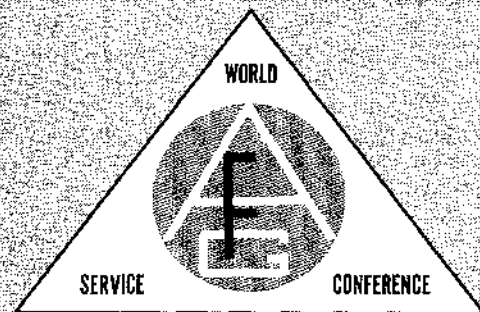


Conference Summary 1974

AL-ANON

Fourteenth Annual World Service Conference
AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS
New York, N.Y. April 23-27, 1974



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Conference Theme:

LET IT BEGIN WITH ME

To every member of Al-Anon: This is YOUR Conference. Your Delegate, representing you here, will bring back to your group and to your Area, a report of the Conference and the activities of the World Service Office. This summary is a brief version of what was said, done and written for you at this annual Conference. It's all great news!

Tuesday Evening, April 23

the Conference began with a dinner in the Regency Room of the George Washington Hotel.

After the banquet Penny solved the mystery of the little bells at each place-setting:

"While our AA guests are still with us, I'm going to ask each of you to pick up the little bell. Keep it silent until you receive my signal.

"You also have a small card at your place. This is the Declaration built on the theme of our Conference. Let us repeat it together:

"When anyone anywhere reaches out for help, let the hand of Al-Anon and Alateen be there, and LET IT BEGIN WITH ME.

Tennyson wrote: *"Ring out the old, ring in the new;
Ring, happy bells, across the room,
Ring out old shapes of foul disease,
Ring out the narrowing dust of gold,
Ring out the thousand wars of old,
Ring in the thousand years of peace."*

And at Penny's signal, all over the big Regency Room, the bells rang out.

* * * * *

LOIS'S GREETING

Welcome, dear Delegates, to Al-Anon's Fourteenth World Service Conference. May our gathering here accomplish much. May it bring to each of us personal inspiration and joy in working together for the growth and unity of our beloved fellowship.

As you know, the purpose of our meeting together yearly is to give the groups, through you, an opportunity to learn, and, we hope, approve of the policies and activities of their World Service Office. You are the liaison between the groups and this office.

Reports to your groups are, therefore, most important, and can lead to fuller understanding of Al-Anon's large purpose—greater usefulness to those who still cry for help.

Bill always said that Al-Anon was the best thing that had happened since AA began. I'm sure he gives us his blessing.

May God be with us all.

The Year's Highlights:

Report by Ted K., Chairman, Board of Trustees

Ted spoke of the work accomplished during the year by the Staff, Committees and Volunteers. (Details of this "tremendous achievement," as Ted called it, are summarized in this booklet.)

"Those of you who arrived early enough to visit the office will marvel to have found our quarters doubled since our move only 3 years ago. We now occupy two whole floors of the building. Shipping and stockrooms, moved to the 12th Floor, have left room for the expansion of our offices on the eighth.

"And did you notice we have yielded once again to the age of mechanization? Long-needed bookkeeping automation has replaced some of the more tedious manual procedures. The conversion was accomplished smoothly, with no disruption of daily work.

"The addition of a new Staff Secretary provides long-needed support for Henrietta, to allow her time and opportunity for greater personal focus on overseas activities and the coming AA International Convention."

Ted then urged all present to give thought to the International and to send in any suggestions they may have as soon as possible.

"The Public Information Committee continues to expand its ac-

tivities. It recently completed arrangements to have our film strips carried on national TV."

Ted closed with a moving tribute to Margaret D.:

"This report does not normally address itself to particular individuals, but this is a time when an exception seems to be in order. Though we knew it had to happen some time, none of us could believe it when Margaret announced at the January Board meeting that she was going to retire as Editor of the FORUM. It is not easy to face the loss of one who has worked so long, and given so much. Words are totally inadequate to express what we all feel, so let me say, simply, 'Thank you, Margaret, for sharing with us over these many years. May your Higher Power return to you a measure of what you have given to others.'"

