and an Alternate RT Nominee (elected by the WSC from the Western U.S.).

**PUBLIC RELATIONS** — After highlighting the year's activities, Gay reported that the Standing Committee meeting was most fruitful, yielding suggestions for the following projects: guidelines for involving members in PR work; a PR inventory Sheet, to aid our members in evaluating their present programs; and more detailed suggestions to guide members in speaking to outside agencies. Stephanie, WSO PR Committee, chaired a panel of 3 Delegates. Ed (Conn.) gave a detailed description of "How To Set Up An All Day Workshop," Coordinated planning through various committees was important. Area members were kept posted on the progress of the Workshop Committee through their newsletter, "The Connecticut Lifeline." A total of 16 workshops were scheduled. Reverend Joseph L. Kellermann, author of "A Guide for the Family of the Alcoholic", gave the keynote address following the Workshop
dinner. All sessions were enthusiastically received by the hundreds who attended.

Reports received at the WSO during ’68 revealed a plethora of PR activity in West Texas. Therefore, Mary, was asked to speak on “PR at the local level.” She told of the exemplary work being done by the Dallas AI-Anon Intergroup, where projects included: planning workshops aimed at carrying the message to professionals; contacting the various communications media, and providing speakers at schools, public meetings, etc.

Since a PR Committee was established in Arizona during 1968, Eric was invited to talk on “How to Form a Public Relations Committee and Implement Projects.” He mentioned 5 factors peculiar to PR programs: a communicator, a message, an audience, a medium of communication, and a hoped-for result. A large chart outlined the organizational structure of the Arizona PR Committee. The Chairman is responsible for the implementation and coordination of all PR activities and has the prerogative of selecting various sub-committee chairman, who should be articulate and personable, in addition to being well-grounded in AI-Anon philosophy and Traditions.

REGIONAL TRUSTEES – Each of the Areas in the U.S. Western Region were eligible to nominate one RT Candidate. Resumes of 14 candidates’ qualifications were distributed to members who would be voting at this 1969 WSC. Prior to the voting, the plan was revised to provide for election of an Alternate RT nominee who might be called to fill the RT’s unexpired term. Other changes in wording were to be incorporated into the revised plan, which would be sent to all Delegates for further consideration at the 1970 WSC. The 3-year plan is experimental and necessary adjustments can be made through 1970.

Mary (WSO), and Josephine (Ind.) co-chaired the voting procedure which resulted in the election of Arbutus O’N. (Texas W.) as Regional Trustee Nominee and Elsie G. (Ariz.) as Alternate RT Nominee.

TRANSLATIONS – Henrietta spoke of the growth of foreign language AI-Anon literature throughout the world. Sometimes it starts with AAs’ encouragement, as in Finland, where more than 10 years ago, Veikko K., secretary of the AA office, began to produce AI-Anon pamphlets in both Finnish and Swedish. A Finnish AI-Anon Central Service Committee, established in 1968, has stimulated the production of additional material, so that LIVING WITH AN ALCOHOLIC in Finnish was available in a hard-cover at a gathering of over 1000 AAs and Al-Anons at Lahti this April. Translations of “What You Do About the Alcoholic’s Drinking” and “This is Al-Anon” are now in process. AI-Anon in Finland has grown to 41 groups and 41 Alateen, more than any other country on the Continent.

The foreign activity began through the efforts of one bilingual member. Harriet L., of Quebec started way back in 1957 to correspond with HQ and other French wives of alcoholics. Much CAL has long been available through the Montreal French Literature Committee of which Harriet was the original chairman. A good part of our basic book has already been translated, so hopefully by 1970, LIVING WITH AN ALCOHOLIC will be available in a fourth language, French.

Growth in many countries came about by word-of-mouth, further developed through correspondence, and with the WSO. While there is still a sense of lack of literature in many languages, it is interesting that “Al-Anon Family Groups at Work” appeared in 1968 in Japanese. The group that produced it presented the WSO with a substantial supply of copies. Another encouraging development was Al-Anon’s participation in the Walzenhausen AA All-European Round-up last fall, after which the German-speaking Swiss groups asked permission to include excerpts from CAL in their monthly paper (referred to in WSO Reports). To make it practical for the WSO to grant permission to translate, publish and distribute CAL, it was urged that the groups of both Germany and Switzerland establish Central Service Committees.

