Theme of the Conference:

PASS ALONG UNDERSTANDING

(As of 1970, after two years of concentrated effort by Lois and the Concepts Committee, Al-Anon published its "Twelve Concepts of Service" based on those of AA. These represent the Third Legacy. Service (the first two being Recovery (The Twelve Steps) and Unity (the Twelve Traditions). One theme welds the three Legacies together: Pass Along Understanding. This was therefore chosen as the theme of our Twelfth World Service Conference.)

That first evening concluded with one of the most important features of the Conference:

Operation Delegates Headstart

Suggested by Elaine D., WSD from Florida, the immense possibilities were developed throughout the year and appropriately, Elaine chaired the session.

Subjects explored were: "Getting the Most Out of the Conference," and "Communicating When You Get Back to Your Area."

Elaine:

"As Delegates, the first major link is the Area World Service Committee. Its members are responsible for helping us communicate. I know of no better way to take the pulse of Al-Anon and Alateen than such sharing sessions with the other members of the World Service Committee. In Florida, this means three meetings a year.

"Careful planning helps us get the most from the time we spend together. All members receive an agenda before the meeting and the highlights of all reports are requested in writing.

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

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Delegates-Only Meeting Report:

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Much understanding to included in the Assembly budget; personal copies are mailed to Area World Service Committee.

The time to offer support and encouragement to the trusted servants who are carrying out their responsibilities. Your sharing enables them to help each other and you, the Delegate. Everyone will have something of value to take back. DRs share with GRs in their Districts and encourage sharing with each other on a District level; then reporting to their respective groups. Every informed DR and GR means an informed group: the two-way communication pipeline becomes reality.

Newsletters are an important communication tool for the Area World Service Committee. Ours, (circulation 750) is now included in the Assembly budget; personal copies are mailed to all Al-Anon and Alateen GRs. Groups request the number of additional copies they need for their members. Now in its sixth year, The Legacy has been a major means of uniting and informing our Area. It includes all information of value to the groups, GRs, Public Information Committees, news from WSO, the Area WSC, the Assembly, the Districts, groups and individuals.

Letters are also an effective means of communication for the Delegate, another Assembly officer or a special services coordinator, to get detailed information to specific people. For the Area WSC, copies of Area Highlights and other special information from WSO can be attached.

A Contribution Fact Sheet is sent to all GRs and group secretaries or treasurers. It saves time and work for our Treasurer and helps end the confusion that can arise when groups change officers. This sheet details the what goes where and when for the three annual appeals for World Service as well as our Assembly. Wrong checks to wrong addresses don't happen so often, and our Treasurer's serenity keeps intact.

Assemblies give us an opportunity to share in as many ways as we can manage in one day. The support of the groups has made many things possible. We have two regular Assemblies - in spring and fall. The Assembly business meeting includes both Al-Anon and Alateen. All Al-Anons and Alateens are welcome and we invite our 'friends' as well. At next week's spring Assembly I will give my report from this Conference. There will be opportunity for discussion and each GR will have a copy of the report to take home.

We also take this opportunity to have sharing sessions for Alateens, and for the sponsors. Specific needs become apparent in our Area WSC meetings. We've had excellent results from workshops focusing in turn on PR, Traditions, Group Problems and CAL.

This kind of communication makes the World Service Office and the Conference less remote and better understood. It strengthens our identity as Al-Anons and Alateens in action.

District visits can mean a lot of traveling but they can also teach us a great deal. They provide a marvelous opportunity to encourage the workers in the fellowship and maybe even convert watchers into workers. When lack of understanding and lack of confidence is a hindrance, you can help. I've often picked up food for thought that I might never have discovered any other way.

Such personal contacts keep me ever mindful that I'd better keep up with my homework if I am to be a source of information and help. All our sharing between Conferences helps us gain information and impressions that will make us participate more effectively in the Conference as representatives from our Areas and as trusted world servants.

Keeping in touch with the World Service Office is important for you and for the staff. All through the year you need to keep in touch. We do send them our Newsletter, but I don't want them guessing if this Delegate is alive and well - and working. When I need information, I write to the staff secretary concerned. Some things we've tried have been well worth sharing. When the WSC brings up a problem that could also be showing up in other Areas I feel responsible for informing the WSO, to keep them abreast of what's happening.

We all get valuable assistance from the WSO. We all can use a little TLC, and our staff delivers it very well. Other Delegates can help, too. There isn't nearly enough sharing between Conferences. Let's find ways to encourage this exchange.

The term 'Delegate' should be synonymous with 'available'. That means getting around and doing all I can. I feel I'm on call - and that means full time.

At the end of this year my term as Delegate will be over. What I hope will not be over is the communication pipeline and service structure we've been trying to establish. Participation is the key principle. Al-Anon and Alateen need it to survive and grow.

When I first saw the draft of the Twelve Concepts, I was much taken with the phrase: 'Pass Along Understanding'. That was exactly what we needed to do in our Area. When I expressed this to the World Service Committee they decided to adopt it as their theme. It's on our stationery which is used by every member of the Area WSC when corresponding in that capacity.

'Passing as Delegate has done much for my personal growth. I have seen and heard the kind of love for this program and the people in it that makes all things possible. That love overrides all the concerns and problems of the moment. The Conference has given me the opportunity to see World Service through the eyes of Lois, of each of the Staff, the Trustees and the other Delegates. Al-Anon's roots are here, as well as its scope and potential. I can't explain what this does for me; I do know that the experiences of the Conference go back home with me and all during the year keep recharging my batteries so I can keep trying, gratefully, to 'Pass Along Understanding'.

The next member of the panel to speak was Pauline S. (Miss.):

"My part of the panel is Getting the Most from the Conference." Pauline went on to describe her experience as a first-year Delegate, in which she said: "I found the value of the fellowship in action; in Al-Anon, no one need ever be alone; not even a first-year Delegate.

"It was in visiting the WSO and getting acquainted with the staff that my concept of World Service took on real meaning. The services rendered were of such scope that it staggered my imagination. Just preparing for and following up on the Conference was a year-round job.

(Note: Penny, our Conference Chairman, held her first meeting of the Conference Agenda Committee for 1973 on April 22nd)

"I found it important to listen carefully and take notes at each session. This helps to recapture the spirit of the Conference as well as providing an accurate source of information, facts and figures.

"In order to participate more fully in Conference discussions, I needed a working knowledge of the Steps, Traditions - and the Concepts. Prior to Conference, I had waded through the Concepts four or five times, but it was only during the Conference that these Concepts took on real life for me.

Pauline closed with the following inspiring words:

"I would like to invite you to place yourself in the middle of this strong spiritual current. Let go of the world outside. Enter into the spirit of the Conference. This will make many wonderful and exciting things happen to you inside. As you leave, you will have much to share -- much understanding to pass along."
The next panelist, Barbara M. (Mass.) spoke on “Getting Ready for the Conference by Putting Yourself in the World Service Picture.”

Barbara recalled how confused she was about her role at the first Conference she attended. Many things were cleared up for her on that occasion.

“After coming home from last year’s Conference, I started preparing myself for this one. That gave me a whole year to learn and grow. I found the new World Service Handbook most informative and easy to understand, probably because my thinking had changed and cleared up.

“Through the Twelve Concepts I learned the important ‘whys’ of the service structure of the fellowship. I have urged my groups to send for the Concepts and study them.

“As the pre-Conference mail arrived this year, I had to do more studying and thinking, especially for my participation in this panel and the Workshops. To make myself better informed, I called a meeting of the State Committee to discuss these questions. All these tools can help you and me be better prepared as Delegates and Conference members. As Delegates we do wear two hats — one as a trusted servant to world-wide AI-Anon and the other as the trusted servant of our Area. The latter means, to me, being available whenever I am needed to help members and groups find their answers through principles.

“I have become better informed about the problems and concerns of my Area by giving my report throughout the state; there is a great advantage in doing this on a personal basis, it gives people an opportunity to know me so I become more than just a name. The State Coordinators and DRs also keep me informed by reports.

“These are my views of how to serve our Areas and World Service more effectively — by passing along understanding.”

* * * * *

The Conference then heard Virginia M. (No. Car.) express her ideas on “Reporting Back After the Conference.”

“I think it is important,” Virginia said, “to get your thoughts, impressions and facts down on paper before you return to your home Area. The inspiration a Delegate gets at the Conference is tremendous — it truly stretches your mind. I felt a closeness to world-wide AI-Anon I had never known before. I’m glad I outlined the Conference the very first week I was home. Had I waited, time and activities on the local level would surely have diluted my report and deprived those to whom I was passing it on of a clear picture.

“Elaine has suggested the value of both written and oral reports. I realize that a written report might reach AI-Anons who would otherwise not get this information, and I am seriously considering a written report to all groups this year. But it can’t wholly replace the personal report. When AI-Anons get together, spirits are up, the adrenaline flows and there is communication like nothing else in the world. A first-hand, personal report from the Delegate isn’t a one-sided affair; questions can be asked, the Delegate can elaborate on portions of the Conference of particular interest. Though our literature is great, a one-to-one sharing experience often explains more than the printed word. The very fact that we, as Delegates, come from far and wide, in person, to meet together, rather than merely to correspond, makes the oral report more vital.

“This past year I gave a capsule report after the business meeting at the spring Assembly (we have two a year). I followed up by giving detailed Conference reports at District meetings or at any local group that asked me. In addition to information, I have tried to include in my story the effect of the World Service Conference on my life. Once you have been a Delegate, this experience becomes a part of you.

“When Elaine included in her outlines, ‘Letting Your Enthusiasm Show Through’ it seemed to me that this is the way to convey the real meaning of the Conference. It isn’t just a limited number of AI-Anons getting together; they get together so that an unlimited number of AI-Anons can better realize the over-all purpose of AI-Anon. We want to convey facts and feeling of world-wide AI-Anon so everyone will understand what is involved in its growth and problems. Every AI-Anon member is an essential part of the world-wide movement; our responsibility for those who suffer in South Africa should be the same as our concern for the guy or gal who is calling for help in our home towns.

“My personal goal for the coming year is to find means to communicate more fully what I learn at the WSC. I see a need to have the small rural groups’ problems better understood by the World Service Office and the ‘big city’ WSO better understood by the small groups. I would like to see Districts which seem isolated from AI-Anon as a whole get into closer communication with those more active. This should be initiated by the more active groups and the Area WS Committee. I want to continue to visit every group I can. They send me to the Conference in person, so they have the right to question me in person. I may not have answers, but I do know where they can be found.

“It is most important to realize that the Delegate is a trusted servant and not an ultimate authority, and to delegate responsibility to members of the Area WS Committee. And when I delegate responsibility, I know I must live with the responsibility being handled.

“I try constantly to remind all AI-Anons of our purpose and to stick to its business. Anything else, including AA, is none of our business.

“In the final analysis, I do what I can, try to involve others, forgive myself when I fail, forgive others when I think they have failed and constantly seek help from my Higher Power.”

The final speaker on the panel was Joan C. (Pa.) who gave us some interesting insights into her experiences as a Delegate. She emphasized the importance of careful and thorough briefing of the new Delegate before he or she attends the first Conference.

Joan also pointed out the need for taking careful notes and delivering complete reports at meetings and Assemblies.

Highlights from Joan’s talk:

“I believe my gratitude for the AI-Anon program, my great enthusiasm for World Service and willingness to do what is asked of me are the chief assets I have brought to this office.

“Ever since my first Conference I have had it impressed on my to rely on District Representatives to carry the message down to the group level.

“After our elections next October I will visit the new Delegate and go over what is expected so he or she can go to the Conference well prepared.

“My Conference duties will keep me busy until December 31 but I shall continue to be involved with AI-Anon activities. We who have been given so much owe much in return.”

* * * * *

As Elaine has summarized this Workshop in her original planning, the participants did well in covering the various topics:

1. Getting the Most Out of the Conference
   a. Delegates’ Brochure
   b. Participating at the Conference as a representative from your Area and as a trusted WSO staff member
   c. Taking notes
   d. Sharing with other Delegates
   e. Meeting with WSO staff members
II. Communicating when you get back to your Area

a. Suggestions from the Handbook
b. Written Conference report
c. Area Newsletter
d. Area Highlights and memos to DRs and GRs
e. Assemblies
f. Working with special service coordinators
g. Working with Alateens
h. Visiting Districts throughout the year
i. Meeting with the World Service Committee in your Area
j. Keeping informed in order to be a source of information and help
k. Applying the slogans as a Delegate

SESSION TWO began with Penny calling the roll at 9:00 A.M. followed by Henrietta S., our General Secretary, announcing the appointments of Panel 12 Delegates to the Standing Committees:

Panel 11 Panel 12

ADMISSIONS
Rita T., Que., E. Margaret H., So. Car.

AGENDA
Mary Alice R., Okl. Doris E., N.H.

ALATEEN
Pauline S., Miss. Ruth F., Ont. N.
Helen H., Ariz. Connie Macd., Conn.
Marion G., N.J. Lu C., Utah

INSTITUTIONAL
Barbara McC., Mass. Jim C., Mo.
Darla J., Ore. Renie Z., So. Dak.

LITERATURE
Sharon B., Wash. Mary Beth H., Ill. So.
Mary B., Mont. Don B., Nev.

PUBLIC RELATIONS
Betty S., B.C. Billie M., Minn.

* * * * *

After these announcements the various Standing Committees were assigned to individual rooms for briefing and discussion sessions, which continued until lunch time.

* * * * *

By 1:30 all our guests and the Conference had assembled in the Regency Room for the showing of the new film “LOIS’S STORY”. Everyone was much impressed with the dramatic retelling of the early days of AA and Al-Anon.

* * * * *

SESSION THREE began with the
TREASURER’S REPORT* given by Henrietta

She told us that “the financial condition of our Fellowship as shown in the Annual Report will surely be a source of satisfaction to us all.

“It is evident from this successful result that our Delegates have seriously followed through on the responsibility which they assigned to themselves at the 1971 Conference.”

Henrietta explained that despite the tremendous costs of moving to new quarters we were also able to establish a reserve fund and institute our Retirement Pension Plan.

In closing she said:

“For the invaluable cooperation of Al-Anon’s trusted servants in the field, our Delegates, we express heartfelt thanks on behalf of the entire Fellowship.”

* * * * *

Alice B. made some brief comments on the Annual Report:

“. . . reading the budget and the Annual Report, I know that a superhuman job has been and is being done in keeping pace with the tremendous cost of our growth. How often, in the past five years, our desperate need for more office space, more help, more equipment, had to be kept in check by wise, indeed inspired, administration. We were so handicapped that finally the big risk had to be taken. And we made it! We did what needed to be done for the good of the Fellowship and left the rest in the hands of our Higher Power. Judging from the result, we must have been doing something right, and He knew it.

“After many years in the world of commerce I have never met better business management anywhere than we get from our servants in the World Service Office. If all that talent were used in a money making business — instead of here in Al-Anon where we’re all piling up spiritual fortunes — this could be the biggest business in the world. Thank God that this talent is handling our affairs and thank Him, too, for the wonderful job you Delegates have done.”

