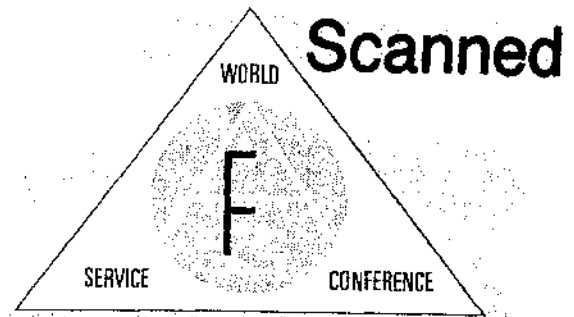


CONFERENCE SUMMARY 1970

AL-ANON

TENTH ANNUAL WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE
AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS
NEW YORK, N. Y. - APRIL 21-25, 1970



"OUR COMMON WELFARE" is 10th Conference Theme

"... the MOST INSPIRING AND PRODUCTIVE CONFERENCE in Al-Anon's history!"
said Penny B., Conference Chairman

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WELCOME

All of us at the World Service Office welcome you to this Conference. Much important business is to be brought before you for your consideration and your decisions are vital to the healthy growth of our fellowship. May all of us find it a rewarding and memorable experience!

Wanda R.
President, Board of Trustees

DECISIONS: 1970

WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE

The Conference heartily welcomed Dorothy H., representing the United Kingdom and Eire, who was with us for the third time this year (and, to everyone's regret, her last.)

Dorothy has great plans for re-structuring the General Services of her country, whose phenomenal growth, in both groups and membership, makes changes necessary.

Her presence and her enlightened spiritual approach was helpful to us all and her many friends will long remember her sharing in the World Service Conference.

* * *

COMMITTEE REPORTS. *Virginia* made a motion to approve 1969 reports of the World Service Committees. Seconded by *Oregon*, the motion was carried unanimously.

THE TWELVE CONCEPTS. Manuscripts of the Twelve Concepts of Service for Al-Anon, on which Lois and the Concepts Committee have been working for many months, had been sent to all Delegates for review before the Conference.

Texas E. called for a vote on approving the Concepts, and prefaced the vote with the following words:

"I was proud to be one of those who attended the AA Convention in St. Louis in 1955 when Bill W. presented a similar AA document (The Third Legacy) to the world of AA. I am even more proud to be part of this Conference when we, as Al-Anons, are about to adopt THE TWELVE CONCEPTS OF SERVICE as Al-Anon's legacy.

"I propose that the Concepts be accepted as presented to us and as we have read them."

The motion was seconded by *Michigan* and unanimously carried.

CONFERENCE TAPES. At its quarterly meeting on January 21st, 1969, the Policy Committee passed a motion (Section D) that "No World Service Conference tapes should be distributed."

WORLD SERVICE OFFICE WORK AND PROGRESS REPORTS FOR 1969

Each year, after our four-day World Service Conference, a Summary like this goes out to Al-Anon groups everywhere. It tells you what your World Service Committees and Headquarters staff have accomplished, and describes the decisions reached by the Conference at its many sessions.

This Report is sent to all Group Representatives, so they can share this vital information with the members of their groups.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

This, our Tenth World Service Conference, now has 54 Delegates representing groups all over the United States and Canada, and a Representative of the United Kingdom and Eire. Our first Conference, in 1961, had only 12 Delegates, a dramatic measure of Al-Anon's progress in ten short years:

Regional Trustees. Our first Regional Trustee, Arbutus O., of Texas, representing the entire Western Region of the U.S., has completed her first year on the Board of Trustees.

Twelve Concepts of Service. The Concepts Committee (Lois W., Chairman) has worked on this project for almost two years. The completed manuscript has been submitted to the Delegates for review. It will be voted on by the entire Conference.

AA International Convention. Al-Anon participation in AA's 35th Anniversary at Miami in July has required much time during the year. Our new book, AL-ANON'S FAVORITE FORUM EDITORIALS, is to make its debut there. These editorials and Step discussions, written by Margaret D., our FORUM editor, were selected by her for this wonderful book.

Headquarters Office. Despite inadequate space and staff, the office continues to do efficient and highly professional work under the direction of our Executive Secretary, Henrietta S.

Wanda R. President

OFFICE ACTIVITIES

The World Service Office makes an annual report to the Conference. Quarterly reports are made to the Board of Trustees of Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc., the Corporation responsible for our business policies, budgeting and administration of funds, employment of personnel, service to the groups and publishing and distributing Conference-Approved Literature.

Routine interim decisions are made by the Executive Committee, which meets monthly.

Personnel Administration. The General Secretary is responsible for supervision and administration policies, employs and directs staff secretaries who handle the work of the Standing Committees: Alateen, Conference, Public Relations and Institutions. They participate in monthly meetings of the Conference Committee and weekly staff meetings.

The Office Supervisor, who is also the full-charge book-keeper, employs and supervises business personnel in publications, shipping, group records, FORUM subscrip-

Henrietta S. (WSO) moved to amend this motion to read: "Occasional tapes may be made available at the discretion of the Conference." Seconded by Penny B. (Conference Chairman); passed unanimously.

CHANGES IN WORLD DIRECTORY. It had been proposed that a supplemental list be added to the World Directory showing number of groups by States and Provinces, the number of contributing groups and total contributions. It was recommended that this motion be tabled, which was carried. This will make it possible to consider the matter further before voting on it at another Conference.

ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE. Chaired by Audrey S., of Iowa. The Panel 8 Delegate from the State of Washington, a member of the Admissions Committee, read a letter from the District of Columbia dated July 9, 1969, again requesting that the District be allowed to seat a WSC Delegate. The WSO reply of July 23rd was also read. The Admissions Committee of 1970 then reaffirmed a Conference decision of 1965:

"The District of Columbia cannot be considered an Area. Its groups may join the Assembly of Virginia or Maryland."

REGIONAL TRUSTEES. The Committee elected at the 1969 Conference to vote on the choice for Regional Trustee from the Eastern Region of Canada, elected Edythe, Ont., to this post for a three year term, with Terry, Que., as Alternate.

Next year the Conference will vote on the third Regional Trustee who will represent the Eastern Region of the United States.

The Committee will be nominated only from first and second year Delegates who are not within the Region from which the next candidate is to be chosen.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES. Arizona moved that the slate of Trustees presented by the Nominating Committee be approved by the World Service Conference. Seconded by Ohio; carried unanimously.

DELEGATES' RECOMMENDATIONS.

At the special meeting attended only by the Delegates to the WSC, the following motions were made and carried:

- to send flowers to Wanda R., President of the Board; Mary S. (Chairman of the Policy Committee) and Margaret D. (Editor of The FORUM) who were ill and unable to attend the Conference.

- that the Conference agenda allot more time to Committee Meetings and for Summary Reports by the Chairmen before the end of the Conference.

- that we, as a body, support the proposal to arrange for fringe benefits for the staff of the WSO.

- that we, the Delegates, extend our thanks to the Conference Chairman and her Committee for a beautiful job of setting up this Conference.

- that we recommend to the Conference that a Regional Trustee cannot succeed himself.

- that we thank the management of the Hotel for their excellent service

- that we thank Priscilla, who recorded these transactions.

FOR WSC 1971, Donna L., the Delegate from Arkansas, was elected Chairman of the Delegates Only Meeting; Louise of Texas, was elected Recording Secretary.

tions, bookkeeping and general clerical. At the beginning of 1969, business staff consisted of eleven, four were added during the year to handle the increased workload.

The willing cooperation of our staff with committee chairmen and volunteers, and their dedication, has resulted in smooth, productive operation of the office.

Publications. ONE DAY AT A TIME continues in heavy demand; the first edition of 25,820 copies moved out so quickly that a second printing had to be ordered early in the year. A third, complete with Index, is about to be delivered.

<u>Comparative Book Sales</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1969</u>
LIVING WITH AN ALCOHOLIC	3979	4723
AL-ANON FACES ALCOHOLISM	2692	3274
DILEMMA OF THE ALCOHOLIC MARRIAGE	4614	4363

Total increase in book sales was more than 30%; other literature, 23%, due to increase in numbers of groups, the acceptance of CAL, and sales to professionals.

Over 48,000 pieces of free literature were sent to new groups, students and other public relations contacts.

322,000 sheets of mimeographed material were processed: the Delegates' Brochure, Conference Review, W.S. Handbook, supplementary literature and miscellaneous items.