Following his report, Ted read the Twelve Traditions, an element of the conference which has also become a Tradition. They remind us of the ideas and attitudes by which our unity and growth are assured.

* * * * *

After Ted's reading, the real business of the Conference began with the roll call by our beloved Penny, Chairman and Girl-of-all-Work of the Conference. Penny rarely works more than eighteen hours a day, seven days a week the year round, which probably accounts for the fact that every detail of this great event is perfection itself. Penny is ably supported by her dedicated Committee and her right hand, known as *Our Holly*.

* * * * *

The next item on the agenda deals specifically with the Delegates; how they are prepared for their responsibilities at the Conference, how they shoulder them, and what happens afterward.

OPERATION DELEGATES' HEADSTART

was chaired by Mary Beth H., (Ill. S.) who said:

"When I came to my first World Service Conference in 1972, I was not very well informed about my duties and responsibilities. I knew I was to travel to New York City for a week of meetings and then report to the Assembly on the happenings, but I wasn't too sure how to manage all this.

"At the close of that first evening and the session on 'Operation Delegates Headstart' I wished with all my heart that I could have attended such a session about the middle of January. Perhaps you who are the Delegates of Panel 14 will feel that way, too, and if you do, I strongly suggest you take notes—and more notes. You'll find them a great help in preparing for your next two WSCs, for the times in between, and afterward.

"And now, Opal of New Mexico will tell us about *Getting Ready for the Conference*."

After a cheery "Hi, Everyone!" Opal said:

"Isn't it wonderful to be here? After all that thinking about 'What am I supposed to do?'—here we are; the Conference is NOW.

"Before my first trip here, for about a month before, I attended a conference every night in my dreams. I went to workshops, listened to talks and everything. I was allowing my fear of failing to take over until I finally learned to apply some Al-Anon principles and to stop worrying about being perfect.

"Joy M., the outgoing Delegate, was a great help to me. She had me read brochures of past Conferences and let me ask all sorts of silly questions without making me feel silly. I wrote letters to each group asking for opinions on material I had received from Headquarters and waited for their replies. I read the reports and made myself familiar with the workshop questions.

"Last year I did most of the same things—but my dreams were

better. I wrote to the gal I was to sponsor and she helped me by asking questions. I had to get my own mind organized in order to answer her. Each year is a new experience.

"But the biggest help in getting ready for the Conference is the Al-Anon program itself—using the Serenity Prayer, the slogans, especially *Easy Does It* and *First Things First*. We must read and re-read the material from Headquarters, learn the feelings of our Area members, think of World-Wide Al-Anon, not only of our own Areas. And very important, reply promptly to letters!

"You get yourself ready in various ways; the clothing and packing and travel arrangements are important, but most important is to get ready mentally, to maintain an organized attitude, do things in an orderly fashion. I prepared myself spiritually also. I had to improve my conscious contact with my God, asking His guidance for the coming days.

"In order to be a real part of this wonderful, heart-warming week of fellowship, we should come prepared to take each day and each experience as they come.

"You who will be returning can start preparing for the next Conference the minute you get home. Those of us who will not be returning can be of great help to the new Delegate. Share the knowledge you have gained to make the 'first time' easier for the new one. With God's help, we'll all have a most memorable week."

* * * * *

Mary Beth then introduced Ruth F. (Ont. N.) who spoke on *Getting the Most Out of the Conference*.

She stressed the importance of getting to know the other Delegates, the World Service Office and other Conference members. She was shy at first, but soon learned that "instead of expecting people to come to me, I'd better get my hand out and talk to as many as I could. When I did that, the sun really shone!"

Ruth also found it important to take many notes: "I just didn't want to forget anything; after all, my groups were counting on me to bring the Conference to them.