*The annual Financial statement is available to any group on request. * * * * *

THE POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT by its Chairman, Mary S.

“In greeting you all this year, I must first say what a joy — and what a sense of well being for Al-Anon — it is to have Lois back working with me as Co-Chairman, now that she is free from the stupendous job of developing our Concepts.

“Clarification on questions that come before the Policy Committee throughout the year is arrived at through discussion, always in the light of our Traditions. Most of the questions can be taken care of through correspondence with the inquirers.

“Others, however, require a definite statement of Policy. These are the decisions arrived at since the last Conference.

January 19, 1971 Policy Committee Meeting:

1. . . that an Answering Service for Al-Anon may be registered with the W.S.O. if it meets the following requirements:

a. Al-Anon Answering Services should have a title indicating the nature of the operation, i.e. Al-Anon Information Service.

b. They must acquire a Post Office box number or an office address.

c. They must do other work in addition to Twelfth Step work; form PR and/or Institutional Committees, arrange exchange meetings, publish meeting lists, etc.

March 16, 1971 Meeting:

1. . . that fund-raising for AA may be done by interested individuals if AA is willing to accept this assistance; it
AL–ANON W.S.O.
EXPENSES... 1971

AL–ANON W.S.O.
INCOME – 1971
should not, however, be done by an Al-Anon group.

2. . . that the use of visual tape for TV, closed-circuit or otherwise, is not a break of Tradition Eleven provided that anonymity is maintained and that precautions are taken to screen out the participants.

June 12, 1971 Meeting:

1. . . that copies of the World Service Handbook for Al-Anon and Alateen will be sent to new Alateen groups since it clarifies Alateen’s role within the framework of our structure.

September 21, 1971 Meeting:

1. . . that copies of each AREA HIGHLIGHTS will be mailed to all Area Newsletter editors.

2. . . that since Al-Anon Twelfth Step work should remain forever non-professional, the term “Al-Anon Counselor” should never be used.

3. . . that the revised position paper concerning Alateen/Preteen be adopted and retitled “Clarification of Policy Re Younger Member of the Family.”

December 14, 1971 Meeting:

1. . . that the following policy statement be adopted concerning professional speakers at Al-Anon meetings: “The purpose of Al-Anon is personal growth through applying the Twelve Steps and sharing our experience, strength and hope. Having too many professional speakers at Al-Anon meetings can divert the focus from our own recovery to that of the alcoholic. Professionals in the field of alcoholism can provide valuable information but they can be heard in other places. Only from Al-Anon members can we get the stories that will put us on the road to recovery.

2. . . that we revise our policy toward registering our Intergroups. We are asking them to obtain a Post Office box or office address before the 1973 World Directory is published. If they have not met this condition by that time, the WSO is authorized to drop them from the active Directory listing.

3. . . that any member gainfully employed in an Al-Anon service should disqualify himself from office as a GR, DR, Assembly Officer, Delegate or Regional Trustee (RT) candidate. This also applies to any member of an Area World Service Committee, such as a coordinator of a special service who might be gainfully employed in an Al-Anon service.

4. . . that selling products before or after an Al-Anon meeting denies members the right to valuable personal therapy with other members. Newcomers, especially, would be confused; they would be part of a captive audience for unsolicited salesmanship which might discourage them from returning to the group.

RECOMMENDATION TO THE CONFERENCE (July 27, 1971)

. . . that Al-Anon Conferences/Conventions which encourage or accept registrations by AA members, and which normally designate a portion of receipts between AA General Service Office and Al-Anon World Service Office should acknowledge AA support of the Conference/Convention. Acknowledgement should accompany all such contributions forwarded to GSO by Al-Anon.

Mary closed by calling attention to the practice, new since the last Conference, of publishing in AREA HIGHLIGHTS all Policy statements as they are made.

“We hope this may prove helpful to you in answering some questions which may come your way as we all work together toward sharing and PASSING ALONG UNDERSTANDING.”

TAX-EXEMPT STATUS FOR ASSEMBLIES.

Mary asked Henrietta to explain this serious development, which had crystallized just before the Conference, as part of the Policy Report.

“A number of Assemblies and some Intergroups have written to ask how to obtain tax-exempt status. 1) to avoid tax on interest in savings banks, 2) for individual members who contribute to the Assembly and 3) to be permitted a bulk mailing rate for Newsletters.

“The legal counsel and CPAs consulted by the WSO (Headquarters) tell us that, since Headquarters has no knowledge or control over the conduct of their financial affairs, Assemblies and Intergroups wishing tax-free status must apply to the Commissioner of Internal Revenue for their own tax exemption.

“Another tax matter arose in the State of Illinois. A representative of Al-Anon was required to appear at the Attorney General’s Office to provide information on the financial matters of both North and South Areas of the State; it also demanded information and records of the Headquarters office, all of which, on the advice of our attorney, has been complied with.

“Our Virginia Delegate wrote to inform us of an impending bill before the Legislature decreeing that all non-profit organizations be required to register with the State. About half of the United States now have such laws, and more will certainly follow.”

Recommendations by the Policy Committee were:

1. That all Area Treasurers be alerted to the importance of keeping accurate records that can be passed along to their successors.

2. That those seeking favorable determination by I.R.S. of tax exemption (so the membership can deduct contributions to the Assembly, and to obtain a non-profit bulk mailing permit for the Area newsletter) get competent advice from a lawyer or accountant familiar with Federal law.

3: That all Areas learn what the laws in their respective states require of non-profit organizations.

4. That it may not be necessary for an Assembly Area to incorporate in order to comply with the requirements of its state. Dennis of AA suggested it might be sufficient to file “Articles of Intent”, giving answers to the following questions:

a. What is the source of their funds?

b. How are they used?

c. What is done with the balance?

THE FORUM REPORT

Margaret D., our Editor, touched on several points of vital concern. First, the varying opinions on Anonymity which have been discussed in the FORUM. Among those in favor of giving up the whole concept of keeping anonymous was a member who wrote and then signed herself Kansas Anon. Margaret stressed (as she has for years!) that everybody who writes to The FORUM must include a name and address. These will not appear in print, but she needs them in case an answer or a question by mail is necessary.

Another of Margaret’s “hopeless causes” seems to be the matter of so-called poetry. She has been begging FORUM readers for years not to send poetry — but they still do. Here’s Margaret’s word on this:
"Another place where we're making little headway is on poetry. From the beginning we have had a policy against its use; every issue has a statement that "no poetry will be accepted or returned." Sometimes we get only two or three; when we were reviewing the material for the April issue, there were SIX!

"Another problem: belated material. The deadline for receipt of anything to be published is clearly stated in every issue: 'The first of the month two months before the date of issue'. It is so frustrating to receive word of an important event weeks after it has taken place. You all can help if you will remind your groups to read the ground rules regularly; they follow the Group Anniversary Announcements in each issue.

"Two beautiful happenings came to The FORUM since the last Conference. One was an invitation from 'Who's Who of American Women' to submit a biography of The FORUM editor for publication in that widely-distributed book. Naturally I could not accept but the wonderful thing about the invitation was the recognition of Al-Anon's growth and the stature The FORUM has attained.

"Now the other happening. I have always been concerned about The FORUM's circulation -- it doesn't grow fast enough. One night at a meeting, Alice volunteered to take on the responsibility of circulation manager. Now I look for The FORUM to grow like a mushroom.

"Except for the business phase, I enjoy every moment of my FORUM work. I have never asked your cooperation without a heart-warming response. No one in the world could be happier with her job than I am."

---

**World Service Office Work and Progress Reports for 1971**

Each year, after our four-day World Service Conference, a Summary like this goes out to Al-Anon and Alateen 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.

*Please share this vital information with all the members of your group.*

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**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Ted K., President of our Board of Trustees, made the following statement:

"Looking back over 1971, the immediate impression is one of continued GROWTH and never-ending CHALLENGE.

"One dramatic manifestation of our growth was the move to new quarters. The walls of the old office, which once seemed so large for 'little Al-Anon' had been closing in on our overcrowded staff and volunteers. Our new facilities now give us the breathing space we need for continued growth.

"An Al-Anon 'first' was achieved in 1971 with the film production of 'Lois's Story'. Strongly urged by the Delegates at last year's Conference and vigorously supported by the groups themselves, this ambitious undertaking came to fruition when the film was shown for the first time at the WSO Christmas party given each year for our dedicated volunteers. When the groups were notified in February that the film was available, the number of requests was so overwhelming that we had to multiply our original print order by three!

"The international growth of our Fellowship is underlined this year by Lois's trip to Africa and the Far East. All of us sense a very special flavor in this year's Conference in anticipation of her account of Al-Anon around the world.

"One further highlight is the adding of Alateen members to the Literature and Alateen Committees. Both Chairmen report that these young people are making genuine contributions to these committees.

"So much for growth. What now of challenge? We all know that World Service is Twelve Step work, carrying the message. Al-Anon's ever-increasing size proves we are really doing the job. Perhaps to the best of our ability we are. Yet we have a long way to go when you consider that our potential membership in the U.S. alone is about 25 million! It may seem the majority isn't interested in what we have to give away. But since last year's Conference two syndicated articles by our good friend Ann Landers have brought in over 20,000 inquiries about Al-Anon from people who *do* want to hear our story. The inescapable conclusion is that we have not done more than scratch the surface. Let us together begin this Conference by accepting our growth with humility and our challenge with renewed dedication."

---

**GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT**

The World Service office reports annually to the Conference and sends a summary of Conference reports and decisions to each group. Quarterly reports are made to the Board of Trustees of Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc., the membership corporation responsible for business policies, budgets, employment of personnel, service to the membership and publication of Conference Approved Literature.

Routine administrative decisions are made at each monthly meeting of the Executive Committee.

The General Secretary of the WSO is responsible for supervision and administrative policies, including employment and supervision of the Al-Anon staff secretaries and the Office Supervisor. The latter is responsible for employment and supervision of business personnel in publications, shipping, group records, FORUM subscriptions, bookkeeping and general clerical. The Office Supervisor is also the full-charge bookkeeper.

**STAFF.**

The Al-Anon Secretaries who handle the work of the Standing Committees, Alateen, Conference, Public Relations and Institutions, also take care of correspondence from groups in their assigned geographical sections of the world.

The business staff averaged 24 employees. Turnover was reduced because we were enabled to increase salaries, initiate hospitalization and pension benefits and provide more adequate working quarters.

The unsilencing cooperation of staff with committee chairmen and other volunteers was important in the success of the busiest year in our history. The dedication of the volunteer committee chairmen and members continued to be an inspiration to the staff.

**PUBLICATIONS.**

ONE DAY AT A TIME IN AL-ANON, still our best seller, had its fourth printing early in 1971 and its fifth by year's end.

**COMPARATIVE BOOK SALES.**

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<th>1970</th>
<th>1971</th>
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<tr>
<td>ONE DAY AT A TIME</td>
<td>25,895</td>
<td>36,215</td>
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<td>LIVING WITH AN ALCOHOLIC</td>
<td>4,884</td>
<td>6,122</td>
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AL-ANON FACES ALCOHOLISM
THE DILEMMA OF THE ALCOHOLIC MARRIAGE
AL-ANON'S FAVORITE FORUM EDITORIALS

3,181. 3,995.
4,421. 5,939.
5,083. 3,189.

Gross revenue from book sales rose to $177,300, an increase of $35,000 over 1970.

Sales of other literature increased 30% from $142,000 to $184,000. Due to increased acceptance of CAL, growth in numbers of groups, efforts of our Delegates and continuing appeal of our literature to the professional community, 64,719 pieces of free literature were distributed.

The FORUM.
176,115 FORUMS were mailed, 8% more than the previous year. Subscriptions increased by 171/2%:

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<td>Multiple</td>
<td>3,437</td>
<td>4,149</td>
<td>712</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual</td>
<td>4,703</td>
<td>5,426</td>
<td>723</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>8,140</td>
<td>9,575</td>
<td>1,435</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MAILING AND MIMEOGRAPHING.

The 30% increase in postage and shipping from $24,360 in 1970 to $31,800 last year reflected higher postal rates, larger volume of orders, and the increase in the number of letters mailed, 96,763, compared with 63,500 the previous year, 10,000 of these as a result of Al-Anon mention in Ann Landers columns; 56,165 packages were sent, an increase of more than 11,000 over 1970.

446,000 sheets of mimeographed material were processed; 111,000 more than last year.

BOOKKEEPING.
Three more people were needed for routine bookkeeping tasks: daily entries, billing and acknowledging contributions. The Office Supervisor/Bookkeeper continued to handle the payroll, all tax returns, employees' severance and pension funds, applications for disability benefits and medical claims and quarterly financial statements.

GROUP SERVICES.

During 1971, the Al-Anon WSO served over 6,000 groups and Lone Members throughout the world. Proposed groups received welcoming letters with suggestions on group procedures, free starter packet of literature and a FORUM. Upon registration, additional material was sent, including the current Directory, "Al-Anon Family Groups at Work" and to those with Conference representation, a World Service Handbook. All groups and Loners received free FORUM subscriptions, Conference Summaries and new Directories.

ALATEEN TALK went bi-monthly to all Alateen groups and Loners and AL-ANON EN ACCION monthly to the Spanish groups. All new English-speaking overseas groups, excepting those at armed forces bases, received complimentary copies of LIVING WITH AN ALCOHOLIC, for the Latin-American groups its Spanish counterpart.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE AL-ANON.

French.

The French Literature Committee in Montreal serves as the agent of the WSO in the translation and production of the FORUM and CAL. It services all French-speaking groups worldwide. (See report of The French Literature Committee)

Spanish.

The number of dedicated members grew throughout Mexico. The Grupo Illusion (Mexico City) reported on the fine programs at joint monthly meetings on Steps and Traditions. Permission was granted to reprint an excerpt from "What's Next?"

Lillian C., of the Oficina Central de Servicios Generales Al-Anon, Argentina, wrote that Al-Anon is progressing well in that country, through the efforts of their "Initiative Committees." She forwarded copies of CAL items published in Bogota, Colombia, which the WSO had never been able to get directly. Most lacked credit and copyright notices, which we have called to the attention of the group in Bogota. They have promised to correct their omissions in future printings.

Despite difficulties in arranging bank drafts because of the political situation and currency restrictions, Lillian placed a substantial order for books and literature early in the year. Later the devaluation of the Argentine peso made it necessary to print CAL locally.

Costa Rica.

The GSC had to give up its office because they could not afford the rental. An updated list of groups indicates growth.

El Salvador.

Angela de V., Secretary of the GSC sent samples of their printing of "A Los Padres de Los Alcoholicos". Permission was granted to print "The Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions" in Spanish as they appear in LIVING WITH AN ALCOHOLIC.

Numerous letters from other Spanish-speaking countries with individual and group problems were handled by the WSO.