The FORUM: 135,200 copies were mailed; 14½% more than in 1968. Subscriptions increased and more groups were added to the mailing list for free copies. Gross revenue from FORUM sales increased 27%:

	<u>1968</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>Increase</u>
Multiple Subscriptions	2322	3042	720
Individual Subscriptions	3455	3990	545

Bookkeeping. Total cash receipts increased by 30%, yet our one bookkeeper handled the many daily entries and deposits, prepared payroll and tax returns, recorded accounts receivable and payable, made all disbursements, administered the employees' Severance Fund and prepared quarterly financial statements.

Group Records and Directory. 1096 new groups registered in 1969, an increase of 104 over 1968. Total registrations as of December 31:

Al-Anon	4202	
Alateen	701	
		4903
Al-Anon Loners	182	
Alateen Loners	22	
		204
Total		5107

Our 1969 World Directory was beset with production difficulties. It arrived a month after deadline, and had a number of errors. This experiment with computerized processing failed to produce the promised economy and accuracy. Our 1970 Directory was given to the firm which had done so well for us in 1968.

Many groups still fail to let us know of changes of address, or forget to pay rent on their P. O. Boxes. This wastes hundreds of dollars in return postage; we pay 10¢ for each return, plus 6¢ for remailing. We beg all groups to cooperate, not only to assure accuracy of the Directory, but to avoid needless expense.

(To you who are reading this: **WHO IS THE MAILMAN FOR YOUR GROUP?**)

Service to Groups. In 1969 Al-Anon's WSO served over 5000 groups and loners throughout the world. Each received a letter of welcome, a free starter packet of literature and a FORUM. Upon registration, we sent a current World Directory, "Al-Anon Family Groups at Work" and, to those in a Conference Area, a World Service Handbook. Each group and loner receives a free FORUM subscription, a Conference Summary, a new World Directory and literature samples.

Alateen Talk went to all groups and loners; AL-ANON EN ACCION monthly to the Spanish groups, to English-speaking overseas groups, a complimentary copy of LIVING WITH AN ALCOHOLIC. The Spanish version was sent, also gratis, to new groups in Spanish-speaking countries.

We sent out more than 57,000 letters in 1969: replies to individuals seeking help, answers to group problems, business correspondence, guidance to overseas service centers, Contribution Appeals and letters referring to publications. *New! Al-Anon Stickers* to apply to name tags we wear at Conventions and other big get-togethers. \$1.50 per hundred. Order from the WSO.

Foreign Language Al-Anon. The word is spreading far and wide!

French. The Literature Committee in Montreal, Canada, represents WSO in translating and producing the FORUM and CAL. It services all French-speaking groups. The number of groups increased from 177 to 210 during 1969; Alateen from 28 to 31. (See Report, page 5)

Spanish Al-Anon has had tremendous growth in 1969. Our new bi-lingual clerk-typist has made possible closer communication with the Spanish groups. There is a monthly Spanish bulletin. In Central America, the first Al-Anon Congress was held in San Salvador during Easter at which *Costa Rica, Honduras, Guatemala, and Nicaragua* each had representatives who will plan programs for the next Congress. Each country will establish a General Service Committee. In *Mexico*, a General Service Committee publishes an Information Bulletin. A first group has been started in *Venezuela*. The Central Group in Buenos Aires, *Argentina*, reported attendance of 150 at monthly meetings; it also serves as an Intergroup for groups in the metropolitan area. Members in *Colombia* write that the Alateens in Bogota are translating Alateen literature into Spanish. Throughout this part of the world, Al-Anon and Alateen activity is growing more each year!

Afrikaans. Al-Anon General Services of South Africa sent copies of three pieces of CAL which have been translated into the local language and they are now working on LIVING WITH AN ALCOHOLIC. It also issues a monthly bulletin, "Unitas."

Finnish. The long-established groups in Finland (now 55!) have a General Service Office in Helsinki, where 12 of the groups are located. They have translated many CAL booklets into Finnish, as well as THE DILEMMA OF THE ALCOHOLIC MARRIAGE. Now in work and shortly to be published, ONE DAY AT A TIME. Al-Anon has an active role in Finland's great AA Conventions.

Dutch. Groups in Belgium have asked permission to translate LIVING WITH AN ALCOHOLIC for Dutch-speaking members.

Norwegian. LWA is also being translated by several groups in Norway, working together on the project.

German. The past year has seen tremendous activity and growth in Germany and Switzerland, signified by heavy increase in correspondence with the WSO, the establish-

ment of a General Service Committee in Germany and a number of translations of CAL, among them "The Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions." A German newsletter is prepared in Switzerland by volunteers who assist in production and distribution.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE LITERATURE DISPLAY

to be shown at the WSC. An impressive showing of CAL in languages other than English. Great idea for special meetings, conventions and other events. Write WSO for information.

English Al-Anon Overseas.

Orange Free State, South Africa, reports a successful program with an AA Convention and acknowledges the help of the WSO in planning.

Australian states are in frequent contact with the WSO, on such matters as a First Al-Anon Trial Conference, CAL, reviews of By-Laws and problems relating to deviations from Al-Anon Traditions.

New Zealand sent a copy of a magazine which contained an interesting article about Al-Anon.

In the United Kingdom & Eire the groups voted to establish a General Service Office and to re-structure according to the Handbook. This resulted from a comprehensive analysis by Dorothy H., who represented the U. K./Eire for the third time at the WSC.

— *Henrietta S., General Secretary*

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Each World Service Committee makes complete reports annually to the WSC, from which the following excerpts were taken:

ALATEEN COMMITTEE

Alateen, now in its 12th year, is growing up. There is much interest in structure and participation; many are electing group representatives and taking part in District Meetings.

Correspondence has been lively; over 300 letters were sent out, either in acknowledgment of a shared experience or to help with a specific problem. Alateens are aware of the need to help others. They carry the message to social workers, teachers, counselors, clergy — and in school assemblies, health classes, church groups, penal institutions, as well as to AA and Al-Anon in Conferences and Conventions.

Foreign News. New groups have been formed in Colombia (S. America) Edinburgh (Scotland), Victoria and Queensland, (Australia) and in Finland, Mexico and Puerto Rico. Several new French groups have been formed in Quebec.

Growth. There are now over 700 Alateen groups, 239 more than in 1969. It is becoming better known to social and community agencies and the public in general. Where no Alateen group is available, we refer inquirers to a nearby Al-Anon group or suggest starting a group, sending along "A Guide for Sponsors of Alateen Groups," "Operation Alateen" and "Facts About Alateen."

Alateen Book? Occasional requests for an all-Alateen book are answered by explaining the practical realities of such an undertaking. Ideas are always welcome, however, in anticipation of the time when Alateen will be big enough to warrant the necessary expenditures.

Alateen Talk. Our quarterly newsletter brings interesting ideas and news to every group.

Contributions. Alateens continue to give generously to the work of the WSO, not only in money but in dedication and gratitude. Often enclosed with a gift is a warm tribute to Alateen, expressing appreciation for the work of the WSO and joy at being able to share in its support.

Conferences. The First Texas Alateen Conference (TAC) met at Lake Brownwood in March. The Fifth Southeastern Alateen Roundup was held in December at Nashville, Tennessee. Ontario (Canada) Alateens held a Conference in Toronto in April, a heartening experience which the WSC Delegate described as "the highlight of my term as Delegate for Ontario." ESAC (Eastern Seaboard Alateen Conference) had its 8th annual session in June at Haverford, Pennsylvania. The theme was: "I Am Responsible." This Conference grew so large that it has been divided into three regional Conferences: NEAC (New England Alateen Conference); Metro 70 (New York and New Jersey groups) and MAAC (Middle Atlantic Alateen Conference) for Penna., Del., Md., W. Va. and D. C. The first annual Saskatchewan Alateen Conference was held in Saskatoon in September, a huge success. Theme: "Communication and Responsibility." The Alateen groups plan to work closely with the Al-Anon Assembly and the WSC Delegate. This greater involvement is warmly welcomed by the Sask. Al-Anon Assembly.

— *Rita C., Chairman; Timmy W., Staff Secretary*

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

This busy committee includes the General Secretary and the Staff Secretaries of Alateen, Public Relations, Institutions and Conference, who work along with Penny throughout the year, by mail and in monthly meetings.