From these few highlights on our growth and expansion in this field, it is clear that it is Al-Anon literature that carries the message. These worldwide activities add greatly to the complexity, work and expense of your WSO, yet it is surely one of the fellowship’s prime responsibilities to make Al-Anon available to everyone, everywhere.

WORLD SERVICE – 4 Delegates contributed enlightening ideas on Reporting to Areas on the WSC, a workshop chaired by Jean (Ont.), who stressed the importance of conveying to the groups how big the Al-Anon world really is. Before Al-Anon her world consisted of “myself, the problem drinker and two insecure children, encased in constant thoughts of alcohol.” With Al-Anon, her world was expanded by the addition of her group and a few AAs. That world seemed complete; she asked for more. As she grew in the fellowship, immersed in Al-Anon duties and responsibilities, it embraced the wide world of Al-Anon and its services. She thought Henrietta’s report on foreign language literature portrayed how closely all of us are linked with people all over the earth.

Before introducing the panel members, Jean said: “We, as WSC Delegates, are constantly searching for ways to inform our members that they are ‘part of a fellowship whose rewards—in growth, friendship and service—are as wide as the world!’

Christine (Mo.) described her report as the ‘dilemma of the first-year Delegate’, but as a long-time faithful servant, she might better have called it “the dilemma of getting members and groups to understand, and work with, the World Service structure.” A mere handful of dedicated members did all the early spadework to establish the Missouri Assembly. The results of 8 years’ struggle have been spectacular: 53 active Al-Anon and 6 Alateen groups; 5 Districts increased to 8 so CM can keep in closer touch with their groups; institutional and PR work making great strides. Despite all this progress, she felt her Area still has a long way to go.

Mona (Miss.) had an inspiring message on unity and how it keeps our fellowship working toward its goals. “Our task,” she said, “is to present the WSC report in a personal and appealing way to create enthusiasm for World Services in our Areas. We must work toward broadening the scope of Al-Anon—to make it not only a pleasant, harmonious place to go for a weekly meeting, but to make the members feel the wonderful, far-reaching warmth of Al-Anon.” After the ’68 WSC, Mona visited all 20 groups in her State; some arranged combined meetings with potluck suppers; AAs were invited. This generated great unity and good will in addition to getting the Conference messages across to all. She concluded with “I try to help strengthen Al-Anon from the bottom up, developing a better root system gives a unified base from which all else can develop.”

Finally, Jean introduced Bob (Okla.), whose report to his Assembly and to groups all over the state will certainly be what salesmen call “value-packed.” A newsletter also helps convey information to the groups. He emphasized the need for guidance in all Al-Anon activities—guidance from the Area to the group, from the group to the Council of all AAs and Alateen, and from the ultimate Authority, God as we understand Him. In closing, Bob said: “I go back to my State more enthused and more informed, the better to inspire and influence my groups.”
Dorothy K., who represented the Al-Anon members of England, the Channel Islands, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Wales and Eire at the WSC, spoke in most moving words about the Conference and how she intends to carry back with her the inspiration and ideas garnered from it.

Various areas sent warm greetings to the WSC by way of Dorothy, who vividly described the impact made by her report of the 1968 WSC on the groups overseas. She expressed their thanks to the WSO for “their never-failing and invaluable help” and said “we just could not do without the support of all of you who give us such unselfish and dedicated service.”

She talked about the considerable increase in the number of groups and Leaders since last year (from 100 to 154) and also mentioned the growing activity in institutional groups.

The U.K. and Eire members expressed special gratitude for the FORUM and the literature, and particularly ONE DAY AT A TIME, which has been enthusiastically received.

In conclusion, Dorothy said she hopes to make her WSC report to many groups in person, rather than by mail, which will give her a better opportunity to stress the cooperation between the WSO and Al-Anon abroad.