Fr. Roberto Caceres of Vina, California, wrote often recommending articles from The FORUM for use in "Al-Anon En Accion." He has indicated an interest in translating ODAT into Spanish.

Dutch-Flemish.

The A.D.B. (Dutch-speaking Al-Anon in Belgium and The Netherlands) forwarded samples of four new Flemish pieces during the year: "Why Is Al-Anon Anonymous?", "Twelve Steps & Twelve Traditions", "A Guide..." and "Welcome to the Newcomer". Karel M., the Secretary, also sent translations of "You Can Sponsor A Newcomer" and "A Guide for Sponsors of Alateen Groups", soon to be published.

Agreement was reached at a meeting in Eindhoven last spring between Belgian and Dutch members to collaborate more closely on the literature. Olga, our contact, is trying to establish a General Service Committee in Amsterdam.

Finnish.

Marjatta, of the GSO in Helsinki, has completed a first rough translation of AL-ANON FACES ALCOHOLISM. She plans next to tackle the translation of "Merry-Go-Round" and also asked permission to do a pamphlet of experiences of Finnish members.

German-Swiss.

There has been a steady increase in groups in Germany. We had voluminous correspondence with Ursel, secretary of the Deutsche Zentrale, who sent a detailed report of a meeting with Swiss members in Frankfurt last Easter. They are trying to obtain tax-exempt status and plan then to publish our basic book in German. Personal experiences of German members, with the exception of Lois's story, will replace the ones in the original.

Al-Anon participated in large open AA meetings in Bremen and Wattenscheid. The program has been introduced to families...
of patients at government-run facilities for alcoholics.

During the year, translations of three additional pamphlets were reviewed here: “A Guide for the Family”, “Homeward Bound” and “Freedom from Despair”.

ODAT has been translated by Bremen members and is currently being reviewed by Alice and Margaret R. (WSD, Va.)

Jean B., secretary of the GSC in Switzerland, also corresponded during the year. They have published a translation of “Merry-Go-Round”. A new editor was appointed for M/F the monthly German Newsletter. An Al-Anon program was taped for broadcast on Swiss radio.

Portuguese.

Sonia, secretary of a group in Sao Paulo, Brazil, wrote they had succeeded in starting an Al-Anon General Service Committee. She sent sample copies of their mimeographed Portuguese version of LWA (without a story section).

ENGLISH AL-ANON OVERSEAS

U.K. & Eire.

Over 100 members took part in the European AA Convention held at Bristol in September, where both Al-Anon and Alateen meetings were well attended. The evening meeting was an international affair with members from Belgium, Switzerland, Germany, and the U.S. Greetings were received from as far apart as Finland and Australia. There was great interest in the Foreign Literature display.

Dorothy H., former U.K. representative to the WSC, wrote frequently about plans for their 2nd National Conference in October. By December, when Dorothy’s term as London liaison ended, she expected to speak in all 14 Districts, including Ireland and Scotland. The Districts help to finance these visits and also support the office very well.

The secretary of the London office also corresponded regularly, keeping us informed of new groups and changes of address.

Australia.

There were many letters from all the Australian states during the year, as well as copies of their monthly Newsletters and minutes of their Central Service Committee meetings. Queensland’s Newsletter told about the 2nd Australian Trial Conference held in Hobart, Tasmania. A 3rd Trial Conference will be held in Brisbane this year. New South Wales was granted permission to reprint Al-Anon and Alateen posters. A newly adopted constitution to guide their Central Service Committee was sent by South Australia. Highlights of progress in Western Australia were the opening and manning of an office in Perth.

South Africa.

The Al-Anon General Service reported a wonderful turnout at a joint AA/Al-Anon Conference-Convention in Pretoria, where they now have beautiful new quarters. They sent file copies of “Al-Anon Family Groups at Work” and “To Wives and the Family Afterward” in English and Afrikaans.

Trinidad.

The secretary of the Bonne Aventure Al-Anon Group was sent material to assist her with planning an Al-Anon session at the 12th AA Convention in Trinidad in June.

GROUP RECORDS AND DIRECTORY

There were 1,307 new groups, while 312 disbanded. Total registration, including Alateens and Lones, reached a high point of 6,267.

Although we saved several thousand dollars by computerizing the Directory listings, much of the planned savings were lost because of so many corrections – nearly 60% of the addresses had to be changed!

Groups from whom no data cards or letters had been received had to be queried as to present status. Those who failed to respond were dropped from the active list. Delegates were most helpful in sending us information on disbanded groups and address changes, as well as getting proposed groups to send in data cards.

The cost of returned mail from groups that did not report address changes, or who failed to pay P.O. box rent continued to be high – 10¢ postage on each piece of returned mail, and an additional 8¢ to send it again (total 28¢ each).

REPORT OF THE FRENCH LITERATURE COMMITTEE

The following report, byAlberte C., Chairman, is an example of the outstanding progress which takes place in so many parts of the world when selfless dedication powers the effort:

“...The French Literature Committee provides service to all French-speaking groups in the name of the WSO. In Quebec we are serving 157 groups, seven Lone members and 35 Alateen groups; ten groups in Ontario, two in New Brunswick, eight in Switzerland, 20 in Belgium and 11 in France.

“We are also in contact with five bilingual Al-Anon members in the U.S.

“Our publications are in increasing demand by agencies in the field of alcoholism. The governments of Ontario and New Brunswick have ordered our leaflets; the Alcoholism Information Center in Charlottetown, P.E.I., has requested information. The National Committee for the Study and Prevention of Alcoholism has ordered 20 copies of LIVING WITH AN ALCOHOLIC in French. The Al-Anon Central Office in Winnipeg, Man., requested an assortment of our publications for their provincial conference next May and Great Britain made the same request for its AA International Convention held in Bristol last September.

“The French LWAA has had such great success that we are now translating ODAT. A special Revision Committee is working with our translator on the preparation of the book which we know will be well received, even though it may not be published until the beginning of 1973.


“We have almost finished revising the French version of the World Service Handbook, ‘Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions’ and ‘To the Mother and Father of an Alcoholic.’ These will soon be available; others are to be added within the year.

“Our thanks to the WSO who once more facilitated our work, this time providing us with a photo-copier.”

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ALATEEN COMMITTEE REPORT

The Alateen Workshop at last year’s WSC indicated that in many Areas Alateens had not been active at the District and Assembly levels. Reports following the Conference indicate that Alateen participation has increased considerably. The Handbook was changed to clarify Alateen’s position in the structure; its new title includes Alateen: (“WORLD SERVICE HANDBOOK for Al-Anon and Alateen Groups”). Each registered Alateen Group received a free copy of the Handbook in August with a letter of explanation; new groups are now sent a copy upon registering.

Requests for direct representation at the WSC prompted us to explore the problems involved. A paper written by Ted K.,
then Vice President of the Board, reviewed and revised by Lois W. and the staff secretaries, was distributed at the Alateen Workshop at the WSC so the Delegates could give the question consideration during the year and encourage Alateen participation at District and Assembly levels in their Areas.

Last August several Alateens and sponsors came to the WSO to talk with members of our Board and staff members. The discussion resulted in a decision to have one of the Alateens (Jane W., Wilmington, Del.) become a member of the Alateen Committee. She will attend the meeting of the Alateen Committee at the 1972 Conference.

An Alateen sponsor in the New York Area, Amy S., has also joined the Alateen Committee. At our first meeting in November we reviewed questions relating to the 12 Steps which will be used in the new pamphlet for Alateens on the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions.

There is now an Alateen, Dorothea B. (Minneapolis, N.Y.) on the Literature Committee.

Inquiries were answered and literature packets sent to 458 starting Alateen Groups. "Possible Proposed Group" letters, with less material, were mailed to 43 inquirers.

Twenty new Alateen Groups were started overseas in 1971: AUSTRALIA (Perth, Victoria — Wagga Wagga, New South Wales), MEXICO (Veracruz — 2 groups Amsted, D.F. — Salamanca, Gto.), SOUTH AMERICA — Argentina (Buenos Aires — Mar del Plata — San Martin, Bs.As. (Prov.) — Boulogne, Don Bosco, Colombia (Bogota), Brasil (Rio), CENTRAL AMERICA — Guatemala (Guatemala City), Honduras (Tegucigalpa), SPAIN (Aviles, Oviedo) GUAM (Agana), FINLAND (Riikimaki), WEST INDIES (Aruba, Netherland Antilles), GERMANY (Breman), NORTHERN IRELAND (Londonderry).

Groups write frequently when they need help in solving a problem. Often they report interesting activities which can be shared in ALATEEN TALK. A total of 229 such letters were written. Many groups find AI-Anon CAL helpful. "ONE DAY AT A TIME" is used by several groups. Correspondence with our overseas groups has increased.

The Ann Landers column printed a touching letter from an 11-year old boy who wanted to learn how not to hate his father who was "drunk most of the time." Our P.O. Box number was given and approximately 300 inquiries resulted. Some 200 additional letters were written by the Alateen Secretary.

ALATEEN TALK was published six times in 1971. Area Alateen Coordinators and Chairmen now receive a free copy.

The Policy Statement regarding Alatots was revised into the "Clarification of Policy re: Younger Members of the Family" — sometimes called Preteens, Subteens, Junior Alateens or Alatots. It emphasizes that WSO encourages these younger members to keep open the line of communication between the groups and the WSO. When her term is ended, it means a change in the mailing address in our directory which, multiplied by thousands of groups, is practically impossible to cope with.

A "permanent" mailing address is the only answer. That is solved by renting a post office box on which the rent is paid promptly and from which the secretary, serving as postman, can pick up the mail before each meeting. Or this could be assigned to a long-time member who regularly attends meetings.

"Some groups have mail delivered to their meeting place, which presents no problem. Others have mail received by the GR, which would mean a change of address only every three years.

"Whichever way is best for a group, a permanent (or reasonably permanent) address is absolutely vital in order to keep open the line of communication between the groups and the WSO. This not only promotes accuracy and saves staff time, but ultimately saves money, the very money which our members contribute to World Service work. That should be a real incentive!"

2. Anonymity. The recent Ann Landers articles about AI-Anon brought in some 21,000 inquiries.

We check the Directory for names, addresses and telephone numbers which can be given out as group contacts. Members who offer their names for listing in the Directory should expect them to be used for such. Twelfth Step work. In November each year, a letter to each group from the WSO explains that the permanent mailing address and telephone number given for group contacts will be used for referrals to anyone in that particular location who is in need of AI-Anon's help.

"This touches on the question of anonymity. As stated in our Traditions, there is no reason to hide our identity from our fellow AI-Anons, because anonymity must be maintained only
at the level of press, radio and TV.

"However, our Eleventh Tradition also says "we must guard with special care the anonymity of all AA members." If, then, a member has particular need to protect the AA member's identity, a different member's name and address should be sent for inclusion in the Directory, or the group may use a box number.

"Another problem is that names and addresses are often given without telephone numbers. The latter are very important in making referrals."

Henrietta then appealed to the Delegates to carry this message back with them to their Areas:

"We must depend on you Delegates to pass along understanding of this matter to the groups. At the same time, we need your reassurance that our method of referrals has your approval."

The Conference gave its unanimous approval to the use of the name, address and phone number supplied on the data card for referral purposes.

3. A Second Copy of the Directory. Henrietta explained why the portfolios which the Delegates receive on arrival were heavier than usual:

"This is because we have included an extra copy of the World Directory to be given to the Secretary of the Assembly.

"When the Conference voted, in 1963, to have a copy of the Directory sent to each Assembly Secretary in addition to the one included in the Delegate's portfolio, this was done.

"However, it has turned out that the Secretary's copy sometimes goes astray because we have not been informed of a change of address. We felt, therefore, that it would be safer to enlist the aid of the Delegates in getting the second copy into the right hands on their return home. Is there any objection to this change of procedure? If not, will someone make a motion from the floor?"

The motion was made and unanimously approved: that a second copy of the World Directory be placed in the Delegate's portfolio at the WSC to be given by the Delegate to his/her Area Secretary.

4. Adding Meeting Time and Place to the Directory. "For many years now, at every Conference, this question has been brought up, usually by Delegates who are not aware of how thoroughly it had been discussed and researched in the past."

Henrietta went on to explain that in view of the superhuman difficulty of getting accurate information on names and addresses, this would immeasurably add to the problems, particularly as the Directory is published only once a year and is actually outdated before it comes off the press.

"This explanation is made for the benefit of the new Delegates, but the question need not be entertained by the Conference since it had been decided by previous Conferences whenever it arose."

5. Two Versions of the World Directory. "At the last Executive Committee meeting it was decided to recommend to the Trustees that we produce two annual editions of the Directory, one in the spring, for the U.S. and Canada, the other edition for all other Al-Anon and Alateen groups, to be published in the fall.

"Savings could be effected," Henrietta continued, "because each group would get only the edition in which it was listed. Any group or member wishing to purchase the other edition could do so."

It was also suggested that each edition include a summary of information on groups in other countries.

Henrietta then asked the opinion of the Conference on this innovation, so the Trustees can act upon it. A motion was made and carried unanimously that two World Directories be published in the future, beginning with 1973— one for the U.S. and Canada and one for listings overseas.

Henrietta then told the Conference about

The Film: "LOIS'S STORY".

"In accordance with the unanimous recommendation of the 1971 WSC, the Board of Trustees approved the preparation of a film about Lois and the early days of AA and Al-Anon. The question of finances had threatened to delay the project, when Elaine D. (Pla.) sent a suggestion, made at a local District meeting, that we establish a "Lois's Film Fund." After careful consideration, the idea was adopted and the groups contributed most generously to the project.

"The firm of Fucci-Stone, Inc., was selected to produce the picture, after estimates from five other film companies had been considered. They worked with the whole-hearted cooperation of a special Film Committee headed by the General Secretary, and Lois, who, as always, gave so much of herself to bring the production to a successful conclusion.

"A commercial distributor is handling the copies of LOIS'S STORY, scheduling, on our order, all bookings to the U.S. groups through their N.Y. office and to the Canadian groups through their Toronto office.

"In providing for a fair distribution of available copies, we have had to abide by the following procedures:

1. A print can be scheduled for a specific week only when the request sent to the WSO is accompanied by the required $35 fee.

2. A print may not be kept in one locality beyond one week, except in rare instances, where by pre-arrangement it has been held over and considered a second booking, with another $35 payment.

3. Copies of the picture are not for sale.

4. It may be shown at open meetings to which AAs and possibly professionals in the field of alcoholism are invited, provided that an announcement is made about our Tradition of Anonymity, to protect that of the participants who may be recognized.

5. It may not be leased for just one day or any fraction of a week for less than the $35 fee.

6. It is the responsibility of the member to whom the copy was sent to return it the Monday after the scheduled show date, or sooner if convenient.

7. Prints are booked on a first-come first-served basis, and all available copies are booked for the next three months, with a considerable number already scheduled for the fall."