WSC Agenda. Topics for the agenda evolve through a free-flowing exchange of information, ideas, and problems encountered by the various committees in the field. This information is meshed and evaluated to produce an interesting, inspiring program for the Conference.

Delegates' Expenses. Equalized expenses for Delegates' transportation to and from the WSC were increased to \$300 by the 1969 Conference. Each Assembly Treasurer remits this amount to the World Service Office before January 1st. This gives the newly-elected Treasurer 12 months before the equalized expenses are due to be sent in. (See Page 16 of the Revised World Service Handbook 1970)

Reports on the Conference. 5107 copies of the *Conference Summary* were sent to the Groups in June; 700 additional copies were sent to Area WSC Committees to use in reporting to their Districts. The *Conference Digest* (101 page detailed report) was sent to each Delegate in November.

Panel 10 Information. Panel 7 Areas held elections in fall 1969. Information about the new Panel 10 Delegates was recorded by the WSC Secretary. The Staff is most grateful for the lists of Area Committee members, the names of Chairman/Coordinators and Newsletter Editors. This makes it possible for a staff member to write directly to an individual. When it might be useful, a carbon copy is sent also to the Delegate.

New Areas. Ontario now has two Assembly Areas (North and South). Wyoming is sending a Delegate for the first time. This makes a total of 54 Delegates. The United Kingdom and Eire will be represented by Dorothy H.

The District of Columbia, with a view to forming its own Assembly Area, asked to have a representative seated at the 1970 WSC to present this idea. The Convention took the

question up with the Admissions Committee and the consensus of the six Delegates was to ask the seven D. C. groups to send a written request to be discussed at the Conference. The Admissions Committee will then review the Conference decision of 1965 that the D. C. groups might join either the *Virginia* or *Maryland* Assembly. The groups subsequently became part of the latter.

New Regional Trustee. Time has been allotted at the Conference for the election of the first Canadian trustee (Eastern Region.) The resumés of three candidates, from *Atlantic Provinces, Ontario* and *Quebec*, will be reviewed by the voting members.

Reunion Luncheon at Miami. A mailing list is being prepared to be used to invite all Delegates, Panels 1 - 10, 1961 - 70, to the Reunion Luncheon at the AA International on July 3rd. (Cotillion Room, Eden Roc Hotel). A few ex-Delegates have moved to other cities and it has been most helpful to get current addresses from present Assembly Officers.

Other Activities. The Committee is also concerned with:

AREA HIGHLIGHTS, mailed quarterly, in triplicate, to each Delegate.

MONTHLY MAILINGS to Delegates, including the FORUM and group information.

DELEGATES' PORTFOLIO, the preparation of which includes the brochure with the World Service Office reports.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS. Arrangements for the WSO, including rooms, meeting areas, meals and Hospitality Room, the latter staffed by volunteers.

- Penny B., *Chairman*; Holly C., *Staff Secretary*

THE AFG FORUM COMMITTEE

The members of Panels 8 and 9 will doubtless remember last spring's plea for help in reaching the estimated income figure of \$17,000 for the FORUM. We had missed the previous year's goal by only \$400. Last April I asked every Delegate to tell about the FORUM as they went about their states and provinces. I *knew* you could make that estimated budget figure - and you did! We even came out with overs - \$18,651.10. I beg your continued interest and help. I can't live happily if the FORUM is a liability instead of an asset to our fellowship.

Al-Anon's Favorite FORUM Editorials. I have some shivers about our new book, too. The manuscript was given to Lois and Alice on January 10th for review. They were far more enthusiastic and sure about its prospects than I've dared to be. I hope they're right! Copy will soon go to the printer and God willing, we'll have books for a successful launching at the Miami Convention. The editorials appear in the order in which they were published over the years, and there's an index, summarizing the main point of each.

New Project. I am working on a complete manual for producing the FORUM which should be helpful to anyone who might have to edit an issue in an emergency.

- Margaret D., *Chairman-Editor*

FRENCH LITERATURE COMMITTEE

We now serve more than 210 groups in Canada, France, Belgium, Switzerland and Luxembourg. In addition there are 31 Alateen groups and nine loners. Our first French-speaking group in the U. S. is now being formed. Literature is mailed to many parts of the U. S. and Canada.

The FORUM has taken a great step forward this year. In 1968 it was still a huge (8x14 inch) homemade mimeo-

graphed bulletin. Now it has an elegant professional look, same size and color as the parent version; 15 pages printed in offset. This achievement and the progress of our publications were made possible through the generosity of the WSO who purchased an electric typewriter for our Committee. By Conference time, the French Literature Committee will have published 18 issues of the FORUM (12 in 1969 plus 6 back issues of 1968).

Other Publications and Revisions. The Charter, "*Freedom from Despair*" and "*Information for the Newcomer*." "*Al-Anon Family Groups at Work*" was completely revised - actually a new translation, since our most recent one dated from 1963.

New Items. Al-Anon Posters and "*Step Four Inventory for Alateens*." Now at the printers: "*3 Views of Al-Anon*" - "*A Guide for Alateen Sponsors*" (a complete revision) and "*For Teenagers with an Alcoholic Parent*." The Committee is most grateful to the WSO for their help and moral support. Thanks also to Henrietta to whom we owe so much.

- Alberte C., *Chairman*

TREASURER'S REPORT

The financial picture for 1969 is considerably better than we had expected. Literature sales are up, FORUM subscriptions are up, contributions are up. But so are the costs of materials and labor, and so are expenses. To summarize: increase in income was \$54,927. Increase in outgo, \$26,183. This leaves a gain of \$28,744, which means operating fairly close to the edge. It is, nevertheless, a wonderful result, due largely to the dedicated efforts of the Delegates who carried the message to their groups, thus strengthening the link of understanding between the membership and the WSO.

An audited financial statement is available to any group on request.

As Al-Anon grows, so must the support for its expanding business arm. There is still much to be done that we have as yet been unable to afford:

- more adequate office space, more equipment, more staff - all badly needed

- fringe benefits for our dedicated and overworked staff; this will cost, at the outset, \$20,000 a year

- an operating reserve fund to assure the continuation of the WSO in difficult times. Prudence dictates that we must have enough to withstand at least a year's curtailed income if economic conditions should make it necessary.

We are doing well. We must and will continue to do well. But we must keep our financial picture in realistic focus at all times. The service that the Al-Anon fellowship gives to humanity world-wide is too important to be hampered in any way.

- Evelyn C., *Chairman, Budget Committee*

INSTITUTIONS COMMITTEE

Growing recognition of Al-Anon's value as a rehabilitative source for families of alcoholics in institutions has brought about a steady increase in groups - in hospitals, correctional institutions and rehab centers. This was accomplished through the efforts of the Delegates, Institutional Committees and the excellent cooperation of AA sponsors of institutional groups.

Throughout the year, from various sources, came valuable information on ways to establish new groups. The Committees channeled these ideas to groups requiring guidance.

New Groups. Institutional groups have been formed in *Ariz., Ark. Cal. (4), Ill. (2), Mass., Minn. (3), Miss. (3), N. Y., N. C., Tenn., Texas, Wisc., Canada, Eire, Northern Ireland and Mexico.*

1969 Letter to Institutional Groups. With the cooperation of AA's General Service Office (who also addressed the envelopes:) 166 letters were sent to AA Institutional Groups offering Al-Anon's help to relatives and friends of alcoholics. Hundreds of referrals were received and a steady flow continued through the year. A friendly, informative letter was sent to these families explaining Al-Anon, including copies of "*Homeward Bound*," "*Purposes and Suggestions*" and a publications list.

Discount Packages. The pamphlets "*What's Next? Asks the Husband of an Alcoholic*" and "*To the Mother and Father of an Alcoholic*" have now been included in the discount package. We retained the \$3.50 discount price by reducing slightly the quantities of other booklets. A new Order Blank, listing the items in the package, resulted in increased sales.

A letter announcing the revised edition of "*Homeward Bound*" together with a copy of the pamphlet, was mailed to 246 institutions and professionals.

Correspondence. We have had many more requests for information from hospital coordinators, chaplains, directors and others, which added substantially to our correspondence. Each reply included detailed information and several pieces of literature. There was also a good deal of correspondence with groups asking for guidance in dealing with problems encountered in this phase of the program.

Appreciation. That the work of the Committee is really reaching people who need it is evidenced by the many letters we receive from alcoholics in institutions thanking us for help extended to their families.