"Last year," she continued, "was much less hectic than the first—I could even read all my notes! I found that, in addition to participating during the Conference sessions, talking and listening to the other Delegates was a tremendous help.

"I wish I could have brought all my Northern Ontario groups here with me to share this great experience. So I do the next best thing. I gain all the knowledge I can, and take it back to them."

Ruth said that last year she had arrived home late Sunday night, and by Thursday she had traveled over seven hundred miles, visiting groups. Within two weeks, it was over two thousand miles.

"What I found here is hard to express, it goes so deep. And as well as I can, I will share it."

Thanking Ruth, Mary Beth then began on her part of the session:

"*Reporting Back After the Conference* is a formidable task. It is not easy to carry back the atmosphere of the Conference and make it believable. Our efforts to do this, however, help those at home to realize the scope of Al-Anon to become aware that Al-Anon isn't just one small meeting each week.

"Prior to the formation of our Southern Illinois Assembly, most Al-Anon activity was confined to the group level. Everything else was in the Chicago area. There was little interest and participation at the Assembly level. Chicago was *Big City*, far removed from Southern Illinois, at least in thought and manner of doing things. Our groups are widely scattered in agricultural communities, with just a few large towns thrown in. So you can imagine that in some respects New York seems as far away as the moon and any activity there far removed from what takes place locally.

"It seemed to me the people at home were cheating themselves if they clung to this restricted point of view. The best way to break down the barrier was to give my report in person wherever I was invited. I offered to travel to any District, group or combination of groups. During the Conference I wrote to the District Representatives and to groups in the two Districts without DRs.

"But my mail box was *not* full when I got home!

"We schedule an Assembly for early June with the Delegate's report the only item on the agenda. There I again stated my willingness to give my report anywhere, and I promptly received two invitations. Before the summer was over, I had traveled to four of our nine Districts. The following year, using the same procedure, I was invited to give my report in seven of the nine Districts. So don't be discouraged!

"We can't reach every group and every District, so something must be sent out with the Assembly minutes or as part of the Area's newsletter.

"Because New York seemed so remote, I told about the weather—similarity or lack of it—about the warmth of the Hospitality Room, the locks on the closet doors, the iron fence around Gramercy Park, the open meetings before the Conference began. I wore my badge each time I gave a report. I took with me the packet I'd received when I registered.

"During the Conference I wrote a brief summary of the day's events each evening before I went to bed. This made my notes fresher when the actual writing of the report began several weeks after the Conference. I also made a little list for the next Delegate; little things I wish I had known about before I came.

"Many of our groups had seen the film, *LOIS'S STORY*, so I tried to recall for them members of the staff they had 'met' in the film. When I could tell them that Henrietta was the person I had talked with about our tax-exempt status, people felt that they really knew our General Secretary!

"It was also a great help to me to visit two other State Assemblies and to hear their Delegates' reports before I gave mine for the first time.

"Enthusiasm is catching. If you're excited about what Al-Anon is doing and can do, those listening to you will share your enthusiasm. Let them know what goes on at the World Service Conference—the Committee to which you are appointed, its function, its goals. Help each person feel it is *his* or *her* Conference, that each of them contributes to sharing our experience, strength and hope with those who still need Al-Anon. A new vitality for Al-Anon may very well start when you make your first report on the Conference."

Having concluded her interesting talk, Mary Beth then introduced Renie of South Dakota, who spoke on *Working in the Assembly Area*. Renie made a powerful plea for consideration of the problems of the great rural areas where distances, widely-scattered small groups and limited funds call for a special brand of planning and dedication.

"You lucky Delegates from states and provinces with large populations probably have more members in a single District than we have in the whole state of South Dakota. When, for example, our twice-yearly Assemblies are centrally located, our DRs have to travel as much as 7,800 miles, which, at 10¢ a mile, would amount to \$780. But very few are paid expenses. Some groups have only three or four members. Whenever possible, the larger groups do all they can to defray expenses which also, because of the time-and-distance element, mean overnight lodging and meals as well as travel cost.