To avoid damaging the film and sound track, groups are cautioned to have only experienced operators run the picture.

* * * * *

Lois's Trip Around The World.

Following her explanation of the film project, Henrietta spoke movingly of the world tour which Lois made earlier this year:

"Late in 1971, Lois decided to fulfill a dream, at least in part, which she and Bill had had for a long time: to visit the AA and Al-Anon groups on the other side of the world. Evelyn, a long-time employee at the WSO, was able to accompany her. The response to the announcement of her coming was tremendously enthusiastic. Joint AA and Al-Anon open meetings at
which Lois and Evelyn spoke were held in Durban, Capetown, Port Elizabeth and Johannesburg, South Africa; Perth, Melbourne and Sydney, Australia; Christchurch and Auckland, New Zealand; Hong Kong and Hawaii. There was an opportunity to meet informally with Al-Anon members in Japan. In most of the cities on her itinerary, arrangements were also made for an informal meeting limited to Al-Anon and Alateen members.

"Lois decided that there would be no TV or radio appearances, but she had no objection to the press being invited to the large open meetings. To facilitate news coverage, a press release and Al-Anon Fact Sheet were sent to each of the places where she was to speak."

* * * * *

ALATEEN WORKSHOP

The Alateen Workshop at the 1971 World Service Conference had created much interest in more Alateen participation at District and Assembly levels. Reports from several Areas indicate that this has resulted in greater Alateen attendance at these meetings and interest in World Service. The change in the Handbook clarifying Alateen's position in the structure of the fellowship has undoubtedly promoted this growth.

Many Areas have appointed or elected Alateen Coordinators. Although there are still no definite guidelines for this office, the Alateen Secretary has written to the Coordinators with suggestions such as:

1) keeping in close touch with all Alateen Groups and sponsors in the Area, making them aware of Conference-Approved literature and other pertinent information from WSO
2) coordinating dates so that special events do not conflict
3) keeping the Area Delegate informed of Alateen activities
4) working closely with the Area PR Coordinator on displays, posters, etc. to avoid duplication of effort
5) Educating Al-Anon members to their responsibility in starting and sponsoring Alateen groups
6) helping to solve group problems in the Area by applying the Traditions

It is a good idea for the Alateen Coordinators to meet regularly with their Area Delegate and Alateen Groups, making them aware of Conference-Approved literature and other pertinent information from WSO.

WSO still does not have enough close contact with these Coordinators. When they are appointed (or elected) they or the Area Delegate may write for guidance; but there is usually little or no further correspondence. Guidelines will be prepared but suggestions and ideas must come from the existing Coordinators.

The age-old problem of sponsorship continues to baffle us. The advent of Alateen Coordinators will undoubtedly help in this situation. More Alateen Workshops in conjunction with Assemblies and Conventions, and sometimes as a separate meeting, should increase interest. A new concept by one of our Committee members suggests that: the Alateens themselves should take some responsibility in this matter by trying to find Al-Anon members who will serve as sponsors. Articles in the FORUM have tried to stimulate interest among Al-Anon members to become Alateen sponsors. Al-Anons everywhere should realize the importance of this responsibility and accept it willingly.

Each year one or two more Alateen Conferences are born as indicated by more reports from these large gatherings of our teenagers, who often send generous contributions. The experience gained in planning these Conferences with their sponsors should be of great value in the future when it is hoped they will continue in the parent fellowship.

* * * * *

THE SUMMARY OF THE 1972 ALATEEN WORKSHOP was given by the Summary Reporter, Helen H. (Arix).

While there is a great deal of Alateen activity in some Areas of the U.S. and Canada, it is generally still in its infancy.

The majority do not have an Alateen on the Area World Service Committee. Those that do appear evenly divided as to whether he/she was appointed or elected. Only Alateens who are GRs are eligible to vote on Committee.

In only half of the Areas reporting is there an Alateen Coordinator. In most cases, the Alateen Coordinator handles PR work for Alateen.

When Alateen Coordinators hold regular meetings with the sponsors, Alateens are more active, indicating not only a sharing of problems but also a sharing of strength.

The consensus regarding the duties of the Alateen Coordinator is:

1) To create interest in Alateen through giving information to Al-Anon and AA Groups as well as to schools and outside agencies.
2) To coordinate Alateen activities such as workshops and Conventions. Most Al-Anon Newsletters do provide space for Alateen news.
3) To create interest in sponsoring Alateen groups in several ways:
   1) Newsletters; 2) Workshops; 3) Talks by Alateens in Al-Anon Meetings; 4) Steering Committees.

Older Alateens or Post Teens often make successful sponsors.

More and more Alateens are choosing, or helping to choose, their sponsors and accept this as a responsibility.

To date there are few Alateen GRs, but clarifying their role in the new Handbook has helped. Alateen GRs function in the same capacity as Al-Anon GRs. It is not considered good policy for sponsors to act as GRs. Only a few Delegates report Alateens acting at District level.

The expenses of Alateen's participation in Area Assemblies were paid by the Alateen groups themselves although most Delegates agreed this should be a responsibility of the Assembly.

Very few Areas have Alateen Conventions although there are four or five very large ones. In a few cases, members of World Service Committees are invited to attend, but reports to the Assembly are not standard procedure.

The feelings about whether Alateen Conventions should be encouraged were evenly divided. Some Area Delegates felt strongly that Alateen should not be encouraged to separate from Al-Anon, the parent organization.

There is little emphasis on Alateen's contributing to the FORUM or ALATEEN TALK. These are pipelines of communication that could be better utilized.

Alateen seems to be fertile ground and needs much more cultivation before we can reap the full harvest.

* * * * *
REPORT OF THE INSTITUTIONS COMMITTEE

Given by Jo K., Chairman, who said that much has been done in the past year to improve our over-all approach to professionals who responded with ever-increasing interest in establishing Al-Anon groups in institutions: hospitals, correctional facilities and rehabilitation centers. Extensive correspondence with nursing supervisors, judges, chaplains, wardens and hospital directors indicated a keen awareness of the vital role of the family in helping the alcoholic to sobriety. Jo continued:

"Institutional Highlights," our very own newsletter, made its first appearance in January and brought gratifying response. Our mailing list includes all Institutional Groups/Committees, Institutional Coordinators, Delegates and Newsletter editors. A talented staff member designed the masthead which was adopted by the Standing Committee at the 1971 WSC.

"Our New Committee Member," Rose M., who joined the Committee last fall gives her time freely and diligently lends support to our efforts.

"New Institutional Groups have been formed in Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado (5), Connecticut (2), Florida (2), Idaho, Illinois (4), Indiana (2), Iowa, Massachusetts (5), New Jersey (2), New York (2), North Carolina, Ohio, Texas, Utah, Wisconsin (2) and Eire."

"The Institutional Guidelines have proven an invaluable tool for new groups. The French Literature Committee, recognizing their importance, has translated them.

"Institutional Discount Package." The Standing Committee recommended that the Institutional Discount Package be changed to include "This is Al-Anon," (3) and "Just for Today," (6). Reducing the quantities of other items made it possible to maintain the $3.50 price.

"Annual Letter to AA Institutional Groups." Again the General Service Office of AA cooperated with us by addressing the envelopes for our annual letter to 2,000 AA Institutional groups offering Al-Anon's help to families of alcoholics. Response was overwhelming — several hundred referrals resulted.

"We receive many requests from professionals for Al-Anon literature. All this resulted from the now recognized need for early involvement in Al-Anon by the non-alcoholic spouse."

Jo then introduced the first member of the panel, Virginia M. (No, Car.)

After an impressive beginning in which she related institutional work to our Traditions and to our Preamble, Virginia explained why Al-Anon is so greatly needed in institutions:

"At the institutional level we uncover needs rarely found in our local groups. As the membership of an institutional group is highly transient, it is best to use what amounts to a Twelfth Step call on several people at a time, instead of the customary one-to-one basis. It is, in effect, emotional first-aid. This may be our one chance to leave them with the feeling that 'no situation is too difficult . . . and no unhappiness too great . . .'"

"The alcoholic is often exposed to AA while in a penal institution. Like the alcoholic, the family, too, needs understanding and encouragement to cope with the situation and themselves. To wait until time of release is to invite disaster. Separation periods can be used to learn to think more clearly and more independently; instead of a waiting period, we can help to make it a learning period.

"For every patient or inmate there is at least one family member who, though physically free, feels confined, and it is these 'institutionalized ghosts' we must strive to reach.

"Institutional Al-Anon meetings also serve to inform social workers, guards, nurses, case workers and others. Be sure they are occasionally invited to attend meetings, which thus serve a dual purpose — helping families and engaging in public relations work.

"For many the 'disgrace' of having a family member confined in a penal or mental institution makes them feel 'whipped'. They are confused, skeptical, scared to try something new — scared not to try. They're afraid to believe in the possibility of a change for the better. They want to belong, want to feel accepted. That is why it is so important to have Al-Anon in institutions."

* * * *

The next member of the panel, Barbara M. (Mass.) told about the growth of institutional groups in her state.

The story went back twelve years, when an Intergroup, operating in a small space rented in a rooming house, so interested the woman who owned it that she was a first volunteer in institutional work! She got in touch with a social worker at the State Correctional facility at Bridgewater and explained what Al-Anon could do for the families of the inmates.

"I was new in Al-Anon then, but have been told what a deep emotional experience that first meeting was for the Al-Anons who had volunteered. The inmates themselves invited them back, and plans were made for a meeting a month, on a rotation plan, involving several groups.

"A second group was started, through the interest in the Al-Anon program of a doctor who was in charge of the alcoholic section of the Metropolitan State Hospital. He invited Al-Anon members to start a meeting there. This meeting is still active after seven years.

"With two Institutional Groups now, a Chairman was appointed to make certain that these meetings were covered each week by different groups. She also wrote to other institutions with alcoholism programs and enclosed two pieces of our literature. These mailings were not very productive, we had much better results from personal contacts. Gradually, institutional activity increased.

"This growth has not been without problems. Sometimes an overzealous member makes a commitment and then fails to follow through. It was due to failure to follow-through that we lost out at the Bridgewater institution. It was only through the efforts of a spiritual counselor that we are now going to be allowed to resume our meetings there.

"Alateen is also involved in our institutional work and were invited to put on meetings at three state hospitals.

"Most of our work in this field has been with hospitals, but recently a contact has been made at a prison, where we plan to start meetings soon.

"We encourage the families to go regularly to Al-Anon meetings and some are doing this and still attending institutional meetings."

"I am grateful to my Higher Power for having been the instrument in starting a group in a veteran's hospital, which has given me an opportunity to help lift families out of their deep despair. Seven of our groups now cover this meeting in turn."

Barbara closed by expressing her thanks to those at the WSO who have worked so hard to make possible such successes.

* * * *

Arbutus, O.N., Regional Trustee of the Western U.S., spoke about the Institutional Guidelines:

"Let us look at them," she said. "They are compounded of Hope, Courage and Sharing."

"Hope is an important element in helping families of alcoholics who are in institutions. Hope burns very low for many families of alcoholics in institutions. The family is often confused, scared, and confused. They are afraid to believe in the possibility of a change for the better. They want to belong, want to feel accepted. That is why it is so important to have Al-Anon in institutions."

* * *
these desperate families. Already they know the indifference, apathy and sometimes inadvertent cruelty of some people in agencies.

"It takes Courage to face wrong ideas and to inform the uninformed. You will not always be welcome. You may lose contacts because too little is known about AI-Anon in some areas, and people who do not know the difference may confuse us with alcoholics and hesitate to get involved. However, many hospital superintendents and counselors at correctional institutions are beginning to realize that AI-Anon means help.

"And when the time for Sharing arrives, the joyful opportunity to give others the rich gifts of Al-Anon, it will make you grateful you started the task.

"These words follow the principles of our Three-Legacy program: in the Steps we find hope; confidence in our Traditions will give us courage. And finally, sharing, through service to others or ‘passing along understanding’.

"In my view, the Institutional Committee and its Guidelines reflect the spirit of our Three Legacies in every way".

"* * * * *

This inspiring statement by Arbatus was followed by an interesting question which was discussed by Darla J. (Ore.)

"HOW MUCH LITERATURE AND WHAT PIECES SHOULD BE DISTRIBUTED at an Al-Anon Institutional Meeting?"

"In the light of my experience and that of many others, I believe we should limit the number of pieces of literature given to newcomers to one or two. Giving them too much at first is apt to confuse them,

"Keeping literature simple is a must. That is why they respond so well to our leaflet: ‘Just for Today’, ‘Homeward Bound’ gives a clear explanation to everyone concerned with institutional work, as well as to the families, because questions most often asked are covered in this booklet. ‘This is Al-Anon’ is often used in Oregon.

"Following up on the families is of great importance. We should always be prepared to tell them the locations of groups convenient to their homes.

"Since funds for institutional work are often limited, we must plan accordingly. We have found it convenient and economical to order the Institutional Discount Program which covers a wide range of information about our program."

"* * * * *

Following Darla's remarks, Marge A., of Colorado, told us a wonderful success story which illustrates the importance of loving dedication to the task of serving the families of those in institutions.

"A little over a year ago, we had just one institutional group in our state, Harmony, at Estes Park, where many alcoholics were going for treatment and therapy. As their families were spending week-ends there, a Saturday night Al-Anon meeting was started by Jean Louise, a vitally interested member. Her letter to New York asking for help prompted the Institutions Committee to suggest that she become our Coordinator and she willingly accepted in January, 1971.

"None of us knew what a Coordinator’s job entailed. Jean Louise read and studied her Guidelines and then went to the Public Library and made a list of all hospitals in the state. She composed a letter using our pamphlet “Al-Anon Group Impact on Professional Rehabilitation of the Alcoholic” and sent them to local Denver area hospitals. She attended Assembly, District and Group meetings begging for help. The interested few who formed a committee followed up the letters with phone calls and personal appointments.

"An Al-Anon Group was formed at Mercy Hospital in Denver. Its Chairman encourages Al-Anon members from other groups to attend and appoints a Leader for the evening. The nurses are asked to give the families of alcoholic patients our pamphlet “Are You Living With a Severe Drinking Problem?”

"When Jean Louise tried to do too much, she became so discouraged she wanted to resign. At my insistence that she get help, she decided to name District Coordinators and asked each DR to find someone. Through the efforts of our DR in Pueblo, the State Hospital now has an Alateen and an Al-Anon meeting at the Alcoholic Treatment Division.

"At our State Convention in August, Jean Louise gave a report that was much more than a report; her love, dedication and enthusiasm resulted in eleven Al-Anons around the state volunteering to help! She spent time with each volunteer and helped them set up display boards of institutional literature. She and District Coordinators and some Co-Coordinators for towns within a District formed District Committees. Within two weeks a chatty letter of welcome, “Guidelines for Institutional Work”, “Guidelines for Health Agency” and her contact letter were sent to each volunteer.