- Jo K., Chairman; Myrna H., Staff Secretary

LITERATURE COMMITTEE

There were no major projects during 1969, but the few new pieces and much letter-writing consumed considerable time. "*Alcoholism, A Merry-Go-Round Named Denial*", originally given by The Reverend Joseph Kellermann as a talk at a Connecticut Workshop, required a good deal of editing to tailor it to Al-Anon use. Each version was cleared with Rev. K., who finally gave us the glad tidings that our version was even better than the original!

"*My Wife Drinks Too Much*" is the title of a long-awaited booklet for men.

"*3 Views of Al-Anon*" was inspired by an article in The AA Grapevine, extolling Al-Anon. We used it, with permission, and added Bill W.'s historic statement about our fellowship and "An Open Letter to My Family" based on material which appeared originally in our "*Guide for the Family of the Alcoholic*." This new booklet has been in great demand, especially for passing along to AA groups.

Revisions. The Literature Price List was completely reorganized to include two pages of descriptive matter about the various items on the order blank. Later in the year, when more new items had to be added, we transferred our mimeographed items to a separate order blank.

"*Al-Anon, You and the Alcoholic*", last revised in 1965, was updated.

"*Homeward Bound*" was revised to include more facts about Al-Anon.

"*Whys and Wherefores*" was revised to clarify methods of ordering FORUM subscriptions.

"*Purposes and Suggestions*" was revised to emphasize the importance of avoiding gossip and recitals of the alcoholic's activities. It also stresses the need to observe anonymity, to bring it into line with our booklet: "*Why is Al-Anon Anonymous?*" issued earlier in the year.

Al-Anon's New Book, to be introduced at the AA Convention in Miami, is titled: AL-ANON'S FAVORITE FORUM EDITORIALS. The Literature Committee had the privilege of reviewing Margaret's editorials and Step and Tradition discussions which had appeared in the FORUM over the years. A superb book which no member should be without. Available at the International Convention or by mail order.

Correspondence. The interchange, with individuals and groups, has been lively. It is a joy to know that every contact of this kind brings our members and the World Service Office closer together.

- Alice B., Chairman

POLICY COMMITTEE

The Policy Committee, composed of chairmen of all committees and the staff secretaries, met quarterly to discuss problems referred to it by groups throughout our fellowship, particularly those arising from interpretation of the Traditions. Decisions are passed on by the Board of Trustees and are submitted to the entire Conference for final approval.

January 21st • that a General Service Office/Committee be established before permission is granted to overseas Al-Anon to print and distribute Al-Anon literature.

• that Alateen should not publish its literature independently of Al-Anon since it is part of the fellowship and all literature must be Conference-Approved to assure a uniform image of Al-Anon/Alateen world-wide. Suggestions are always welcome.

• that Alateens may have a state symbol.

• that no World Service Conference tapes be distributed and no tape recorders be permitted at any of the Conference sessions.

April 15th • that in addition to Lois and the General Secretary, two members of the Policy Committee be appointed to read all new and re-edited literature before it is approved.

• that Al-Anon members may serve on outside boards and councils related to the field of alcoholism but that our Tradition of maintaining anonymity at the public level be observed. It would be beneficial for the Al-Anon member to disclose his/her affiliation to others on the Board if the alcoholic member of the family approves.

July 15th • that Al-Anon closed meetings may be taped for use by professionals in the field of alcoholism with the following stipulations: 1) that all members are aware of the taping and approve it; 2) that anonymity is carefully preserved; 3) that those participating refrain from dwelling on the alcoholic's story, be knowledgeable about our Traditions and try to demonstrate how the Al-Anon philosophy has influenced for the better their own attitudes and actions.

• that no person's name may appear in the title of an Al-Anon book.

• that overseas Al-Anon may accept offers from AA to include Al-Anon material in an AA publication.

particularly if Al-Anon is new to a country. This should be an interim measure, however; Al-Anon groups should publish their own newsletters as soon as possible.

October 21st • that when a member of Al-Anon is also a member of AA, it is preferable that he/she should not hold office in the group and definitely not the office of Group Representative.

• that it is permissible to include Al-Anon literature in packets distributed by a Welcome wagon but it is suggested that it be limited to the leaflet: "Are You Living with a Severe Drinking Problem?"

• that the Al-Anon poster may be placed in a bus or other means of public transportation. Permission should be obtained from the bus service and, as a courtesy, the local AA Intergroup Office should be informed of the project. An Answering Service telephone number should be used — not that of an individual.

Many of the questions concerning interpretation stem from similar situations. This suggests the great value of our WSC and its success in making us aware of the need for unity of thought and action to avoid fragmentation of Al-Anon principles.

— Mary S., *Chairman*

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The ever growing workload of this committee consisted of much correspondence, articles for press and professional media, announcements of new literature, interviews with writers and professionals and developing Al-Anon's participation in special projects. The latter included, for April, our own WSC and the Annual Conference of the National Council on Alcoholism; for May—June, the National Conference of Social Welfare in Chicago; for July, preparation for Al-Anon activities at the International AA Convention in Miami.

PR Via the Media. Coverage in all media was excellent in 1969. A number of articles are in preparation for use in 1970. Reports from groups indicate good participation by Al-Anon and Alateen on TV and radio. Most notable were the U.S. Senate Sub-Committee hearings on alcoholism chaired by Senator Harold Hughes of Iowa which were broadcast on network radio.

Public Relations Literature

1) Discount Packages, approximately 200 orders.
2) Student Packets, approximately 400 requests.
3) Professional Fact File. This has proved a great asset in providing information to professionals.

Public Education. Correspondence with outside agencies who asked for information, assistance and literature:

Councils and Commissions, 61; Educators and Researchers, 123; Industry, 18; Libraries and Bookstores, 54; Media, 56; Medical, 100; Religious, 123; Social Agencies, 63.

Mailings. "3 Views of Al-Anon" was introduced by letter to some 1500 names on our PR and Institutional mailing lists. Sample copies were then sent to the considerable number who responded.

National Conference on Social Welfare. Held at the New York Hilton Hotel in 1969, Stephanie and her committee conducted our participation. Results were so encouraging that we have arranged to take part in this year's Conference in Chicago.

NAAAP. Barbara M., British Columbia Delegate to the WSC represented Al-Anon at the 20th Annual Meeting held in September in Vancouver. Barbara was heartily commended for an outstanding presentation. See report page 9.

In a period full of change, personnel replacements and expedients which often had to be makeshift, the Public Relations Committee wound up the year with its many planned activities up-to-date or well under way for 1970.

Stephanie O., Chairman; Sylvia R. and Madelyn E., Staff Secretaries

VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE

It has been a good year. We added only a few volunteers, but most of them served regularly and faithfully, willing to come whenever they were called and some even volunteering for extra duty when they weren't! They assisted the Staff in such monumental tasks as these:

Preparing the FORUM for mailing: sealing, counting and tying 12,500 copies each month. Sometimes they even stuffed envelopes as well, for special mailings.

Preparing literature packs for mailing to new Al-Anon and Alateen groups, for individuals, prisons and students who write to us for help.

Stuffing thousands of letters to be sent to groups in world-wide mailings.

Collating mimeographed sheets, including the materials on our price lists.

We are grateful, too, to all the volunteer chairmen and their committees who have given us so much service.

We wish to thank all our volunteers for the many hours of hard work they have given during the year. And last, but by no means least, we thank the Delegates who are volunteers on an even greater scale — our heartfelt thanks for all you are doing for Al-Anon.

— Evelyn C., *Chairman*

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A BIRDSEYE VIEW OF THE WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE

Months of preparation, by committees, staff and WSC Delegates made this highly successful event at which matters of importance to the fellowship were discussed and acted upon.

The Conference Opened Tuesday evening, April 21, with a dinner for Conference members, staff and guests. We were honored by the presence of a number of AA members.

Business sessions began after dinner with the first Roll Call, recommendations of the Admissions Committee and the reading of the Twelve Traditions.

Session II began at 9:00 A. M. Wednesday April 22. Roll Call was followed by Lois W., telling her own story of PERSONAL RECOVERY, a highlight of the Conference.

She began with a moving expression of gratitude: "I want to thank you all for your love and appreciation given to me so graciously and generously. But the fellowships which Bill and I had a part in starting could not have flourished without the dedication of those who carried the message. So I, in turn, want you to know how much I love and appreciate you for all you have done." Lois then told of the struggles of the early days, how she, like many of us, thought sobriety alone would solve all problems. She discovered that she, too, had much to overcome and to change in herself. Thus was Al-Anon born. So Lois paved the way for us to realize our own shortcomings and what to do about them.