"Yet a large percentage do attend the spring and fall Assemblies usually by car-pooling and traveling with their AA spouses. But most of the DRs pay their own way.

"We have one advantage: our Assemblies are always held in conjunction with the AA Convention. AA has always made the arrangements and paid for the use of the facilities. And up to two years ago, all the registration fees went to AA. Since then we have had our own registration and we use this money to defray the cost of the Assembly, with any surplus going to the Area Treasurer. The Al-Anons of the host city help the AA host committee and usually furnish the refreshments for coffee breaks and the Saturday night social time. This pays our way.

"In South Dakota we have a harmonious and congenial relationship with AA. We cooperate 99.9% with each other, yet our fellowships are kept strictly separate. Since many members have to drive 40 to 50 miles to meetings, they are often held at the same time and in the same place as AA's, but in separate rooms. We then join in visiting and refreshments.

"We also cooperate with AA in planning District and Area meetings. In my Area, several Districts have regular meetings. I attend quite a few even though some were as distant as 400 miles.

"In South Dakota we don't have just a 'business meeting'—on District or State level; it's always a Fellowship meeting.

"We have two Assembly meetings a year where all business and policy matters are voted on.

"I have visited with some of the Delegates from the other predominately rural areas—and how much more rural can you get when 35 of the 53 GRs have only a town and zip for an address! They agree that our World Service Conferences are apt to concentrate most of the discussion and time to issues experienced in metropolitan areas. In South Dakota we have no such things as Coordinators, Intergroups, Answering Services, Public Information Committees, except on group level. Delegates from metro areas have little idea of time and distance and cost that the rural area Delegates put in. I would like to see a Workshop scheduled for the Delegates from the rural areas where we could work out our problems and share experiences unique to our Area. Even the Delegates from the metro areas would profit from such a Workshop to keep in touch with their outlying groups.

"Our communications is mostly through correspondence. After becoming Delegate I started a Newsletter which we limit to information on service and activities of the fellowship. We have a group of dedicated Al-Anons in Yankton who prepare and publish the 'Tele-A-Non' each month. A dedicated few share the work of preparing, mimeographing and mailing over 1,800 copies each month. They have done this for over 15 years. There is no subscription rate; volunteer contributions take care of all expenses.

"I am very proud of our Al-Anon in South Dakota. Because the meetings in most parts of the state are limited to once a week, or sometimes twice a month, no time is wasted on anything not pertaining to Al-Anon. We have good fellowship—good sponsorship—and dedicated servants."

Mary Beth then introduced Doris of Saskatchewan, who began by greeting the members of the Conference:

"It's great to be back but my blue badge will tell the sad story that this is my last appearance here.

"My topic *You're Not Finished Until the last Day of Your Term of Office—and then Some*, is good for me; I always seem to need extra time to finish up. At first, my 3-year term seemed like an eternity. Now that they're nearly over and time is running out, I'm getting into high gear and feeling comfortable.

"I have learned there are many things Delegates can do to make their Areas more active. I don't know if any of you have ever visited the Province of Saskatchewan. Just to give you an idea, you could probably fit the state of Texas three times—and that's big.

"As Delegate of Saskatchewan I have many miles to travel and my greatest ambition is to bring the groups closer together, not in miles but through love and service. Through this end, I have

some ideas for my final year and I'll let you in on some of them."

Doris then suggested making up a kit of essential materials including the Service Manuals, the Directory, Conference Summary, Literature Order Forms and Contribution Envelopes to be packed in a suitable carrying case ready for any kind of call.

"I would also like to see some type of report for DRs to complete at regular intervals to keep the Delegate informed of their activities. This may be the 'and then some' of my term.