"At Fitzsimons General Army Hospital in Aurora an Alateen meeting is going great. At the open AA meeting on the same night several Al-Anons talk to the new people and refer them to one of the many local groups.

"Grand Junction has started an Al-Anon meeting in their hospital. We are trying for one at Fort Logan Mental Health Center.

"Throughout our state many letters have been sent to lawyers, sheriffs, the police, health and welfare organizations, visiting nurses and sanitariums. Inquiries from these letters have been answered by personal contact, phone calls and literature. Literature has been placed in doctors’ offices and ministers’ study.

"In one area our Alateens contacted the Probation Officer and the Welfare Office and two girls are now coming to Alateen who had been threatened with being placed in foster homes.

"A counselor from the East Side Rehabilitation Center has been attending many open Al-Anon Meetings to learn about the program and is referring many families to us.

"A teacher made a report in her Sociology Class at Community College after studying about the family of the alcoholic from our literature and books and attending open Al-Anon meetings.

"Our City Marriage Counselor, who refers many people to us, has offered to provide space and to invite other counselors in Denver to a meeting at which Al-Anons could explain our program.

"The cities and towns in Colorado are far apart, cut off by mountain passes and the Great Divide. We encourage each District to have their own meetings. In Denver the meetings are usually informal rap sessions. A letter has been sent out to all Coordinators asking for a full report for our next Assembly where we will hold our second state-wide Committee meeting.

"It's slow, sometimes frustrating, but really I think Colorado has gone gung-ho and I am proud of the progress we've made."

"* * * * *

The Conference was tremendously impressed with what can be done in institutional work when it is powered by such spirit and dedication.

"* * * * *

Next on the agenda was the discussion, by retiring Delegates, of two of the Twelve Concepts. Helen F. (Ind.) spoke on Concept III.
Decision Makes Effective Leadership Possible,

In other words, we could have no sound leadership in Al-Anon unless our ‘servants’ had the right to make decisions for the benefit of all.

The Charter of our Conference and the Bylaws of Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters define the responsibilities of the Conference to act on behalf of Al-Anon as a whole. These instruments describe the relationship between the groups, the Conference, the Trustees and the active service units. These broad descriptions are an indispensable frame of reference – we couldn’t function without them.

Can you imagine throwing away all charters, bylaws, job definitions and leaving it up to each group of trusted servants what its authority and responsibility really is? Wouldn’t that chaos result?

If groups were to attempt to dictate to the Delegates how to vote, they would no longer be trusted servants, but messengers. New information and insights may give them reason to change their views when participating in the Conference. Tradition II provides for trusted servants. If I am to be a trusted servant, then trust me – within the framework of my duties.

We need not have the slightest fear of granting this “Right of Decision” to our World Services at all levels. If the Trustees were constantly to exert full and absolute authority over the Executive Committee, the FORUM, volunteers and paid service workers, it would turn these faithful servants into buck passers and rubber stamps.

There will always be plenty of authority to correct inefficiency or abuse.

Upon mutual trust our entire program rests. Concept III makes us more aware of this principle of mutual trust.

“May God grant us the wisdom to say and do the things that will truly pass along understanding and keep alive the feeling of Recovery, Unity and Service.”

The next speaker, Gladys I., third-year Delegate from Kansas, discussed Concept IV: Participation is the Key to Harmony:

“Participation, according to Webster, means taking part, a sharing in an undertaking. This idea is stressed in Al-Anon’s structure at every point. If one segment had all the authority and another all the responsibility, efficiency of operation and real harmony would be seriously handicapped.

It is important that the service workers and Trustees vote on their reports at the Conference; after all, they have firsthand knowledge. Since we, the Delegates, meet only once a year, we cannot be expected to know all the problems.

The active management of the World Service Office is vested in the Executive Committee whose duty it is to see that all projects are carefully carried out.

“If there were no Executive Committee, the Principle of Participation in our service structure would not function. The Right of Participation in our service structure is of such high importance to our future that we must preserve this Traditional Right.

“In the participating method of doing business there are no superiors and no inferiors. No class is set in absolute authority over another. The Right of Participation encourages us who serve Al-Anon to accept the disciplines our various tasks require.

“Participation also responds to our spiritual needs. All of us deeply desire to ‘belong’. The Al-Anon ideal of a working partnership could never regard any member as ‘second class.’ This is perhaps the main reason we have struggled to achieve Participation at every level.”

The final feature of the morning session was the Public Relations Workshop, which Josie C., staff, prefaced with the report of the PR Committee.

“Since year, several new members were added to the PR Committee: Loretta B., Carter C., Marie B., Marilyn B., Henry C. and Mary C. Top priority was given to the revision of our Fact File in order to present it to the Standing Committee at the WSC.

“The National Council on Alcoholism had its Annual Meeting in April in Los Angeles, Calif. We were officially represented by Aura C. (WSD, So. Cal.) The PR Committee for the Area assembled a literature display, and Elsie Q., the Alternate Delegate, provided volunteers to serve during the event.

“National Conference on Social Welfare held its Annual Forum and Exposition in May at Dallas, Texas. We were represented by our Regional Trustee Arbutus O’N., (Western U.S.) who gave an excellent five-minute presentation at the Open Forum. Many requests for additional information and literature resulted.

“NAAP, the North American Association of Alcoholism Programs, held its Annual Meeting in September at Hartford, Conn. We were represented on that occasion by our Conference Chairman and Board Member, Penny B., Our professional display was visited by hundreds of people, resulting in many requests for additional information.

“Book exhibits were held by the National Council on Family Relations at Estes Park, Colo., in August and at the Biennial Meeting of The Family Service Association of America at Chicago in November, where our books created much interest.

“Mailings: The PR Committee sent out two releases on the ABC news feature “Alcoholism: Out of the Shadows”, resulting in gratifying cooperation from our members throughout the U.S. and Canada. These releases were sent to Delegates, Newsletter Editors, all local Information Centers, PR and Alateen Coordinators. Many of the Newsletters carried the release, some verbatim, others in part. Many members worked out tie-ins with local news media. Newspaper, TV and radio announcements gave local Al-Anon telephone numbers and local interviews were numerous.

“Al-Anon and Alateen members were asked to watch the program, to tell everyone they knew to watch it and then call or write the network as interested citizens. This cooperative effort was instrumental in reaching a great many people.

“A reprint of Dr. Milton Maxwell’s review of ODAT and APFE, from the June 1971 issue of The Quarterly Journal of Studies on Alcohol was sent to the entire PR mailing list, with excellent response.

“Magazine articles mentioning Al-Anon appeared in Parents Magazine and Woman’s Day.

“Public Education. Correspondence with outside agencies included bookstores, educators, industry, legal and medical personnel, authors of proposed articles, Councils and Commissions on Alcoholism, Government agencies and departments, libraries, social agencies and the news media. Student letters and packets sent totaled over 450.”

The revision of the Fact File had been discussed in the meeting of the Standing Committee of Public Relations and several excellent suggestions will be incorporated in the finished draft, soon to be ready for publication.

Josie then introduced Louise C. (Texas W.) who had a remarkable success story to share with the Conference.

“Last year I reported on the Public Relations activities in
West Texas, one of which was our legal project. A series of letters was mailed to 1700 lawyers in the Dallas and Fort Worth Area bi-weekly. Attorneys were chosen because statistics show that alcoholism is the major cause of divorce today. But you know lawyers do not always recognize alcoholism as being the problem, or if they do, they do not know where to send these families for help.

"Realizing the need, the Dallas Public Relations Committee collaborated with The Extension Service of Texas A & M University and the Family Guidance Clinic of Dallas. Seven letters were prepared with fact sheets attached dealing with alcoholism as a family illness, how to recognize the disease in either the drinker or the spouse, and listing sources of help for both.

"The first letter went out in October of last year. The same day a news release in the Dallas and Fort Worth papers explained the project. And as a result the Intergroup telephone rang constantly for three days and intermittently the rest of the week. These calls were from families with a drinking problem asking about Alcoholics Anonymous. Requests for Al-Anon speakers came from school counselors, professors in several colleges, and people in other professions. Requests for ten sets of these letters came from people in professions other than legal.

"As a result of these calls the PR Coordinator sent out sixty newcomer packets right away. Some people couldn't wait for the letters—they wanted to know if they couldn't just come on over and get theirs.

"Now for the results of this project. The sixth letter went out about mid-December. The first of February the last letter went out, with a questionnaire asking the lawyers for an evaluation of the letters. Of the 1700 lawyers, 10% responded to the questionnaire. Now this may not sound like a large percentage, but I understand that six percent is considered good. Of the 10% responses, two-thirds indicated that as a result of these letters, they felt more qualified to recognize a person with a drinking problem, or a person living with such a problem.

"Incidentally, there were 25 referrals to AA out of this group. The results were so gratifying that Marcella, our PR Coordinator, says that they are going to launch a similar project directed to the medical profession. Samples of these letters are being given to you today. Thank you."

Josie then thanked Louise for her enlightening presentation, and explained that the letters will be listed in the new PR Kit.

The Conference then divided into four separate groups to discuss a series of questions on Public Relations. As in the case of the Alateen Workshop, held the day before, each section had a Trustee as Moderator, a staff secretary and a Delegate reporter who took notes. One of the four reporters was assigned to summarize the results of the four meetings.

The Public Relations Workshop was built around our Tradition: "Eleven: "Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, TV and films. We need guard with special care the anonymity of AA members."

These questions were put to the four panels; the answers were provided by Summary Reporter, Betty S. (British Columbia).

Q.1. Some people believe we are perpetuating the stigma attached to the disease of alcoholism when we remain anonymous at the level of press, radio, TV and film. If you agree, why? If not, why not?

Answers: Need to follow the Tradition ... Assures prospective members that anonymity will be protected ... Avoids personalities and focuses on principle ... Carrying the message without revealing identity is helping to break down the stigma ... It doesn't matter who we are, only that we are willing to help.

Q.2. Because we have a tradition of anonymity, should we refuse to leave our full names, addresses and telephone numbers with the people we contact for public relations? How anonymous should we be and why?

Answers: Personal contacts are not anonymous ... These professionals want to know people to whom they can refer. If we refuse and give only first names we give a wrong impression and they never will call on us ... Anyone doing PR work should have clearance from family members or other professionals, may have objections ... Al-Anon members who have this situation can work in other areas. A P.O. box number gives protection ... In some Areas only Coordinators have full data ... we must remember that in sending letters or notices to newspapers we must give a name and address in order to be published; the newspaper will observe a request not to have them used ... A Telephone Answering Service good for continued availability.

Q.3. "Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion." How do you develop your public relations projects within this framework?

Answers: Place books in libraries, doctor's offices etc., with pink slip in the jacket fold ("Are You Living with .... drinking Problem?") ... A question-and-answer panel on radio ... literature display in booths at County Fairs ... literature in public rest rooms ... telephone listings in local phone books ... notices of meetings in newspapers ... get people outside to promote, i.e., call newspaper to comment on a featured article on alcoholism ... our contact with the outside world is strictly informative and educational, therefore we stay within our Traditions ... Posters in stores, doctors' offices, schools, etc. ... Open public meetings ... Announcements on TV and radio ... Consistently invite people from other agencies; if visitor is invited to talk, make sure it is sandwiched in between two good Al-Anon talks.

Q.4. Should pamphlets "Why is Al-Anon Anonymous" and "This is Al-Anon" be used for public relations work? If so, why? If not, why not?

Answers: One of the workshops voted a unanimous YES to this question. Others felt these leaflets were for group use and were inappropriate for outside use. Best to use the Fact File because it was designed for that specific purpose ... Some Areas feel the Fact File is prohibitively costly ... More literature for men should be used in PR work so more men could be involved in it ... Other pamphlets more useful, especially those like "Al-Anon: Family Treatment Tool ..."

Q.5. Many members have seen recent TV shows where alcoholics and their families have faced the camera. Does this break a Tradition?

Answers: No, not unless they identify themselves as AA, Al-Anon or Alateen members ... the camera man should be advised of the necessity for
Q. 8. Is there any objection in your Area to time and place of
Q. 6. Is there a great effort made in your Area to induce
professionals to attend your meetings? If yes, what have
the results been? If little interest has been shown, what
do you do?
Answers: Yes, much effort with poor results ... Try
invitations to open meetings. If written, follow
up with personal contact ... Volunteer to put
on a meeting for nurses' training classes and
allow question time ... Have each member
invite his own clergyman and doctor. ... Area
meetings for professionals, having Alateen
speakers, has had favorable results ... Spot
announcements on radio and TV.
Q. 7. Have posters been used in your Area? If you don't have
a P.O. Box or central telephone number, what do you
use?
Answers: These posters can be reduced to two-column
size and used as fillers in newspapers ... Use
telephone number but no name ... Many
Al-Anon groups use an AA Answering Service,
paying a share of cost. When confusion arises,
however, it is wise to get a separate number.
Q. 8. Is there any objection in your Area to time and place of
meetings being announced in your local newspapers?
Answers: Mostly no, except in rural communities or
small towns and this is to avoid curiosity
seekers and gossip.

REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

The popularity of the break-up workshops initiated at last
year's WSC prompted the Agenda Committee to plan similar
meetings this year.

Preparation for the 1972 workshops included a series of
questions developed from correspondence for each: Conference
Approved Literature (CAL), Public Relations and Alateen.
These were prepared in Committee and distributed to the
Delegates and Trustees. Penny, Conference Chairman, met each
month with the General Secretary and staff secretaries to also
discuss the following:

Area Highlights, our quarterly report, which is mailed in
triplicate to all Delegates, the extra copies being for two of the
other Assembly officers. Excerpts from Area Highlights may be
used in reports to the groups.

Group Information about new and inactive groups, and copies
of group contribution slips are mailed to all Delegates each
month along with the FORUM.

Following the decision of the Conference (1971) the term
District Representative (DR) replaced all references to the term
Committeeman in the Handbook. The change was also made in
the Conference Charter and in our CAL.

Subsequently the WORLD SERVICE HANDBOOK - For
Al-Anon and Alateen Groups - was updated to clarify the
participation of Alateen GRs at District and Area Assembly
meetings and a free copy was sent to every Alateen group.

Conference Summary. Delegates may request additional copies
for distribution in their Assembly Areas. They asked for and
were sent 600 free copies of the '71 Summary. Along with the
September FORUM mailing, each registered group was sent a
'Summary for the use of the GR.

Ted K., President of our Board of Trustees, gave a brief
review of changes which had been found necessary in the voting
procedures of our Regional Trustee from the Western Region of
the U.S.

Eric (Einar E.), former WSD from Arizona, was elected
with the required majority.

The many hours of concentrated work were then relieved by
an amusing skit prepared and produced by Nancy R. (N.Y.) and
Elaine D., (Fla.) The playlet represented an Al-Anon meeting
(which everyone hoped wasn't typical) in which one of our
Traditions after another was smashed to bits. The roles of the
players made them seem quite unconscious of the fact that
they were violating Traditions, but the audience caught on
immediately and gave the performance tremendous applause.