(From 9:30 until noon, each committee met in a separate meeting room where their special problems were discussed in relation to Al-Anon's work in Institutions, Alateens, Literature, Conference, Public Relations and Agenda.)

Session III began after lunch, with the Delegate from Mississippi, Mona A., speaking on A DELEGATE'S RESPONSIBILITY.

She described her reluctance to undertake this chore when Penny, our Conference Chairman, had called her. She was recovering from a stay at a hospital, was still shattered by the problems inflicted on the Gulf Coast by Hurricane Camille, and about to start on a new job! "But who can resist the persuasions of our Conference Chairman?" said Mona. "I lapped it up like a stray kitten. Until Penny approaches you, you don't know what it is to have your ego boosted! If her name were Fifty Cents instead of Penny we could run her for President and put the entire world to work." Then in a serious vein, Mona continued:

"I am the liaison between the World Service Office and my Area — the streamer from the maypole to the dancing child which is Al-Anon in my Area. When I come to New York, I must be prepared for the Conference. There was a lot of reading material — and I read it all. My first year at the Conference, I listened a lot; the second year I talked a lot. I learned from that, too — not from what I said, but from the answers. I didn't fall in love with all those answers but I've incorporated them into my thinking and acting. I have a better understanding now.

"I tried to feel those answers, deep inside, and to respond to them. I fed things into my mental Conference file and found a place for them among all the background material I have stored there.

"I urge you to saturate yourself with Al-Anon at the Conference level. Let yourself be wrapped in this atmosphere. Leave your other life outside for a time — turn it off as you turn out the light when you go to sleep. Feel the happenings here; write them down as you go along. Your notes will help you recapture the mood of the Conference so you can bring it back with you when you go home. If you feel like the streamer on the maypole that connects all Areas to a firm anchor, your members back home will sense it — they'll want to know more and more."

(Mona's ringing message kept her hearers spellbound.)

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After discussion of the World Service reports, Henrietta S., General Secretary, spoke about the Directory, emphasizing again, as she did in her report (page 3) how urgent it is to keep the WSO informed of changes of address. (Remember "Who's the mailman for your group?")

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(Next on the agenda was the report of the Policy Committee, which was given by Lois W., in the absence of Mary S., the Committee's Chairman.)

Evelyn C., chairman of the Budget Committee next gave the Treasurer's Report (see page 5).

After a coffee break, Penny chaired a significant session on THE TWELVE TRADITIONS an in-depth analysis stating the points of view of each of the panel members: Anna S., *Al. Prov.*; Betty, *Maine*; Lavelle, *Wash.*; Jean, *Mass.*; Florence, *S. Dak.*; Bill O., *Nev.*; Jean B., *Alta.*; Violet, *N. J.*; Douglas, *S. C.*; Anna C., *Sask.*; Dorothy, *Wisc.*; and Ted of the Board of Trustees.

Key comments from the Twelve Traditions panel:

"Our existence as the Tenth WSC today is the direct result of Tradition 1 which plainly states that progress for the greatest number depends upon unity, which in turn depends on everyone's concern for our common welfare."

"Through the Al-Anon program we learn to accept responsibility and to believe in personal equality. We develop group conscience by being sensitive to the needs of those around us . . ."

"This simple statement ('. . . relatives of alcoholics, when gathered together for mutual aid, etc.') is often misinterpreted and cluttered up with outside interests. It means that, as a group, we should not be involved with other activities, whether commercial, religious, political, charitable or any other."

"A group, if it devotes itself solely to the study and practice of the Al-Anon program, has complete freedom as to how it will do this. Tradition Four also points out that nothing should be done which will cast a shadow on the good name of the fellowship or adversely affect Al-Anon or AA in any way."

"The Fifth Tradition has a multi-faceted purpose: to help the families of alcoholics, to practice the Twelve Steps, to try to understand and encourage the alcoholic and to welcome and give comfort to those who come to us for help."

"The Sixth Tradition reminds us that our primary aim is spiritual. To involve Al-Anon groups or the fellowship as a whole in outside issues carries great risks that we will lose sight of our real aims."

"It is obvious that every group should be self-supporting and that they, in turn, should want to support the Twelfth Step work of all Al-Anon. Tradition Seven tells us that we must decline support from all outside sources lest we involve ourselves in matters not related to the Al-Anon program."

"Why must Al-Anon Twelfth Step work remain 'forever non-professional'? Because only those whose lives have been affected by living with the problems of alcoholism can understand those of others in the same situation. All the hurt, fear, anger and self-pity I felt helps me to understand another person who is going through the same difficulties. This provides an opportunity to give of myself, expecting nothing in return."

"We may regard the Ninth Tradition, like all the others, as a framework which supports our groups in achieving the purposes of the program. Since we are all equal, groups should not be 'organized' with various levels of authority. Nor should any other part of our fellowship. Service centers are 'responsible to those they serve' — this statement again emphasizes our equality . . ."

"This Tradition (X) again tells us how vital it is not to enter into public controversy which might draw us into causes and issues unrelated to our fellowship."

"Cooperation with rehabilitation centers, schools, alcoholism councils and social services can make Al-Anon a real source of help to new members it attracts in this way. Radio, TV and newspapers are also effective in reaching people in need, but no Al-Anon individual should ever be identified personally."

"The final Tradition is the climax, whose few words embody our basic philosophy and ending on this inspiring note: 'ever reminding us to place principles above personalities.' Asserting one's self, without thought of principle,

can damage the fellowship more than any other factor. It should not be the will of the individual that prevails, but Principle or God's will. Study of this Tradition can do much to build strong groups and a strong fellowship."

(Each day's sessions closed with reports and comments from outgoing Delegates, those who were attending the World Service Conference for the third time. They appear in a special section at the end of this summary.)

8:00 P.M. A meeting attended only by the Delegates, who afterward reported their deliberations and proposals to the whole Conference. (See page 2)

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Session IV began on Thursday, April 23 with Roll Call, followed by an enlightening Workshop called "Newsletters Can Be Interesting." It was chaired by Ruth F. of Georgia, assisted by Elaine D., Florida; Carlene B., No. Car., and Ella M., Mont.

A wide variety of newsletters was discussed, from the modest one-pager produced by one person to the more complex kinds requiring several people for production and distribution.

The Handbook tells us that a newsletter is the voice of the Area WSC Committee, to inform and unify the Area through communication. There are now 26 newsletters listed with the WSO; a list will be furnished on request.

Ruth told of a lesson learned in this connection. As Assembly Secretary, she had started a newsletter. When she became the WSD, the fate of the newsletter hung in the balance and an eager group offered to take it over. But month after month passed with no issues appearing — since no one person was actually responsible for getting it out, it just didn't! "We have recovered from that catastrophic experience," said Ruth, "but we know now that one person must be responsible for the editing, printing and mailing."

Carlene answered her own question: "What should a good newsletter accomplish?" by listing four vital points: "1) It should be *interesting* — Al-Anon news, happenings, thoughts, and experiences. 2) It should be *easily read*, with each point made clearly and simply. It should be *thought-provoking* (and here she suggested that it follow the example of The FORUM in this.) It should be the *Voice of the Area WSC Committee*. The newsletter can play a great part in creating statewide unity."

Elaine: "It's wonderful to hear that our groups, particularly those geographically isolated, feel more a part of the whole because of the newsletter. The cumulative value of regular, reliable printed information continuously proves the effort worthwhile."

Elaine gave a good deal of interesting information about the Florida Newsletter called The Legacy, and offered sample copies to those Delegates who wished to have them.

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Then followed a panel on PUBLIC RELATIONS, chaired by Stephanie O. chairman of the committee, with Barbara M. of B. C.; Selma N. of Md.; and Billie M. of Minn.

Barbara had represented the WSO at the 20th Annual meeting of the NAAAP held in Vancouver, B. C. in September 1969.

"These Conferences bring together professionals in the U. S. and Canada who are concerned with alcohol problems. It is a way of exchanging techniques and ideas which helps all the organizations."

She had arranged a handsome display of our literature for the occasion and even brought a small model of it to

the Conference. She said the Delegates to the NAAAP showed great interest in Al-Anon and many took a supply of order forms.