OUTGOING DELEGATES’ REPORTS

1. Twelve years ago when Muriel left N.Y. on their first geographical cure, she had no idea that she would again be leaving it in 1969, this time with a feeling of sadness in having to say goodbye to Lois, the grand Staff and Delegates. Though lacking in self-confidence at the first WSC, the presentation enabled her to transmit the full impact of the outstanding Al-Anon services worldwide to CALIFORNIA (N) members. Assemblies at the three annual N. Cal. Conferences enjoy wonderful representation, with full reports from Committee men on their Districts, stressing Conference Approved Literature and extensive use of the Handbook. With more hospitals and institutions cooperating with Al-Anon, enthusiasm for institutional work has grown. In January Muriel attended a most informative Al-Anon meeting at AA’s Western Regional Conference in Reno, chaired by Maggie, the past Nevada Delegate, where many questions about World Service were answered. She thanked God for the privilege of being a Delegate and Lois, the WSO staff and all Delegates for sharing their experience, strength and hope.

2. Norris was pleased with the increasing public awareness of the value of Al-Anon in CALIFORNIA (S) through cooperation with such agencies as the Alcoholism Council of Greater Los Angeles, and the growth in the number of stable groups during his term, largely due to the very active S. Cal. Intergroup and the WA Assembly. The biggest step forward during Norris’ term was the formation of an Institutional Committee, which has developed an activities coordinator in every District. Five active institutional Al-Anon groups have been established in correctional facilities and municipal courts and another group cooperates directly with a Naval Alcoholism Rehabilitation Clinic. Participation in the annual S. Cal. AA Convention has helped acquire AA members with Al-Anon, and last year the first Alateen co-chairman of the Al-Anon activities was elected to coordinate Alateen’s share of the program. The fine progress in S. Cal. Al-Anon during his term as Delegate-Chairman was a most rewarding experience.

3. Maggie’s last year as Delegate proved to be her busiest. Determined on returning to FLORIDA from her second WSC to get the state “organization” set up according to suggested structure meant traveling many miles and writing personal letters to all the groups. Quarterly State Committee meetings devoted to intensive study of the Handbook, which some members were completely unfamiliar, proved so interesting that they are to be continued until everyone is familiar with the proceedings. She became a seasoned traveler in many trips to groups to report, and in the past year her husband trusted her to go without him many weekends when she took along other GAs. At a special meeting called by Maggie in Pompano Beach of members in and near Miami, a Chairman of the Al-Anon Hospitality Committee and co-chairmen from each of the three nearest counties were selected to start plans for the tremendous job of participating in AA’s International Convention in 1970. Near the end of the Conference, Maggie withdrew her offer to muffle off her “Conference Shoes”, bought the first time she attended because her feet swelled so much. She was saving them for Miami in 1970!

4. In the past two years ILLINOIS grew from 115 groups to 167, of which 31 are Alateens. Chicago Loop, a 50-mile radius of the city contains 94 of these groups comprising most of 3 Districts. Coverage of the remaining 10 Districts stretching 400 miles southward was inadequate. With personal contact the best means of selling structure, district officers provided more involvement of the downstate groups, but a growing interest in World Service was nurtured in some of them. Jewel’s call on the State Dept of Mental Health, Division of Alcoholism in Springfield, to express Al-Anon’s willingness to cooperate in any way possible, propelled her into membership as an individual in the Ill. Ass’n of Alcoholism Programs and NAAP. In 1967 she was the Al-Anon representative at the NAAP Conference in Chicago and represented Al-Anon at a recent dedication of a 73-bed Rehabilitation Alcoholism Center in Park Ridge. These contacts resulted in an increasing number of referrals from community, hospital, and state agencies. The PR Committee formed in 1967 publishes a bi-monthly Assembly news-letter, submits short articles regularly to local newspapers, churches and professional agencies, which generate calls for help to 3 telephone answering services supported by the participating groups in the Chicago area. A pocket-size directory of Chicagoland meetings printed semi-annually has proven very popular. A speakers list is maintained to fill requests from outside agencies. An Alateen Coordinator has been elected.