The next item on the program was a pair of our Twelve
Concepts of Service, beautifully presented by two Delegates
about-to-retire.

Estelle (Robbie) (Mich.) gave a clear analysis of Concept
Five: The Rights of Appeal and Petition Protect Minorities
and Assure That They be Heard.

"What recourse does a minority have on any issue with which
they disagree with the majority?

"All minorities may file reports whenever they feel a majority
is wrong. When the matter could seriously affect Al-Anon as
a whole, it has the actual duty of presenting a minority
report to the Conference.

"How does the Right of Petition protect the individual?

"It permits any person in our service structure to petition for
the redress of a personal grievance. He may even carry his
complaint to the Board of Trustees.

"If to such recognition of minority privileges we now add the
traditional Rights of Appeal and Petition, all minorities will
have the means of discharging their World Service duties
confidently, harmoniously and well."

Billie M. (Minn.) then gave an able talk on Concept Six:
The Conference Acknowledges the Primary Administrative
Responsibility of the Trustees.

"Tradition Two tells us that the group conscience is the
final authority for Al-Anon Service. But since the groups
cannot act directly in many service matters, they put their trust
in our Delegates to speak and act for the groups at the World
Service Conference. This Conference is now a permanent foun-
dation for Al-Anon Service and is in turn the active voice and
the group conscience of our Al-Anon fellowship in World
affairs.

"The Board of Trustees is the chief service arm of the
Conference, responsible for all our service activities and
Al-Anon's public relations world wide. The Board is the guardian
of our Twelve Traditions; they are responsible for use of funds
received, and for the investment of reserve funds. The Board
has the entire freedom to conduct routine policy and business
affairs of Headquarters.

"Any decisions or amendments made by the Trustees are
always presented to the Conference for approval, excepting
when an emergency arises. Then it does have the right to decide
whether a decision may require the approval of the Conference
or when they may act on their own responsibility.

"The Trustees must work under the guidance and/or the
direction of the Conference, but only the Trustees are in
position to decide and handle the great amount of business
involved in our World Service operation. Our Trustees must function like the directors of any large business corporation. They must have complete authority to manage and conduct Al-Anon business.”

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The Conference next heard from Arbutus O’N., outgoing Regional Trustee for the western U.S.

“Penny asked me to tell you what the experience of being a Regional Trustee has meant to me. It has meant a second chance to take part in the World Service Conference.

“I had my first opportunity when I served as a Panel One Delegate.

“It is difficult to describe these experiences because they have so much to do with feeling. This is basically our reason for being in Al-Anon; our feeling toward someone who suffers from the disease of alcoholism. We became intimately and emotionally involved in a problem that overwhelmed us and all but destroyed some of us. We found solutions in Al-Anon.

“My feelings when I came back to the World Service Conference three years ago, were tremendous. In a very real sense we First Panel Delegates were visionaries. We dreamed impossible dreams and projected far-reaching ideas.

“When I came back as Regional Trustee seven years later, those dreams and ideas were being put into practical application. Decisions were being made with confidence and a surety of purpose — a tremendous contrast to those early faltering steps of the first Conference.

“As I visited groups in the Western Region, the response was interestingly varied. In some I was immediately part of the meetings, with mutual sharing. In others they made a great fuss over me. On two occasions I was introduced as ‘the original Trustee’. Some brought voluminous notes to the meetings with detailed instructions for me to present to the Board meetings to ‘straighten them out’.

“In some places conversations ceased when I arrived; the Chairman would be heard to say: ‘we’ll discuss this later’ implying that a Regional Trustee might ‘turn us in’.

“The most wonderful feeling was that of participation in keeping with the Twelve Concepts of Service which is the definition and application of our Third Legacy. This sense of participation has been reflected in an increased awareness of our World Services at all levels. There is now a closeness with World Services because the groups are sharing in the selection of Board members.

“The Trustees meetings were a learning experience for me. I learned to put aside personal feelings for the over-all good of our fellowship. I learned how the combined experience and wisdom of the Board is reflected in its decisions and how they are measured by the yardstick of our Traditions.

“With the experience of Board meetings, World Service Conferences and sharing sessions in my Region, my richest experience came from something shared by Lois when she said to me: ‘We take upon ourselves a responsibility at our very first meeting’. This is exactly what happened to me! I came to a group a stranger and said ‘Help me!’ They were willing to help me, but there was a condition: They were willing to help me if, in time, I would be willing to help anyone I could, anywhere I could, any time I was asked.

“My dear friends, I have not been released from that responsibility . . . and neither have you. We never will be. And that is much to be grateful for.”

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The report of the NOMINATING COMMITTEE, of which Alice B. had been Chairman, was given by Ted K., President of the Board of Trustees, and unanimously approved by the Conference.

Newly-elected Trustees: George H., Loretta L. Re-elected for a second term: Alice B. The balance of the Board unchanged, excepting for the election of Eric E. as Regional Trustee, Western U.S., with Robert Z. as Alternate Regional Trustee. Carter C., a member of the PR Committee, was added to the Executive Committee, along with Conference Chairman, Penny B., who had completed her second term on the Board of Trustees.

Ted reappointed all committee chairman. The following posts are still vacant: Public Relations, Regional Trustee and Nominating. It is expected that these chairmanships will be filled by the July meeting of the Board.

The resignation of our Treasurer, Gay G., was accepted with regret. Mary S. will serve as Acting Treasurer until the post can be filled.

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DELEGATES ONLY MEETING: Recommendations and Action Taken

The Delegates of the 1972 WSC gave the staff of the WSO a vote of gratitude. “We would like to express our appreciation to those who gave talks on how they came to the WSO and how they have grown in World Service. We would like to have more of these talks at future Conferences.

Response/Action: This recommendation will be forwarded to the Conference Agenda Committee for further development. We appreciate your acceptance of this innovation.

2. It is recommended that new Delegates and sponsors be put in touch with each other before the Conference in order that they may become acquainted through correspondence before the Conference.

Response/Action: Every effort will be made to put new panel Delegates in touch with their sponsors. Success depends on WSO receiving new-panel Delegates names sufficiently in advance.

3. It is recommended that the Delegates receive Workshop questionnaires and WS office reports earlier so that we can more fully discuss these with our own Area Committees and thus be better prepared.

Response/Action: Workshop questionnaires and office reports will be distributed as early as possible. The delay experienced this year was unusual, caused by circumstances beyond our control.

4. It is recommended that all communications from the WSO, including new group cards and drop cards, be dated:

Response/Action: Reason for request unclear. Dates on group cards would not necessarily reflect date group was formed. Since each Area would be receiving relatively few cards in each monthly shipment, we ask that the dating be done when the cards are received to save costly time and handling of the large total quantities processed in the office.

Other communications are routinely dated. If there were exceptions, may we have examples?

5. It is recommended that all mail that concerns our responsibilities as Delegates (WS or Assembly) be sent to the Delegates in advance of their mailing to the groups.

Response/Action: We will investigate the possibility of making certain mailings to the Delegates before they are sent to the groups. If unique correspondence to individual groups is implied, it may be possible to act according to your wish. Applied to more general mailings, the impact
on efficiency of mailing procedures would have to be taken into account.

To successfully implement this suggestion might involve 1) an increase of staff, 2) possible costly changes in mail-handling procedures, and 3) control over the uncertain U.S. Postal Service. We'll do our best, though, to keep you informed as simultaneously as possible, especially on matters requiring Delegate action.

6. It is recommended that the Workshops be broken down into smaller groups.

Response/Action: We will make every effort to cut down on the size of the Workshops.

7. It is recommended that we have a pre-Conference orientation meeting for new Delegates (either a panel or a beginners' workshop) with Delegates only, on Monday evening. Then Tuesday morning we could start the Conference and we would have more time for discussion of issues to be acted upon.

Response/Action: WSO does not favor imposing this added expense on the groups to solve a problem that could have other solutions. The program of Delegate sponsorship should have growing value as we gain more experience with it. We would hope that outgoing Delegates would increasingly recognize the importance of "passing along understanding" to their successors. WSO can make a valuable contribution by providing sessions early on the agenda conducive to participation by both new and old Delegates. Our experience over the past twelve years convinces us that there is no substitute for full participation in such an effort as this.

8. It is recommended that the World Directory be removed from the order blank. Since it states that the Directory can be ordered by groups and loners, some other means should be found to make it available. If it should be impossible to remove it from the Literature list, it is recommended that the decision as to selling the Directory to a non-member be made by the Delegate of the Area from which the request came.

Response/Action: We will be pleased to remove the Directory from the price list and to restrict direct sales to those who can be judged to be Al-Anon members. When there is a question of membership it will become, as requested, the Delegate's responsibility whether or not the order should be filled. To make it more practical for members to order, the Directory could be listed on the supplemental price list.

In addition to the above recommendations, it was decided that the Secretary would reproduce the minutes and mail them to all Delegates before the next Assembly, with extra copies for the new Delegates to be given them prior to the meeting. A collection was taken to cover the expense.

It was decided to send flowers and/or a gift to Jewel S., Regional Trustee Eastern U.S. A collection was taken up and a committee appointed to take care of this.

Again two third-year Delegates explained two of the Twelve Concepts. Helen T. (N.Y.N.) spoke on Concept Seven: The Trustees have Legal Rights, While the Rights of the Conference are Traditional.

Question I

How could the Conference override the legal rights of the Board of Trustees?

Answer.

Although the Board of Trustees has legal rights and are invested with complete legal power over Al-Anon's funds and services, Al-Anon's World Service Conference has, over the last eleven years of its existence, established traditional influence and financial power, so that, if necessary, it could override the legal rights of the Board of Trustees by giving it directives which would ensure compliance.

Question II

Have the Trustees the right to say "No" to something the Conference wants?

Answer.

The Board of Trustees has a legal right to say "No" to a Conference suggestion.

Question III

Why can the Trustees say "No" if the Conference has final authority?

Answer.

If, in a time of haste or heavy stress, the Conference should take an action, or issue a directive to the Trustees in clear violation of its own Charter, or of the Bylaws of the Headquarters Corporation, it would then be the duty of the Trustees to ask for Conference reconsideration.

If the Conference would still refuse, then the Trustees could use their legal right to veto or they could take the question to each Al-Anon group and be guided by the groups' consciences.

Joan C. (Penns,) discussed Concept Eight: The Board of Trustees Delegates Full Authority For Routine Management of Al-Anon Headquarters to its Executive Committees.

The Trustees of the Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters act in two major capacities: (a) in matters of policy and finance, they are the principal planners and are responsible for final decisions and results; (b) in routine operations, the Trustees delegate full authority to the Executive Committee charged with the business management of Headquarters.

After the incorporation of Headquarters late in 1954 its Board of Trustees, meeting monthly, administered the World Service Office. They appointed an Advisory Committee which met every three months. Recommendations proposed by the Advisory Committee had to be ratified by the Board of Trustees.

In 1957 the Advisory Committee was further formalized by a Charter. As the Advisory Board, it was the authorized custodian of over-all Al-Anon policy and finance.

In 1964, the World Service Conference began on a trial basis in 1961, became the permanent instrument of expression of the conscience of Al-Anon. The full powers and responsibilities of the World Service Office continued to be vested in the Board of Trustees.

By 1964, the business of Al-Anon's Headquarters had grown so large that the Board of Trustees could no longer handle the routine administration of the World Service Office. They recognized the need to devote themselves to questions of policy, leadership, finance, group and public relations.

Therefore the Board assigned its administrative function to a more constantly available seven-member Executive Committee, with the Board's full legal powers to conduct its day to day affairs.

The Board's position thus became that of custodian and guarantor of good management of Al-Anon's World Services.

* * * *

REPORT OF THE LITERATURE COMMITTEE.

The activities of the year, and its productions, including the enthusiastically-welcomed cartoon book "Jane's Husband . . ." were covered in the Literature Committee's Annual Report in the Delegates' Brochure.
Louise M., Chairman of the Committee, gave this stirring talk on CAL:

"A familiar theme seems to run through many Al-Anon stories. Over and over again we hear how people have gone to clergymen, doctors, psychiatrists, social workers and other professionals, how they have read book after book trying to help themselves cope with the alcoholic problem in their lives, all in vain. Finally, as a last resort, they tried Al-Anon. And lo and behold! It was just what they had been looking for! At last they found answers! At last, they found people who understood! At last they found a measure of sanity and serenity!

"Why is it that, that these same people, once they come into Al-Anon, invite the same doctors, clergymen, social workers and professionals to their meetings, not to acquaint the professionals with Al-Anon, but to hear how the professionals are helping the alcoholic and his family?

"It doesn't seem to make sense, does it?

"Al-Anon has encouraged full cooperation with professionals, within the framework of the Traditions. Our unique program has been proven successful in helping families of alcoholics, but we are not the only ones with answers. Some people obviously need the kind of help which Al-Anon cannot provide and we would be foolish indeed to insist we can help everyone. Sometimes a multi-faceted approach is needed, and professionals and Al-Anon can work hand in hand for the good of the family. Certainly, many professionals realize this and often recommend Al-Anon in conjunction with or as a follow-up to their own specialized treatment. They know that in Al-Anon their patients will receive continued emotional support from people who are in the same situation, and all without charge.

"It stands to reason that Al-Anon members will often take a lively interest in other community resources available to them and to the alcoholic. Some will avail themselves of these resources and recommend them to others. Spokesmen from these related therapies may be invited as guest speakers at Al-Anon meetings. But groups should be careful not to rely too heavily on such outside speakers; the danger is that the focus will be shifted from our own recovery in Al-Anon to that of the alcoholic. These professionals may be in conflict with Al-Anon thinking, causing much confusion.

"People working in the field of alcoholism no doubt have a lot to offer, but only in Al-Anon can we hear the stories of personal recovery through the Twelve Steps. Such stories will help us to get better. We must guard against having our program so diluted with other subjects that we lose sight of our purpose: to help the families of alcoholics through living the Twelve Steps.

"Now - what does all this have to do with Conference Approved Literature? Well, to my mind, the use of non-CAL is spending valuable Al-Anon meeting time studying other people's answers to our problems when most of us admit the answers are to be found in Al-Anon.

"Most Al-Anons know that the use of non-Al-Anon literature at meetings is unfair to those who have come there looking for a better understanding of what the program offers. One would not expect to find anything but Recovery discussions at Recovery meetings, or anything but Weight Watcher diets and literature at Weight Watcher meetings. Those who come to Al-Anon rightly expect to find Al-Anon literature and discussions pertaining to the Al-Anon program. It isn't hard to convince those who have gone off on tangents such as Psycho-Cybernetics, Psychology, etc., that they are violating the Tradition of unity which binds all of us together. Members are free to read anything they find helpful. But it is not the purpose of Al-Anon to acquaint its members with all the various approaches to the problem of living with an alcoholic - only the Al-Anon approach.