The PR Committee of B. C., Barbara told us, is making great strides in radio and TV, and the B. C. Medical Association is to publish an article on Al-Anon shortly.

Selma, of Maryland, had the good fortune to be involved in the Hearings before a Special Subcommittee on Alcoholism and Narcotics during the 91st Congress, chaired by Senator Harold Hughes of Iowa. Selma told about an Al-Anon member, Kay, who had been one of our volunteers to man the literature booth at the International Congress on Alcohol and Alcoholism held in Washington in September 1968. She had been approached by a reporter from a magazine called PATIENT CARE, with 102,000 circulation, and asked about Al-Anon. As a result, she was invited to speak at a medical convention in Miami on Thanksgiving week-end where she appeared with a group of distinguished professionals. Expenses for Kay and her husband were paid, and her talk was taped. Subsequently an edited transcription appeared in the magazine. Kay was also one of the witnesses at the Senate hearings; the others who served were Bill W., Marty Mann and Mercedes McCambridge.

Yes, Al-Anon's public relations has come a long way and going strong!

Billie told us that Minnesota had always been aware of the importance of good public relations, to reach people outside the program. The PR Committee works actively with doctors, clergy, and social service personnel by letter, personal contact, newspaper articles, TV and radio. Originally, isolated efforts were made by individuals and groups to do this work, but in 1969 it was coordinated in an Assembly Committee, with an experienced active Al-Anon member as chairman. She selects members from various parts of the state.

"Once the Committee is formed," Billie said, "objectives and activities must be carefully planned." She also described many interesting achievements by this Committee.

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THE MIAMI CONVENTION. Al-Anon's part in AA's International get-together was explained by Henrietta. Work on this project has been going on for over a year, with all Committees involved in making arrangements and developing the program. There will be two series of workshops on various Al-Anon activities, a reunion luncheon for all WSC Delegates from 1961 to the present, a breakfast honoring Bill and Lois, a two-hour meeting on the spiritual side of our program and three other big meetings.

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Following a group of outgoing Delegates' reports, it was time for luncheon, followed by our guest speaker, Barry Leach, of the Alcoholic Service of Roosevelt Hospital where AA-Al-Anon principles are used and new techniques for helping alcoholics are being explored. After a 15-minute question-and-answer period, the Conference went on to consider, as the first item in SESSION V:

THE TWELVE CONCEPTS OF SERVICE, on which Lois has been working with her Committee for more than two years. (See Page 1 for Conference action.)

Then came a workshop, chaired by Holly C. of the WSO, on AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS AT WORK, which concentrated on the present tremendous upsurge in STUDY-DISCUSSION GROUPS. Along with Holly, Audrey of Iowa, Ed

K., of *Conn.*, and Joy of *N. Mex.*, explored this interesting development and demonstrated an actual meeting.

Study-Discussion Groups, usually composed of members of other groups, concentrate on the basics of the program — the Steps, Traditions, Slogans and Serenity Prayer. Such groups provide a second weekly meeting for those who realize the need for intensified study. Small groups are preferable, it was pointed out; the Treasurer is the sole officer; any member can lead. It is best to limit the number to six; when groups grow larger it is advisable to divide.

A suggested meeting format was presented, based on information in the WS Handbook, and a Step and a Tradition was discussed, with each panel member taking part.

Following this Workshop, Mona of *Miss.*, Chairman of the *Delegates Only* meeting, reported its decisions to the Conference. (See Page 2)

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After a brief coffee break, Alice B. reported the current status of CAL. (See Page 6)

Then came the *ASK-IT BASKET*, with Arbutus O., Regional Trustee, chairing, along with Bob Z., Phyllis Q. and Alice B., to answer questions.

Before the session closed, several more Delegates reported on work accomplished in their Areas during the past three years.

FRIDAY MORNING APRIL 24 after Roll Call, SESSION VI began with a panel on *THE WORLD SERVICE HANDBOOK AND HOW IT CAN BE USED*. Theresa L., *La.*, Chairman, stressed the need to *know* the Handbook: "I have studied the Handbook alone, at Workshops and at meetings; we always use it in Assembly. Delegates who are familiar with its contents have much more to pass along to groups and members about the real nature of this fellowship." She then introduced the panel members: Lois W., of the WSO, Myrtle G., *Colo.*, Dee M., *Va.* and Dorothy H. of the UK/EIRE. Lois discussed changes in the Handbook (constant improvements and keeping it up to date).

Myrtle said: "I have it practically memorized, but that would be of no benefit unless I can interest every GR and Committeeman in studying it, too, so they can convey to their groups the essence of these guidelines."

Dee: "Through the Handbook, Al-Anon became a reality in our Area, something to keep us on an even keel. When we follow its simple guidelines, everything becomes clear. It promotes unity."

Dorothy described the influence of the Handbook on Al-Anon structure in her country, concluding that it needed revision along the lines indicated by the Handbook."

Altogether an enlightening session which surely inspired Conference members to get more and more familiar with these guidelines.

The Friday morning session then moved on to a dramatic and impressive report by Henrietta on *FOREIGN LANGUAGE AL-ANON*, based on the report on page 3. It is always a source of amazement to hear of the tremendous world-wide growth of our fellowship which Henrietta projected so vividly to the Conference.

Then followed another major event of the afternoon: *INSTITUTIONAL ACTIVITY*, with Committee Chairman Jo K. chairing the panel, assisted by Myrna H., Inst. Secretary, Gladys I., *Kans.*, Anna S., *Atl. Prov.*, and Arbutus O. All had fascinating stories of the growth of this work in institutions, how individual groups became involved, how

State Assemblies arranged for the formation of groups, cooperation with AA and the staffs of the various institutions. The presentation centered on the importance of helping the families of patients and prisoners to create a more wholesome environment for their returning family members.

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As the next item on the Agenda, Sue L., Trustee, presented a resumé of the Regional Trustee Plan, and after another group of outgoing Delegates had reported, it was time to go to lunch.

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The afternoon Session (VII) began with an *ALATEEN WORKSHOP* with Rita C. as chairman of the workshop, and Timmy W., Alateen Secretary, adding many a colorful note. Barbara M., *B. C.*, Betty F., *Maine*, Mona A., *Miss.*, Eric of *Ariz.*, Christine, *Mo.*, Phyllis, *Ore.*, Florence, *S. D.*, and John of *Ohio* told fascinating stories about their growing Alateen activities.

All panel members stressed the problem of sponsorship:

"It is difficult to get members to commit themselves to this important work, but when sponsorship is a fertile seed, miracles happen!" "I wonder why Al-Anons who profess to be so grateful to our program are not willing to pass it along to the youngsters of alcoholics; who need it so much." "We need a well-planned training program for Alateen sponsors." "The Alateen sponsor should make periodic reports to the *sponsoring Al-Anon group*." "If we stress the tie between Al-Anon and Alateen, many young people would make excellent sponsors instead of drifting away from the program." "You just can't help grow in the program when you're faced by the honesty of these teenagers."

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The Alateen session was followed by a Workshop on *BEGINNERS GROUPS*. Aura C., *Cal. S.*, chaired, assisted by Bea V., *N. D.*, John C., *Ohio*, and Christine W., *Mo.*

All agreed that beginners meetings were essential to a good foundation in the program and faster progress for the individual.

Among the highlights: "Beginners meetings are held in every corner of our state. They consist of six lecture and question-and-answer periods lasting half an hour each" — "an Intergroup servicing 26 beginners groups provides the following curriculum: 1) Disease of Alcoholism; AA Open Meetings; Taking the First Step; 2) Living the 24-Hour Plan; 3) The Twelve Steps, emphasis on the Second; 4) The Twelve Traditions; Third Step; 5) Open Discussion, Serenity Prayer and 6) Taking inventory; Group Affiliation." "We use a uniform formula which the leaders of the beginners groups follow faithfully; this gives new members a feeling of Al-Anon unity." "Newcomers are asked to attend six meetings before they join the regular group. Advantages: established members need not gear the meeting to the limited knowledge of the newcomer; the newcomer is not exposed to concepts she cannot grasp without previous briefing." "Our group has doubled since we started beginners meetings."

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After the midafternoon coffee break the Conference moved on to the election of a new Regional Trustee, followed by the report of the Nominating Committee (Ted K., Chairman) which closed the session for the afternoon.