5. The first INDIANA Al-Anon All-Day workshop last year proved so successful that a second will be held this June, where Josephine will report on the WSC, and is planning detailed study of the Handbook. The Alateen program was introduced early last summer at the Ind. Girls School (correctional institution) at the request of the chaplain, who carefully screens inmates who attend the Saturday morning meetings sponsored by two Indianapolis Al-Anons. On display at the WSC was a scrapbook made by inmates of the Indiana Reformatories, Pendleton, in appreciation for the Al-Anon meetings held for families. Other institutional meetings include one at the Marion V.A. Hospital, started by Ruth, a former Delegate, and an Al-Anon Discussion Meeting at a Batesville Hospital. A State Committee on PR is being initiated, though many localities have been very successful in inviting clergy and professionals to anniversary meetings; giving CAL to doctors, lawyers and other professionals, including industrial personnel management, presenting books to libraries and contributing articles to local newspapers. Josephine valued her attendance at the WSC which enabled her to pass along shared experiences to Area members and not only contemplate on themes of past Conferences, e.g. “Sponsorship” and “Responsibility” during the year but, stress them at many group meetings. She was deeply grateful for the privilege of meeting and chatting with Lois & Bill and all the Conference members and hoped to repay by continuing to serve in some other capacity.

6. Yetza felt even more humble as the end of her term approached than the day she was chosen Delegate. KANSAS holds Area Assemblies in January and June and a joint AA and
Al-Anon luncheon at their state AA Convention in the fall. Ted K. of the WSO was the invited speaker at the last one. Many groups work closely with hospitals, schools, doctors and the clergy and the Institutional Committee is doing very well, with groups established in three State Mental Hospitals.

7. The statewide closeness of AA, Al-Anon and Alateen is something to be proud of in KENTUCKY, where AA Conventions are a family affair. Since Al-Anons work hard (or harder) at these conventions, a percentage of the net proceeds are sent to the Al-Anon WSO as a bonafide contribution from Al-Anon. The one day Alathon has grown to a three day convention—"first" in the fellowship. Al-Anon has groups in hospitals, and at the request of men in penal institutions. Al-Anon for their families. There are Alateen groups in the Boys State Institutions and strong representation at the Council on Alcoholism. A popular innovation in Paducah last year was a joint meeting of AA and Al-Anon clubs monthly, which acquaints new AAs with the Al-Anon program as well as new Al-Anons with AA. Marian found the approach she took her first year helpful in reporting the mountainous work done at the WSO in connecting names with faces. She will always treasure them as well as having been able to serve in this program of instant friendship.

8. Marge considered her term as WSC Delegate one of the most delightful chapters in her book of memories. MARYLAND Al-Anon has looked both inward and outward — inward at state structure and better means of communication — outward towards areas of cooperation and service. A new Area paper, "The Al-Anon-Cor". has added state unity in opening the channel of communication to the Eastern Shore Groups, not as yet active in the Assembly. Financial support of World Service has doubled and CAL is now in general use. Outward progress was made in establishing active links with the Maryland State Hospitals with ARU units; through open meetings for professionals and participation in many state seminars and training programs and appearances on open line TV and radio. A first for Maryland was Al-Anon's appearance on a program in the maximum security section of the State Correctional Institution. This year Maryland Alateen will coordinate the program for the Eastern Seaboard Alateen Conference in June at Haverford College, Pa. They have instituted Sponsors Forums for Alateenas. Marge hoped that we might all rise to meet the new level of Al-Anon maturity and receive the Divine Guidance necessary to "practice these principles."

9. Increased interest in World Service in MICHIGAN during her term was attributed by Dorothy to personal contacts and visual aids in explaining structure at sharing sessions in the lower peninsula and at Grand Rapids held monthly in other sections of the state. Individuals were encouraged to have their own copies of the Handbook and Fact File to become well informed. PR activities broadened to include TV shows with Al-Anon and Alateen members as panelists; numerous radio programs; newspaper articles and letters to the Editor; placing Al-Anon books in libraries; talks at Nursing Schools and High Schools and an Al-Anon member's talk at the Rutgers School on Alcoholism. The metropolitan groups have become more active in World Service and Al-Anon's invited participation in State AA Conventions has helped gain the respect of AA. Dorotha was both grateful and sad as the end of her 3 year's service approached, because there was still much to do in gaining unity in her Area through the combined efforts of the Delegate, her Committee and the GFO.