We must remember the purpose of Al-Anon, whether we are inviting guest speakers or choosing material for discussion. We are here to help each other overcome the problems of living with an alcoholic. This is the heart of Al-Anon.

"As I said before, it isn't hard to convince people that Al-Anon literature is best for Al-Anon meetings. The sticky problems come in when groups become attached to literature which purports to be Al-Anon, but which isn't CAL.

"Some of this literature was written when Al-Anon was very young. At that time, there was no World Service Office, and groups did what they could about literature. But once Headquarters came into being, and the World Service Conference was held, it was quickly realized that in order to preserve the unity of Al-Anon world-wide, someone would have to decide what went under the name of Al-Anon. Otherwise, those seeking help could be confused and ill-advised, and professionals, wanting to know about our program would get the wrong idea of what it's all about.

"And so the WSC decided to reserve to itself the right to approve all the literature which would officially represent Al-Anon, delegating the responsibility for writing it to a Literature Committee operating out of Headquarters and consisting of at least 6 Delegate members. Some of the literature which was already in use at the time was approved by the Conference for general distribution and the groups which were printing it willingly transferred that right to the WSO.

"Unfortunately, not all of them did so. Some groups not only continue to publish their own literature, but extend their sales beyond their locality even to foreign countries!

"Literature which is not Conference Approved falls into one or more of several categories:

"First, it may give a distorted or inaccurate interpretation of the program, e.g. booklets with a religious slant.

"Second, it may duplicate material being published by WSO.

"Third, it may conflict with Al-Anon thought.

"Fourth, it may be badly written, not up to Conference standards, or

"Fifth, it may be a shabbily-printed piece, creating the wrong impression of the typographical quality set for CAL.

"What do we do about groups who buy, use and sell non-Conference Approved Literature? What CAN we do about people who publish and sell literature about Al-Anon without the approval of the Conference?

"Nothing beyond educating our groups; Al-Anon never punishes anybody for anything. Love is the motive power of our fellowship and love doesn't punish. This great love, this great warmth that is Al-Anon is a secret of its healing power.

"As I said before, it isn't hard to convince people that Al-Anon literature is best for Al-Anon meetings. The sticky problems come in when groups become attached to literature which purports to be Al-Anon, but which isn't CAL.

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the Workshop on CONFERENCE APPROVED LITERATURE.

The members of the four panels, meeting at separate locations, were given a series of questions to be discussed and commented on.

Q. 1. Why should members so strongly support the purchase of CAL with group funds?

1. Views & Opinions: a) Group funds as a whole belong to the groups; therefore may not be used for any material or purpose outside Al-Anon.

b) The World Service Office depends largely on the sale of literature for support; when this is siphoned off to other segments of the fellowship who publish unauthorized literature, or to private publishers, it deprives the WSO of funds to which it is entitled.

Several Delegates also brought up the question of using group funds for flowers and gifts and agreed that this should be done only by individual donations and not from funds belonging to the group.

c) if you own stock in Texaco, you don't fill up your car with Gulf

d) CAL gives only true picture of program. Other material likely to cause controversy and confusion

e) too likely to be slanted toward a religion or a "cause" or to a professional’s views

f) we brought loneliness with us when we came to Al-Anon; CAL one of our unifying elements, makes us feel part of one huge, beautiful organization with identical ideas and purposes

g) unity is the product of CAL

h) approach groups using non-CAL with positive reasons why CAL provides more help

i) suggestion made not to type out Twelve Steps for reading at meetings; too likely to make errors.

Q. 2. What are the objections to using other material at meetings?

(See d, e, f, g above)

2. Views & Opinions: a) dilutes our primary purpose

b) Outside publications, even if called Al-Anon may duplicate items in our own literature

c) CAL gives the only accurate picture of our program because it's written and edited by appointed Al-Anon members, approved by the Conference.

d) unauthorized material apt to stress religion

e) purely inspirational material not Al-Anon and is available elsewhere for private reading

f) non-CAL confuses members, especially newcomers

g) traveling members expect to find the same literature wherever they go

h) professionals who have received our material would be "put off" by finding other miscellany at meetings.

Q. 3. There is a continuing demand for more Alateen literature. Do you know some of the problems involved?

3. Views & Opinions: a) many Alateens read and use Al-Anon literature.

b) many illiterate children cannot use it

c) suggestion that Alateens be encouraged to submit material for possible publication. (The response to this idea was that such material should first be submitted to the Delegate before it is sent to the Literature Committee.)

d) another means of getting new Alateen material is to tape good talks and send them to the WSO

e) in Areas where no Coordinator, send requests for Alateen material to Delegates so they may encourage sponsors to interest Alateens in writing new material

f) many felt that perhaps the Alateen literature now available was not being used sufficiently

Q. 4. When a group uses literature other than CAL, what Traditions are being broken?

4. Views & Opinions: over-all conclusion was that all twelve are being broken, each in some manner, when groups buy outside material, when individuals prepare their own versions and distribute them, and when members introduce into meetings items which happen to interest them. (Comment: The latter indicates a wholesome desire to share, but is a disservice to Al-Anon and the other members.)

A list of violations of the Twelve Traditions was made available to the participants. This list, or any part of it, may be used in Area Newsletters without permission.

Q. 5. To what extent are WSO’s services dependent on CAL?

(See 1 b.)

5. Views & Opinions: a) participants noted that the “Pie Chart” shown at the Conference indicates 75% of the WSO income comes from the sale of CAL.

b) the Manitoba Delegate said responsibility for CAL distribution had been assigned to two members who load the trunks of their cars with CAL — and plenty of price lists — and visit all the Roundups and Conventions in the Province. Result: over $3000 in literature sales last year.

c) regret expressed that 40% of our groups do not feel the need to contribute to world service work, which must therefore depend so heavily on literature sales. Al-Anon’s job is to spread the word and not to set as a publishing house. The 40% should be urged to consider their responsibility to their fellow Al-Anons around the world.

Q. 6. Do you feel it would be helpful to have a CAL Coordinator on your Area Committee? How could he best serve?

6. Views & Opinions. a) Yes. Could best serve by cooperating with State PR Coordinator which would take a great workload off him and other Area officers

b) could keep track of most popular literature items and report back to Area Committee

c) could give a short review of some pamphlets and books in the Area Newsletter

d) could set up book displays for all Area meetings and help Districts set up book displays or go to meetings and conduct discussions on CAL

e) when outside agencies ask for literature, the CAL Coordinator could give them what is suitable

f) Oklahoma recently appointed one who wrote to the WSO for suggestions to include in a letter she was sending to every group in the state. She planned to include “Why CAL” and a price list. She hopes this may help groups evolve ideas

Q. 7. Is there anything the WSO can or should do about a local Al-Anon center that sells non-CAL literature to groups outside their area of service?

7. Views & Opinions: a) a letter from the Delegate informing them they are in violation of the Traditions

b) a visit to the center to inform them of the violation
c) educate ... educate ... educate!

d) remind all Information Services, InterGroups, Councils that their support should come from local groups and not from the sale of literature, especially non-CAL

e) encourage groups to concentrate on CAL and avoid supporting sources that are “in business for themselves”

f) Al-Anon has come of age; we don’t need the prehistoric material that's still circulating

g) The Summary Reporter, Sharon (Wash.) gets special thanks for this: “AA’s old saying: ‘It may be easy to get a drunk sober; the hard part is to keep him sober’, now translates into modern Al-Anon language like this: ‘It may be easy to get our heads on straight; the hard part is keeping them on straight and CAL is the cement that keeps my head on straight, mine and everyone else’s around the world’.

FRIDAY MORNING, right after Penny called the roll and made announcements, two retiring Delegates presented explanations of the next two Concepts. Mary Leath, (Texas) gave the following enlightening analysis of Concept IX: ‘Good Personal Leadership at All Service Levels Is a Necessity, In the Field of World Service, the Board of Trustees Assumes the Primary Leadership.’ Mary explained it this way:

“Good leadership is so important in Al-Anon because those we love are involved. Al-Anon concentrates upon the hearts, minds and lives of a group of people with but one purpose: to solve our common problems of fear, insecurity, lack of understanding of the alcoholic — and, of course, to help restore to normal the warped personalities which make life so difficult.

“Good leadership never assumes a ‘power-driver’ attitude. There is a distinct difference between sharing one’s experiences and imposing one’s opinions upon others.

“Good leadership must have the right to initiate and carry out ideas based on experience and vision. It does not demand the abandonment of one’s individuality. A good leader faces criticism and rejection with an open mind and keeps flexible in order to minimize dissent.

“And now a bit of history from my own Al-Anon experience: When I came into what was then generally called the Family Groups of AA, there was little or no organization and leadership. My home group, Tyler, Texas, was one of the 57 who first registered with Lois and Anne in 1950. We didn’t know, in those days, that we, too, were emotionally ill and needed to recognize our own defects of character.

“How fortunate we are to have had such examples of leadership. Let us show our gratitude by applying all the fruits of their labors to ‘passing along understanding.’

* * * *

Concept X was discussed by Louise C., (Texas W.) who described how each element of our structure is interrelated for its most effective operation through the establishing and delegating of authority. The Concept reads: Service Responsibility is Balanced By Carefully Defined Service Authority and Double-headed Management is Avoided.

“In order to achieve the balance referred to in this Concept, the authority and responsibility delegated to our trusted servants must be defined from the top to the bottom of our structure.”

Louise developed her analysis of this Concept with great care, including matters of conflicting authority and how to resolve them, the status of the various Committees and the communication between the various parts of the fellowship’s structure.

ASK-IT BASKET

Always one of the highlights of the Conference, this year’s proved exceptionally interesting and enlightening under the guidance of Mary S., Chairman of the Policy Committee and a member of the Board.

“We have a great many questions”, said Mary, “not all of them appropriate for Conference consideration because they concern matters that should be decided locally. But we'll do our best, and here's the panel to prove it:

Ruth of Kentucky; Myrna, Staff Institutions; Timmy, Staff Alateen; Holly, Staff Conference Secretary and Alice, former Chairman of the Literature Committee.

Q: 1. Can a group ask an agency such as one doing mental health work to pay for literature after the group has given it free literature?

A. Certainly! It would be unreasonable for them to expect Al-Anon to supply literature indefinitely without charge.

Q. 2. Would like to suggest we give a new, catchy descriptive title to AFFE (Al-Anon's Favorite Forum Editorials). It might increase sales.

A. A title may be “catchy” or “descriptive” but rarely both. We struggled with this one for a year and settled for the descriptive title. We’d welcome suggestions on how to let everyone know what they’re missing in not having a copy of this marvelously inspiring book.

Q. 3. Are literature sales down since ODAT?

A. You can’t be serious! Have you seen pages 37-40 in the Delegates’ Brochure?

Q. 4. If expenses really are equalized, why do some Areas with 26 Districts or more send only $300 when others having only 12 or 14 Districts have to scrape up the $300 to send?

A. The Conference was planned according to states and provinces, not by Districts, which are constantly changing.

Q. 5. Within the Assembly and/or the District, when is a group really a group? Does it have to be registered? Does it have elected officers? Does it meet regularly?

A. According to the Handbook, a group is a group when it has been registered. It usually has elected officers and meets regularly.

Q. 6. Can a Delegate give her Conference report to Al-Anon and AA at an open meeting or is her report for just Al-Anon/Alateen?

A. We are separate fellowships; there is no more reason for AA members to hear what has been decided at an Al-Anon Conference than vice-versa.

Q. 7. If the Assembly Secretary fails to send reports or minutes of Assemblies, does the WSO request them?

A. No. But it is helpful to have names and addresses of Area Officers and DRs sent to the Conference Secretary.

Q. 8. Several of our DRs would like to receive Area Highlights. Could their names be added to the mailing list?

A. Afraid not. It would be extremely costly to send A.H. to all DRs. But material from it may be copied for your own Newsletter, just as we hope you are using excerpts from Institutional/Highlights and Alateen Talk.

Q. 9. Are former Delegates eligible for offices in Assembly, such
Q. 10. How do you PUSH sales of the FORUM?

The answer came dramatically as a group of Delegates (excuse it, newsboys) ran through the audience with suitcases full of FORUMS, offering them to everybody with loud shouts of “FORUM - get your FORUM!” and words of high praise for this wonderful, glorious, spectacular publication of ours.

Everybody was taken aback for a moment - then laughter broke out as the busy little company, with its bags now empty of FORUMS, vanished.

How do you push the FORUM? By remembering to offer it to every member of every group every meeting. How in the world can real, working Al-Anons live without it?

Q. 11. How can we get more men into the Al-Anon program - and keep them?

A. One way to keep them is to leave your knitting and needlework at home.

Don't make too much fuss over them; welcome, don't gush.

Don't encourage them to take over the meeting just to keep them interested. Don't show partiality.

Al-Anon is for people - men, women, children - any age, anybody who needs the program.

Male sponsors for men. If no other men in your group, call an Al-Anon man in another group and get them together.

Q. 12. Can Al-Anon members who are working in alcoholism clinics and counseling be elected Delegates? Are they considered paid professionals?

A. Any Al-Anon member who is not a paid employee of an Al-Anon office or Intergroup may become Delegate, regardless of the nature of his or her outside job.

Q. 13. There seems to be a great deal of concern as to Al-Anon's future and what we are doing to assure our continuing growth.

A. According to our Twelve Concepts of Service, the future of Al-Anon has been carefully provided for, by such elements as the distribution of authority and its delegation. Trusted servants around the world are ample assurance that Al-Anon's needs will always be met, that it will always be ready to serve.

Q. 14. I feel that our books are not being raffled or otherwise getting into circulation as much as they should be. To me they are just as important as any piece of literature, especially to the newcomer. How do other groups raffle books - at meetings? - at anniversaries?

A. Many groups do use this method of getting books into the hands of members. Some also have lending libraries. It certainly is important for all members to be familiar with the Al-Anon books, especially newcomers.

Q. 15. Is it possible to have “The Wife of the Alcoholic” Conference-Approved? Or could such a book be done by Al-Anon?

A. See “Why CAL?” which explains why outside publications cannot be approved by the Conference. Most of our Conference-approved literature is pertinent to the problems of the wife of the alcoholic.

Q. 16. Are there, or can there be, more definite guidelines for AA and Al-Anon sponsors of Alateen groups?

A. Our Guide for Alateen Sponsors covers the subject in detail. Will you please write the Chairman of the Literature Committee and explain what else you would like to have included?

Q. 17. Several Delegates asked why the Conference Committee requested that talks to be made at the Conference be sent in to the WSO before the Conference.

A. It makes timing the items on the Agenda more accurate, so the Conference proceeds according to a definite plan. Also, it gives the office an opportunity to start preparing the Conference Summary, to get it to you sooner.

Most important, it saves the very costly and time-consuming process of transcribing the Conference tapes.

Q. 18. If the WSO could use Delegates on Monday and Tuesday preceding the Conference, many would be delighted to help if only they were told they could be helpful. Of course we might be in the way, but it's a thought.