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SESSION VIII began at 7:30 in the evening with a fascinating review of Al-Anon activities in the United King-

dom & Eire by Dorothy H. Her first words were a moving expression of gratitude to the WSO "for their encouragement, help and inspiration. Especially the past year, during our time of reorganization, their support and guidance has been of tremendous value." Dorothy told us the fellowship has grown to 117 groups with 27 Loners and 3 Alateen groups. She spoke of Al-Anon participation in AA events, the many summer (tourist) visitors at meetings and the many public relations activities. All in all, a solid record of progress for our overseas friends!

The Session closed at 10:00 P. M. with another group of outgoing Delegates reports.

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SESSION IX on Saturday morning was our now-customary Spiritual Program. Topic: "Made a Decision." With our Conference Chairman, Penny, as the leader, it was a session we wish could be shared by every Al-Anon member in the world! (Not impossible; tapes of this wonderful meeting are available.)

Eric of Arizona spoke of his spiritual rebirth in Al-Anon: "What I have become, what I know, feel and believe, is a result of many things all of which happened in this wonderful program."

Donna of Arkansas said: "My life boils down to one thing now - establishing conscious contact with God daily, for without this I am nothing."

Evelyn C. of the WSO, told about the early days in Al-Anon when she had such a struggle to find herself. As to her work as a volunteer, she said she came to realize that "helping people in many places who needed what only Al-Anon could give" brought her to contentment and happiness. "The happiness I have found I want to share with those who are still searching."

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And the Conference ended, as all Al-Anon meetings do, with our grateful reciting of the Lord's Prayer.

The ASK-IT BASKET

The Delegates to the World Service Conference bring questions from members all over the continent to be read at a special session. A Committee is appointed to answer them; each question is assigned to the person who is best-informed on that particular topic. Here are some Questions and Answers from the 1970 Conference.

Q.: Can all or part of any of our literature be quoted on radio, television or in newspapers without authority? If authorization is needed, who gives it? Can it be used if credit is given to the source?

A.: *Brief quotations from our literature may be used in any medium, if permission has been requested from the WSO and given. To protect our copyright, credit must also be given to Al-Anon Family Groups.*

Q.: Can a six months' subscription to The FORUM be made available?

A.: *Sorry, no - too much bookwork. Most groups buy several subscriptions and sell single copies at 25¢. This makes it easier for members than to pay for a whole subscription at once.*

Q.: Could a binder for The FORUM be bought, similar to the one The Grapevine uses?

A.: *If there were enough demand for this item, yes. But we have had very few requests and have found that most people use the looseleaf ring binder of FORUM size, which works very well and holds two or three years' issues.*

Q.: The WSO has eliminated the discount for groups on the purchase of books. Therefore, if they are not going to indicate a recommended price at a slight increase, we request they leave the price blank so that groups can realize a small markup. Is this possible?

A.: *There is still a discount on the purchase of five books of one title. The individual discount was eliminated because of a sizable increase in cost of production, and because many groups preferred to pass the saving on to the members who purchased the books.*

Q.: Is it true that Al-Anons are not to use any AA literature whatsoever?

A.: *Gracious, you make it sound as though Al-Anon were governed by a law-making, law-enforcing body! Read Tradition Four about autonomy. Also note that our own literature list contains two AA booklets - "The Alcoholic Wife" and "The Alcoholic Husband."*

Q.: The Alateens in my Area want their own 12-Step study book. What chance do they have of getting one?

A.: *The explanations of the Steps, given in various places in our literature, applies to anyone, of any age, who lives with the problem. But we wouldn't be able to undertake such an investment (probably upward of \$10,000) unless the need were greater than it appears to be.*

Q.: Should parents and relatives of drug addicts be encouraged to join, participate and be active in Al-Anon?

A.: *There are similar organizations which provide help of this kind. Drug abuse is just another of many social problems and we hesitate to dilute our own program by moving into fields other than alcoholism. Individual members may want to guide these troubled families to sources of help.*

Q.: If a group contributes regularly to WSO, do they also receive the three appeal letters?

A.: *Yes, because it would take a vast amount of record-keeping to separate them, and because the appeals are directed not to groups, but to individual members. Most Al-Anons want the comfortable feeling of knowing they are making a personal contribution to Al-Anon's world-wide work.*

Q.: The Panel 3 and 6 Delegates in my Area have been of invaluable help to me during my first year as Delegate. Would it not be wise to ask the former Delegates to serve as an Advisory Committee in our Assemblies?

A.: *To quote an old song: "Never let them go!" The experience of former Delegates is priceless and should be used in any way that fits the needs of your Area.*

- Q.: I was asked to clarify if it would be all right to use the Praying Hands on a Conference flyer. Does the Conference have any ideas or experience along this line?
- A.: *There have been many suggestions for the use of various symbols, but we have only one — the triangle in a circle. Wouldn't it be confusing for various parts of the fellowship to use different symbols to identify Al-Anon?*
- Q.: Could literature for Alateen groups be more varied?
- A.: *Afraid not, if it means adding still more Alateen booklets; we already have more types than there's sufficient demand for. But we are about to publish a pocket-wallet folder and a sheet of instructions for prospective Alateen speakers, both written by Alateens.*
- Q.: Should Al-Anon groups supply free literature to Alcoholic Clubs?
- A.: *Certainly, if your group can afford it, and many can. Supplying literature to any organization or facility that reaches people in need is wonderful Twelfth Step work!*
- Q.: Is it permissible for Area Newsletters to use excerpts from the Conference Digest?
- A.: *Yes, if they are brief, well-chosen and credited to the source.*
- Q.: Is literature available for those in Al-Anon whose husbands have had a number of years of sobriety? Many "old timers" feel that some of the items in ODAT and other literature are directed to newcomers and those with the active problem.
- A.: *The Al-Anon program is geared to anyone who lives with an alcoholic, sober or not. All our early literature was used only by AA wives. The program should not and does not change its character for changes in our situations. It is universally applicable to our problems whatever they may be.*
- Q.: When will the revised edition of THE DILEMMA OF THE ALCOHOLIC MARRIAGE be coming out?
- A.: *By the end of the year, probably. The original version had to be reordered because of heavy demand.*
- Q.: Would it be against our Traditions for us to use Area funds for travel expenses for an Alateen to attend the Miami Convention? He has worked to pay part of his expenses.
- A.: *Strictly speaking, funds contributed to the fellowship should not be used except on behalf of an Al-Anon entity — group, Assembly, Intergroup or WSO. Would suggest that concerned individuals make up the necessary difference in his expenses. It's a nice, generous thought!*
- Q.: Is there any way we can find out whether our Fact Files are up to date?
- A.: *The Fact Files are frequently revised and brought up to date. Any current one is suitable for current use.*
- Q.: Please inform us as to the correct Preamble to be used at all Al-Anon meetings. I have heard three versions.
- A.: *Any Preamble that appears in a piece of CAL may be used; it just depends on what the members prefer.*
- Q.: A Committeeman in the Area would like more literature for parents of alcoholics.
- A.: *The booklet "To the Mother and Father of an Alcoholic" deals with the subject in detail. The rest of our literature, dedicated to teaching us to use the program to correct our own faults, applies to anyone who lives with an alcoholic, no matter what the relationship.*
- Q.: A male member wants "an editorial effort to gradually defeminize the Al-Anon literature."
- A.: *The male members of the Literature Committee would probably take issue with this questioner as to the "feminine" quality of our literature. It's merely written in clear English, and so far as we have been able to discover, has no gender.*
- Q.: Why can't the English version of The FORUM be printed like the French version?
- A.: *The French Literature Committee has labored long and hard to make the French version look like the English!*
- Q.: Why is it necessary to charge so much for the WS Handbook?
- A.: *The present price barely covers cost of production and mailing. Unfortunately, the WSO can't afford to subsidize the distribution of even so vital a piece as the Handbook.*
- Q.: Is it permissible to use AFG in the center of symbols used on Area Newsletters or must the triangle and circle be left blank?
- A.: *It's not only permissible, but highly desirable.*
- Q.: Are copies of past Conference Summaries available upon request from groups or individuals and what is the cost?
- A.: *Yes, they are available and they cost 50¢ per copy.*
- Q.: Do you have a packet of literature available for display purposes? I am thinking of one copy of each piece, including book covers that can be mounted.
- A.: *Yes, indeed. Makes a nice display. Order from the World Service Office.*
- Q.: If Delegates cannot succeed themselves, why can Trustees?
- A.: *Because the Trustees are guardians of the business concerns of the fellowship and their experience is valuable on a continuing basis. Being a Delegate is an honorary distinction, which should be shared by others. The Delegate's "retirement" after three years is expected to flower into super service to the Area because of the experience he or she has gained from contact with this broader aspect of the fellowship.*

MEMORABLE WORDS FROM THE OUTGOING DELEGATES

Eighteen of those who attended the 1970 World Service Conference said their farewells and told us some interesting things about the growth of Al-Anon in the Areas they represented:

ALABAMA. *Bonnie S.* gave us a moving good-bye message which ended on a cheering note with her promise to be with us at the AA International Convention in Miami in July. We're looking forward to it, Bonnie!