10. MINNESOTA has had remarkable, steady growth in groups since the first WSC—from 36 to 155, placing much responsibility for service on their hard-working Assembly. A personal letter of welcome invites each new group to participate. Two Area WSC meetings are called each year plus 3 full Assemblies, one of which is held expressly for the Delegate's WSC report. An Advisory Committee has been formed to clarify mechanics and interpret decisions. Growth of institution groups to 6 in a little over a year has made establishing an Institutions Committee a necessity. Over 55 Al-Anon groups service these institution groups; some travel 150 miles to do so. Many others contribute literature as their way of helping. PR projects, including Ballies, orientation classes, radio spots, books in libraries, literature in offices, telephone answering services, participation in seminars on alcoholism, all help inform the public of Al-Anon's purpose and function. The growth was due to many dedicated Al-Anon members whom Francis saluted. It was a tremendous experience to share with our wonderful Lois and all others the discussions and decisions of the Conference. Her fondest hope was that each would continue to "practice these principles."

11. In NEW YORK (N), Dorothy tried to make education her primary aim. Resulting in more members knowing the Handbook and about World Service. Groups increased each year, as did contributions. Several Districts split, and at least one other is considering splitting. Growth is evident in the total activity, and outstandingly in Interest and enthusiasm. Recovery is the primary reason we all come to the program, but it does seem vital after a time to become involved in other facets of the program, which has occurred to some degree in this Area.

12. The loving friends made at the WSC and in OHIO's Assembly and their shared knowledge and warmth will always be dear to Gwen. A sketch of accomplishments in her Area in 1967-68 included: (1) Study and use of the latest edition of the WS Handbook to guide the Assembly in policies and procedures; (2) Unity statewide, aided by distributing and encouraging small Districts to become active; (3) Setting up the Area WS Committee to function as a working unit, making WSO work actively; (4) Better communication between groups and Assembly; (5) Workshops on "How To's", such as PR, Alateen, Intergroups, Sponsorship. Gwen left the 9th WSC with much humility and also happiness for the future Delegate who will have the opportunity to contribute, share and learn.

13. New interest in World Service came through visits as many groups as possible in PENNSYLVANIA, but geography continues to be a handicap. The metropolitan areas are well organized, with 24 hour answering services established in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. The greatest growth was in western Pa., where a Round-Up held in Bedford sparked so much interest that it is to be an annual event. An Al-Anon group has been formed at a rehabilitation center. Al-Anon participates in all AA Conferences. The Area newsletter is in its second year. The Handbook is followed closely in all Districts, but the northwest is still inertive. Verona stressed CAL and the need for WSO and Assembly meetings along with our responsibilities as Al-Anon members.

14. In TENNESSEE progress was made in the increase in the number of Al-Anon and Alateen groups; in larger contributions to the WSO; in use of CAL by almost all groups; in realization of the importance of World Service through study of the Handbook and in PR efforts, with Al-Anon members cooperating with Mental Health Agencies and Alcoholism Information Centers and talks at churches and PTA meetings. An Al-Anon group formed at a Prison Farm about 80 miles from Memphis enjoys 100% cooperation from the Warden and Deputy Warden, with referrals to families from AA inmates. Both Al-Anon and Alateen participate in AA State Conventions and area meetings. Plans are already underway for the Alateen Convention scheduled for December in Nashville. Teresa knew that one of the highlights in 1968 for the Memphis groups was having Holly and Frank speak at an Al-Anon sponsored meeting in July. Since being Delegate, she appreciated more deeply the dedication of Lois and all WSO members, thanking them for their love and understanding and hoped they would have God as their partner always.