A. And a good thought! It will be considered before the next Conference.

Q. 19. When does a Delegate get a chance to express her views at the Conference?

A. The purpose of the Conference is to consider matters that affect more than 6000 groups around the world.

On these, as they are discussed, every Delegate may express himself or herself at the microphone. The questions brought up at the Delegates Only meeting also come up for discussion in the full Conference. And there's always the Ask-It-Basket.

Q. 20. Can the new "Couples Groups" be called or registered as an Al-Anon group since they cannot be called an AA group?

A. From the Conference Decisions of 1966: "...that the Directory continue to list Open Discussion groups of Al-Anons and AAs meeting together for the purpose of spreading the message, provided that all officers are Al-Anon members."

Q. 21. Can an Al-Anon member or group contribute money to AA in memory of a deceased AA member?

A. Yes, if AA will accept it. If the Al-Anon's spouse is in AA, the contribution could be made in his/her name.

Q. 22. A woman telephoned Intergroup and told the volunteer: "I have just stabbed my husband". What course of action would you suggest?

A. That the volunteer advise the woman to call the police. No action is called for by the Intergroup volunteer.

Q. 23. Can outsiders contribute funds to Al-Anon Headquarters in memory of a deceased member?

A. No, we accept contributions only from our own members, and from their immediate families.

Q. 24. People in our Area have been approached by film makers who want to produce documentaries concerning AA and Al-Anon which they will offer to public agencies. Could we have a policy to clarify Al-Anon's opinion on this subject?

A. The matter will be taken up at our July meeting of the Board of Trustees and a statement issued.

Q. 25. How do other groups get into discussions of the Traditions?

A. By scheduling meetings on them, and using the explana-
Q. 26. If a town has an Al-Anon group and an Alateen group and each group has a GR, does each GR have a vote? If this Alateen GR should be elected DR, would there be two DRS for that District — one for Al-Anon and one for Alateen?

A. No. Each group has a GR, but each District has only one DR, so both could not be elected. The DR would be either the Al-Anon or the Alateen.

Q. 27. What is the function of a Newsletter — news or teaching?

A. Primarily news, if the editor can get the Districts to report what goes on. Some inspiration and teaching items the Newsletters up a bit, but it shouldn’t be overdone. That’s what we have Conference-Approved Literature for!

Q. 28. Can an Al-Anon member join more than one Al-Anon “home group” — hold office in more than one group? Will you please reconsider your policy and suggest that members hold office in one group only.

A. It is not fair or reasonable for a member to hold office in more than one group because it would deprive another member of the extra office she was filling. According to policy, however, no member can represent more than one group as a GR.

Q. 29. When can the Delegate be informed as to when she has the right to stand up to the mike and present her views on items before the Conference?

A. Any Conference member may be heard by merely indicating to the Chairman that he/she has something to say relating to the matter being discussed.

Q. 30. Can we have a clear-cut decision as to who are members and eligible for meetings? Who can be present at closed meetings and who decides?

A. Eligibility for membership is defined in much of our literature. Any member can be present at a closed meeting. Whether a person needs Al-Anon can be determined only by the nature of the problem.

Q. 31. Why doesn’t the WSO use the old CAL guidelines (mimeo sheet) that suggests comparable pieces of CAL to those non-approved which are being used widely.

A. Because it involved criticism and judgment of others’ work — in other words, a negative approach which we decided was not good Al-Anon. There is a newer set of Why CAL sheets which explains the over-all reasons.

Q. 32. What should be done about a member who brings up things about the alcoholic over and over in meetings which should only be discussed with her sponsor.

A. It is the responsibility of the Chairman to interrupt these recitals and explain what the members are at the meeting for. If she has a sponsor, this waste of group time should be brought to her attention, since she presumably would have some influence over the complaining member.

Q. 33. How do we get newcomers to stick with Al-Anon?

A. The most constructive way is to start them in beginner’s meetings for several sessions, which take place half an hour before the regular meeting. Sponsorship is another good way. And loving interest from other members works, too.

Q. 34. What sort of publicity can be used to help a group grow?

A. Distributing posters and the pink leaflet to clergymen teachers, schools, etc., Notices of meetings in local papers. Use the PR Fact File. Use our posters.

Q. 35. Is the WSO aware that many Delegates have received a wall hanging with the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions “for their dedicated work” from a concern which produces these items for sale. Included was a purchase form for extra sets at $4.00 each.

A. This kind of exploitation of the fellowship and misuse of the World Directory can only be controlled by ignoring the bid for business. This is in a class with Al-Anon groups who publish and sell non-CAL literature. If nobody bought it, the practice would cease. Al-Anon has no legal recourse in these matters.

Q. 36. Is it a violation of Tradition Seven if a group accepts the use of a meeting place from a club, church or individual, even if the group makes donations of money and work such as cleaning, when and if they are asked?

A. No. Many groups meet rent free but they make donations on a regular basis, such as a contribution to the church where they meet.

Q. 37. Should an AA and Al-Anon couple who have separated continue to sponsor an Alateen group? If not, how do you acquaint Alateens with this fact?

A. If the couple is willing to continue sponsoring, and the Alateens are glad to have them, their private problems have no bearing on the situation. No one in Al-Anon is responsible for making judgments of this kind — good sponsors are rare and should be treasured!

Q. 38. Our Alateen group meets the same night as our Al-Anon group and at the same church. How far should Al-Anon go in being responsible for the Alateens?

A. Al-Anon should not interfere in Alateen meeting procedures, but if the conduct of the Alateens is likely to imperil the Al-Anon’s meeting place, they should insist on acceptable behavior.

Q. 39. Is there any reason why some information about sponsors couldn’t be included in the next printing of Information for Newcomers?

A. No reason at all. It will be taken up with the Literature Committee.

Q. 40. Is a Delegate responsible for bringing to the WSC questions she knows could and should be handled at local level?

A. If the Delegate has the knowledge and ability to handle the problem, it is her responsibility to do so. The Conference is concerned with world-wide problems.

Q. 41. Can you clarify our policy as to avoiding the election or appointment of an AA member who is also in Al-Anon to a position as group officer and/or GR. What if this member is elected to the bid for business. This is a class with Al-Anon groups who publish and sell non-CAL literature. If nobody bought it, the practice would cease. Al-Anon has no legal recourse in these matters.

A. It seems unlikely that someone in the group wouldn’t know that the member is in AA. A responsible AA member would not conceal this fact.

A. It is generally not desirable for an AA to hold office in an Al-Anon group and it is definitely against policy for him/her to serve as GR.

Q. 42. Is there any way that an Al-Anon Retreat is acceptable, under that or any other name?

A. This question has been brought up and answered hundreds of times. It is against our Traditions to affiliate with any other organization, especially one that is oriented toward a particular religion. Announcements of such events should not be made to Al-Anon groups, either at meetings or by mail. Individuals may be invited and are
free to attend, but as a group activity the line is sharp and clear.

* * * * *

John C., (Ohio) spoke on Concept XI: The World Service Office is Composed of Standing Committees, Executives and Staff Members.

"The Board of Trustees, the Policy Committee, the Executive Committee and the Forum Committee make up the WSO structure.

The knowledgeability of WSO concerning Al-Anon comes from daily contact at Headquarters, daily correspondence as they travel around the country. We Delegates, too, add to their experience as we meet here in perhaps the greatest source of interchange of ideas in the Northern Hemisphere.

"The Policy Committee, made up of the Chairmen of all Standing Committees and the Al-Anon staff, can take jurisdiction of practically all problems involving Al-Anon offices or public relations; their decisions are guided by Al-Anon Traditions.

"The Standing Committees are: Alateen, Budget, Institutions, Admissions, Literature, and Public Relations."

John brought his talk to a ringing close with a question to which he gave an inspiring and enlightening answer:

Question: Can any member write to WSO concerning a matter of policy or Tradition?

Answer: It is suggested that the matter be explored first at the Group level, the District level and at the Assembly level. If it does not seem to be covered already by existing policy, then certainly the member may feel free to write to WSO. But the heavy burden of writing repeated answers to the same questions from all over the world could be lessened if we Delegates would take on this responsibility!

* * * * *

Finally Betty L., (Ontario S.) spoke on the last of the Concepts:

"I knew that if the Conference followed the traditional pattern, I would be asked, as an outgoing Delegate, to say a few words. I had no idea what the topic might be but hoped it would be simple, but when Penny wrote me that my topic was the 12th Concept I just know that she was picking on me! Then I realized that there must be eleven other Delegates in the same position. My next reaction was to get busy. I had read and reread the Concepts when we voted on them two years ago. I could understand them for myself, but to explain them was a different story. The more I studied them the more I realized what a wonderful job had been done in preparing them.

"The 12th Concept States 'The Spiritual Foundation for Al-Anon's World Services are Contained in the General Warranties of the Conference, Article 12 of the Charter.' There are five warranties in the 12th Concept, each as important as the others.

"Are the General Warranties of the Conference Charter applicable to the local Committee? If every Al-Anon member applied the Warranties as we do the Traditions, it would safeguard Al-Anon because each of us would know what could happen if we tried using Al-Anon for financial gain or abusing our fellowship.

"Will the presence of a reserve fund at WSO discourage group contributions? Warranty One says that 'Sufficient operating funds, including an ample reserve, should be its prudent financial principle.' This is insurance to protect Al-Anon in the years to come. As the reserve fund grows, Al-Anon continues to grow and so always more funds are needed for its expansion.

"Who are the guardians of the reserve fund? The World Service Conference as a whole are its guardians. Whether it be by a two-thirds, three-quarters or even a greater majority, no one part of the fellowship can destroy what has been built. I doubt that we'll ever be rolling in wealth; it is only what any well-run business does, create a protection against less prosperous times.

"Who is guardian of the Traditions? Warranty Four says the Conference is the guardian of the Traditions. Almost any problem that may arise in Al-Anon or Alateen can be solved by applying one of the Traditions. Dominance, religion, gossip and personalities are dangers. We are but trusted servants, we do not govern. It takes one of us working in harmony to acquire the kind of life, free of fears, resentment and self pity, that we strive for. Can penalties be inflicted for nonconformity to Al-Anon principles? We are not a government, we do not enter into public controversy. We try to accomplish, in a quiet way, the goals of our Traditions, which safeguard the name and nature of Al-Anon.

"It is something that I have grown proud to be part of."

Saturday, the final day of the Conference, began as usual with Penny calling the roll and reading from ODAT. Then came the spiritual session which traditionally closes the Conference.

Penny introduced Bobbie C. (Tenn.):

Bobbie told her Al-Anon story, certainly a message of hope to all who heard her. She is the wife of a recovered Alcoholic— and the mother of one. When she came to her first Conference three years ago, her son was drinking and AWOL. Today he has had more than a year of sobriety in AA.

Charlie Z., (Ill, N.) was the other speaker at the spiritual session. The gist of it — and it is certainly of vital importance to us all — was "Carry the message — don't push, shove or ram it".

The Conference closed, as it had each day, with the Lord's Prayer.
AL-ANON WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE CHARTER
(As Amended by 1972 WSC)

INTRODUCTION
The Al-Anon World Service Conference Charter is a body of principles and relationships through which Al-Anon as a whole can function. The provisions of the document are not legal; the traditional, since the Conference is not incorporated. This charter is an informal agreement between all Al-Anon and its service center. Later, certain countries of the world, for language or geographic considerations, may desire to establish their own HQ and regional conference. This World Service Conference will then become the Senior Conference.

CHARTER

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

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

3. Relation to Al-Anon
   a. The Conference acts for Al-Anon in the perpetuation and guidance of its HQ services.
   b. The Conference is a vehicle by which Al-Anon can express its views on policy and note deviations from Traditions.
   c. Delegates are free to vote as their conscience dictates and not necessarily as instructed by their areas.
   d. No changes are to be made in the Traditions, Steps or General Warranties of the Conference Charter (Item 12) without written consent of three-quarters of the Al-Anon groups.
   e. The Conference may be changed (with the exception of Items 5-4 and 12) by the vote of three-quarters of the Conference members.

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

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

6. Assemblies: Composition of
   a. In each state and province elected representatives of all Al-Anon groups desiring participation meet together in a central location.
   b. States and Provinces with large Al-Anon populations may petition the Conference to divide and send an additional Delegate to the Conference, as provided for in the World Service Handbook For Al-Anon and Al-Anon Family Groups.

7. Assemblies: Preferred Method of Election
   a. District Representatives are elected from Group Representatives by written ballot.
   b. Delegates are chosen from District Representatives by a two-thirds written ballot or by lot.

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

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

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

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

12. General Warranties of the Conference
   In all proceedings of the World Service Conference of Al-Anon shall observe the spirit of the Traditions; that only sufficient operating funds, including an ample reserve, be its prudent financial principle; that no Conference member or Minor or holder of an office or a body of the Conference serves Al-Anon; that the Conference shall never perform any act of government; and that like the fellowship of Al-Anon Family Groups which it serves, it shall always remain democratic in thought and action.

NOTE: The term Al-Anon includes its junior segment, Alateen. Therefore, the above Charter applies to all registered groups, including Alateen.

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SUMMARIZING THE CONFERENCE MOTIONS

The following motions were passed unanimously after consideration by the full Conference.

- to accept the World Service Office reports (1971) as given in the Delegates Brochure.
- that Al-Anon Conferences/Conventions which accept registrations from AA members, and which normally designate a portion of the receipts for the WSO, should pro-rate such receipts between the AA General Service Office and the Al-Anon World Service Office, and the AA share be offered to the GSO. Acknowledgement of AA support of the event should accompany all such contributions when they are forwarded to the GSO by Al-Anon.
- that the 1971 Treasurer’s Report and the 1972 proposed budget be approved as submitted.
- that the Policy statement of 12/14/71 concerning professional speakers, be amended as follows: “Should professionals be invited to speak, it is suggested that they be assigned a specific topic and be made aware of our Sixth Tradition. They will then be less likely to discuss subjects outside of Al-Anon’s field of interest.”
- that the 1972 WSC accept the changes made in the Experimental Plan for nominations and elections of Regional Trustees.
- that the Nominating Committee report be approved as presented.
- to accept the proposal that a second copy of the World Directory be placed in the Delegates' portfolio at the WSC for the Delegate to present to his/her Area Secretary.
- to approve the recommendation that, in future, two (2) World Directories be published, beginning with 1973, one for the U.S. and Canada and one for overseas listings.
- that the 1972 WSC Summary, to be sent to all groups, incorporate copies of the “Pie Chart” which graphically illustrates income and expenses of the WSO.
- to approve the Admissions Committee recommendation that a state or province may send a Representative to the WSC for only two successive years, effective immediately. After this period of time, they will be expected to elect a Delegate who will then have voice and vote and receive all WSC mailings.
- that in order to coincide with the provision in the World Service Handbook, Section 8, the third sentence of the Charter should be amended to read: “This staggered election and tenure of office provide that a Conference shall always include a panel of Delegates with two years’ experience.”

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