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ARIZONA. *Eric* told us of the remarkable growth in his State, particularly in the broadening scope of service. Arizona now has an answering service, a newsletter and active Assembly Committees for Alateen, Finance, Institutions and Public Relations.

Eric also told us that his three years of close contact with the WSO as Delegate from his State were one of the most inspiring experiences of his life. "It has been the beginning of a desire and an opportunity for me to give of myself." We all love you too, Eric.

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ATLANTIC PROVINCES. Public Relations activity in that Province, *Anna S.* told us, has reached an all-time high. They also publish a newsletter which reaches 350 members and serves as a medium for disseminating news from Area Highlights. "These Conferences do so much to strengthen the bonds of unity within our Fellowship and help to bring about the 'Common Good' we are all working for," said Anna in her closing statement.

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ALBERTA. *Jean B.* called her three years as Delegate "a tremendously rewarding experience, not only in service but in personal growth . . ." After each Conference, Jean traveled 1700 miles to visit the 9 Districts in her Province, carrying with her a comprehensive book of Conference Approved Literature and fifty color photographs of the people at the World Service Conference. She felt this was the closest she could come to having them actually meet the members of the Conferences at which she was representing the groups at home. A wonderful idea! And all that traveling didn't even include Jean's trips to the Assembly and Executive meetings. Jean certainly kept on the move spreading the World Service message!

BRITISH COLUMBIA. *Barbara M.* told us her Province had made great strides in informing professionals about Al-Anon — through TV, radio and personal contacts. She credits the Conference with having given her ideas that spurred action (but it was YOU who did it, Barbara!)

"Serving as Delegate has been a revelation to me," said Barbara. This has been an opportunity to do Twelfth Step work in its entirety. It has been an education in the true meaning of love and understanding. I feel I have begun to learn the true language of the heart as it is offered to us in Al-Anon."

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COLORADO. *Myrtle G.* said that her State is growing increasingly aware of its responsibility to World Services. "We are now using CAL in all groups and 90% of our members own a personal copy of ODAT — and USE IT! Myrtle was an Alternate to the Conference before she became Delegate, "so this," she remarked, "is my *second* swan song!"

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GEORGIA. *Ruth F.* told us that her contacts with Delegates from larger, more advanced Areas gave her much valuable guidance in work in her own State. Al-Anon and Alateen groups have increased by 45%; they are participating in AA Conventions; Georgia now has a tri-annual newsletter, and the groups have learned to use The FORUM and CAL in their programming. And best of all, they follow the Handbook faithfully. That's real progress, Ruth!

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MISSISSIPPI. *Mona A.* made a bright dramatic contrast between her original reluctance to undertake the job of being a World Service Delegate, and her enthusiasm for it today. She says she has seen a substantial increase in the *quality* of Al-Anon in her Area, and above all, in willingness to serve.

Wondering at the reasons for this, Mona surmised it might be a natural pattern of growth and maturing, but more likely, perhaps, the disaster of Hurricane Camille that devastated her Area has given people a new sense of what is really important. She was delighted with the participation of Alateens in Area Assemblies and regards it as another indication of Mississippi's growth. (We know another reason, Mona — YOU!)

MASSACHUSETTS. *Jean S.* commented on the disappearance of non-CAL literature in her State and points to this as an important sign of improvement. She explained that the membership, over-all, has a clearer idea of its relationship to the World Service Office. The number of groups represented at State Assemblies has increased substantially and Alateen has been welcomed, too. As to the personal effect of her service as a WSD, Jean said: "There have been many happenings in my life that I could not have faced without the program and this great opportunity to serve."

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MONTANA. *Ella M.*, like Jean of Alberta, also has tremendous distances to cover to carry the message in her Area. She has to rely to some extent on the Newsletter to convey news of the Conference to all her far-flung groups, and Montana also has two Assemblies at which she has an opportunity to pass the word along.

Ella reports excellent activity in Institutional work, in the use of CAL and inspiring the membership, through helping them to understand Al-Anon structure, to carry on lots of Twelfth Step work.

* * * * *

NEW JERSEY. *Violet F.* found it most enlightening and inspiring to see the working of Al-Anon at first hand. She was impressed by the unselfish willingness of give and the enthusiasm and love that motivated the giving.

New Jersey has now been set up with five Districts whose Committeemen are helping the members to a better understanding of the WSO. In addition, New Jersey now has a flourishing Intergroup with an answering service, a PR Committee and representation of Al-Anon at the Summer School of Alcohol Studies at Rutgers University. Vi promised us that Al-Anon is going to keep on growing in New Jersey.

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NORTH CAROLINA. *Carlene B.* said that until she had attended her first Conference, she hadn't the least idea of the tremendous sharing and scope of the Fellowship. North Carolina has found the Newsletter an effective means of keeping everyone informed of happenings and new ideas, which has resulted in all groups becoming increasingly aware of PR and Institutional work, the use of CAL and

the functions of the World Service Office. Said Carlene: "I believe that God works through people and I thank the God of my understanding for each and every Al-Anon, all over the world."

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NORTH DAKOTA. *Bea V.* reports much progress in the unifying of activities in her State. She is continuing the work of the first N. D. Delegate in establishing closer rapport between the groups and the Assembly. The state now has an effective Newsletter, a Public Relations Committee and much improved means of communication generally. One of these was certainly Bea herself — she visited every group in her State to make her report on the Conference personally to the members! That's real dedication, Bea.

* * * * *

OKLAHOMA is growing fast, reports *Bob Z.* They now have overflowing attendance at State meetings — are planning soon to establish Districts, have a successful Institutions program, and altogether, lots of growth and enthusiasm. Probably the result of a working Delegate, *Bob!*

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OREGON's *Phyllis* said that her greatest wish — her impossible dream — was some time to meet *Bill and Lois.* She

couldn't have imagined greater fulfillment, for she came, as Alternate, in 1967, and then for three more years, with plenty of opportunity to meet and know her idols — and ours! *Phyllis* told of a great deal of growth and progress in Oregon and mentioned particularly their following the example of Arizona in setting up PR committees of members who live close together so they can meet once a month. "We found we really got projects accomplished in this way," *Phyllis* explained. "The results show in the number of new people that are brought into our groups by newspaper articles and public programs."

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VIRGINIA. *Dee M.* told us that a highlight of the advances being made in her state is that 30 new Al-Anon and Alateen groups have been added to her Area, including two Institutional groups. At Assembly there have been workshops on Public Relations, on Finance and on the WS Handbook. Regular District meetings have increased. *Dee* gave many interesting examples of how Virginia is going ahead, including the reactivation of an effective Newsletter.

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WASHINGTON. *Lavelle G.* said it in rhyme: "Al-Anon's GREAT — In Washington State" and then proceeded to show us

how with her report of tremendous advances in all parts of the program. They offer volunteers to serve on Councils on Alcoholism, speaking at schools, working with Courts, hospitals and prisons — a mighty enterprising State, *Lavelle*, and a great Delegate to show the way!

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WISCONSIN. *Dorothy S.*, in a highly encouraging report, made a statement of beautiful significance for Areas where rivalry destroys the effectiveness of the program: It was this: "We have both an Intergroup and a Central Office in Milwaukee, and the cooperation between us has been most gratifying." Must be they're using the Steps and Traditions in their inter-Al-Anon work as well as in their personal lives. *Dorothy* spoke also of some successful daytime groups to which mothers can bring their children to be cared for by a group-provided babysitter.

After more interesting facts about the work that's going on in her home State, *Dorothy* said: "I am humbly grateful for the opportunity to be even a small part in the growth of our wonderful fellowship."

* * * * *

Godspeed, faithful servants of the Fellowship. You have made many friends who will be thinking of you!

Prepared by
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