15. Lillian came to her first WSC confident that she was among the cream of the crop in Al-Anon, but determined not to expose her ignorance by opening her mouth at every opportunity. The resolution went well only until she was appointed to the Institutional Committee, her pet project, when her good intentions were forgotten and she let down her hair and was off and running. During her term, TEXAS (E) added 33 new groups, lost 10 and reactivated 1. Contributions to WSO were not earth-shaking but did increase and the Assembly fared pretty well also, averaging about $10 per group — from those who did contribute. An outstanding project of several San Antonio groups was placing books in public and church libraries and donation of AA books to patients in a State Hospital. PR work gained momentum with news items and appearances of Al-Anon members on TV. Some online Al-Anon groups coming into being all over the Area are doing well, but others have fallen by the wayside for want of sponsorship. Lillian knew she would always have fond memories of the time spent with all she loved in N.Y.
16. Growth was the keynote in TEXAS (W), evidenced in the individual member, the variety of new meetings to include Step, study, beginner and mutual participation meetings; formation of new groups; and splitting of Districts from 9 to 15. When Marcy became Delegate, it was decided to move business and Assembly meetings from the State AA Convention to a centrally located place. The Butterfly theme, adopted for her term of office, was the focus of money making projects, enabling the Assembly to pay CMS’ and officers’ expenses, and those of the Delegate in reporting to all Districts. Equipment was purchased and plans made to start the Pipeline, a quarterly newsletter. The program, “What’s New in West Texas Al-Anon”, at the 1967 AA Convention, received such favorable comment that a repeat performance was requested. The enthusiasm of the 100 in attendance at the 1968 Assembly sparked the Area Committee’s decision to have an Al-Anon Convention in conjunction with the 1969 spring Assembly. There was an all male session, Post-teens for the first time, and an All-Together meeting with an AA, Al-Anon and Alateen of one family as speakers. 12 Alateens registered, leading to the formation of a State Alateen Committee, from which came the Alateen newsletter, Alateen Round Robins and the Texas Alateen Conference, TAC. Many groups had money making projects, so that all members could go, including 4 from the orphans home. Growth was further stimulated by appointment of a PR Chairman last year, introduction of the birthday plan in some groups and Father Fred’s 5 visits to West Texas in the past 2 years. Marcy’s gratitude was boundless for the love, prayers and support of the Al-Anons of her Area who worked in harmony and unity in applying these principles. In her personal growth, Marcy came to — then came to believe — and then became willing to serve.

17. In saying goodbye to the WSC, Effie knew she was also saying hello to a new experience — the further sharing of all she had learned of love and service with MANITOBA Al-Anon. The far northern groups are at last beginning to feel a part of Al-Anon worldwide through more unity and communication. Most functions now have an AA, Al-Anon and an Alateen speaker, and professionals are using Al-Anon for referral. Assemblies are well attended 3 times a year, one in the north, another in the west and one in Winnipeg during the AA Conference. Intergroup and a Central Office are both located in Winnipeg. The 14 groups affiliated with Intergroup produce the Area newsletter, Provincewide, and have up till now done most PR work, but a PR Committee is forming to assure a coordinated effort in the whole province. Central Office, with a 24 hour answering service, has been in operation a year, and provides a permanent address and phone number for information and mail. Effie expected to contribute to the promise of growth in her Area by utilizing the experience gained at the WSC, and asked God’s blessing on all for ever and ever.

18. Reflecting on her years as ONTARIO Delegate, Jean was grateful for the ever increasing interest in the Fellowship both within Al-Anon and in outside agencies. Following in AA’s footsteps helped us benefit from their mistakes as well as their successes. AA opened the door to carrying the Al-Anon message into many institutions. Although much was accomplished, Jean’s great concern was the challenge of the future. Many more willing workers are required. Though our members are rapidly increasing, it is still quality and not quantity that achieves our purpose. Our founders were few in number but it was their constant growth in studying and living by the 12 Steps and Traditions that laid the firm foundation of Al-Anon. There is still no short-cut to serenity. In our prime purpose of helping families of alcoholics, it is imperative to use good sponsorship. Every new member should have the same advantage and loving concern that early members received, when numbers were small. We must be ever alert to outside influences and steadfast in our basic spiritual foundation. Al-Anon is for everyone regardless of race, color, creed or background. Herein lies our success and survival. “Keep it Simple” is still the Magic Key.

19. Soon after each WSC, Cay gave a verbal report in 2 major cities of QUEBEC. Emphasis was placed on World Service, its vast extent, and how all shared in keeping it available through unity, service and contributions. Groups increased from 13 in 1966 to 131 in 1968, including Alateen. Contributions to the WSO grew. 1968 brought growing unity and understanding, with attendance at Assemblies almost doubled. 14 Districts became 20. The enthusiastic response to the first Al-Anon—Alateen Workshop encouraged the holding of another this year. Efforts of the PR Committees resulted in Al-Anon and Alateen appearances on TV and radio. Information made available to outside agencies resulted in many inquiries from school counselors, social workers and psychiatric clinics. Knowledge gained from the WSC helped the steady, if perhaps slow, growth in the province and Cay was deeply grateful to all who made it possible.

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