"I dreamed of having a World Service Workshop with every group in the Area represented by a GR or Alternate and it would be delightful to have it happen before my term expires. Last year we set up a GR Workshop for the whole Province; I hope it will become an annual event. It was a real sharing session, many questions were asked and many ideas were exchanged.

"If I complete my year and turn it over to those who will come after me, I'm going to be busy until the very last day.

"Our Conference theme, 'Let It Begin With Me' says that if I do this, there is no way I can be finished, even on the last day of my term."

Wednesday morning after roll call, Henrietta read the names of those Delegates who would serve on the various Standing Committees. These are the Conference members who help perform Committee duties along with the in-town members, with whom they keep in touch all through the year by letter and telephone.

DELEGATES APPOINTED TO COMMITTEES

Each Standing Committee includes, in addition to those associated with the WSO, six Delegate members.

It is often convenient to know who's on which Committee, so we include them here for handy reference:

	Panel 13	Panel 14
ADMISSIONS	Irene K. (Ill. S.) Helen S. (Ont. S.) John G. (R. I.)	Doreen W. (N. Dak.) Reba C. (Okla.) Dolores K. (Wisc.)
AGENDA	"T" S. (Kansas) Ruth R. (Ky.) Claire B. (Que. W.)	Joan P. (Alta.) Dot H. (Ga.) Mary Ellen McG. (Wash.)
ALATEEN	Mary V. (Md.) Charlotte M. (Ohio) Virginia W. (Tenn.)	Shirley B. (Colo.) Betty W. (Ore.) Mary Y. (W. Va.)
INSTITUTIONS	Elsie Q. (Calif. S.) Ellen P. (Mich.) Lucille C. (Minn.)	Virginia H. (Ala.) Betty McK. (Ariz.) Louise B. (Va.)
LITERATURE	Ruth F. (N. Y. N.) Anne H. (Penna.) Blanche D. (Tex. W.)	Alice T. (Atl. Prov.) Diane W. (Miss.) Jean S. (Mont.)
PUBLIC INFORMATION	Bonnie H. (Calif. N.) Jackie M. (Fla.) Peggy R. (Tex. E.)	Norma McG. (Mass.) Walter H. (No. Car.) Theresa F. (Que. E.)

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(After Committees were appointed, each met in a separate area of the hotel to discuss matters related to their special assignments. Reports of these sessions were later made to the Conference.)

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A special committee, appointed to study the Handbook, will work with the WSO throughout the year:

Elsie Q. (Calif. S.)	Connie MacD. (Conn.)
"T" S. (Kansas)	Cathy C. (N. J.)
Charlotte M. (Ohio)	Anne H. (Penna.)

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After luncheon in the Pine Room, we re-assembled for Session III which began at one o'clock with the

TREASURER'S REPORT*

Carter C., our Treasurer and a member of the Board of Trustees, spoke in glowing terms of the healthy financial condition of the fellowship, and went on to say:

"You Delegates can take considerable credit for this vastly improved situation of the past several years. You have obviously done effective work in the Assemblies and groups in carrying the message about the value and extent of the World Service Office functions."

Carter then spoke of the increases in the sale of literature, and the record of economical management that kept expenses, ever rising, down to a thrifty level. He did, however, express misgivings about the fact that nearly half of our groups fail to contribute to the work of the WSO.

"The message here is that one-half of the membership either does not know, or is not convinced, about the worth of our Headquarter's activities. Our staff and Trustees have renewed their commitment to find ways to make it known to every group that the work performed by the WSO plays a vital role in preserving the strength of our fellowship and the availability of Al-Anon services to all those in need, anywhere in the world."

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

1973 POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

Mary S., Chairman
Lois W., Co-Chairman

The questions brought to the Policy Committee during the past year reflect an increasing awareness of our Traditions and the desire to follow them more closely toward the promoting of the unity which is the life blood of Al-Anon world-wide.

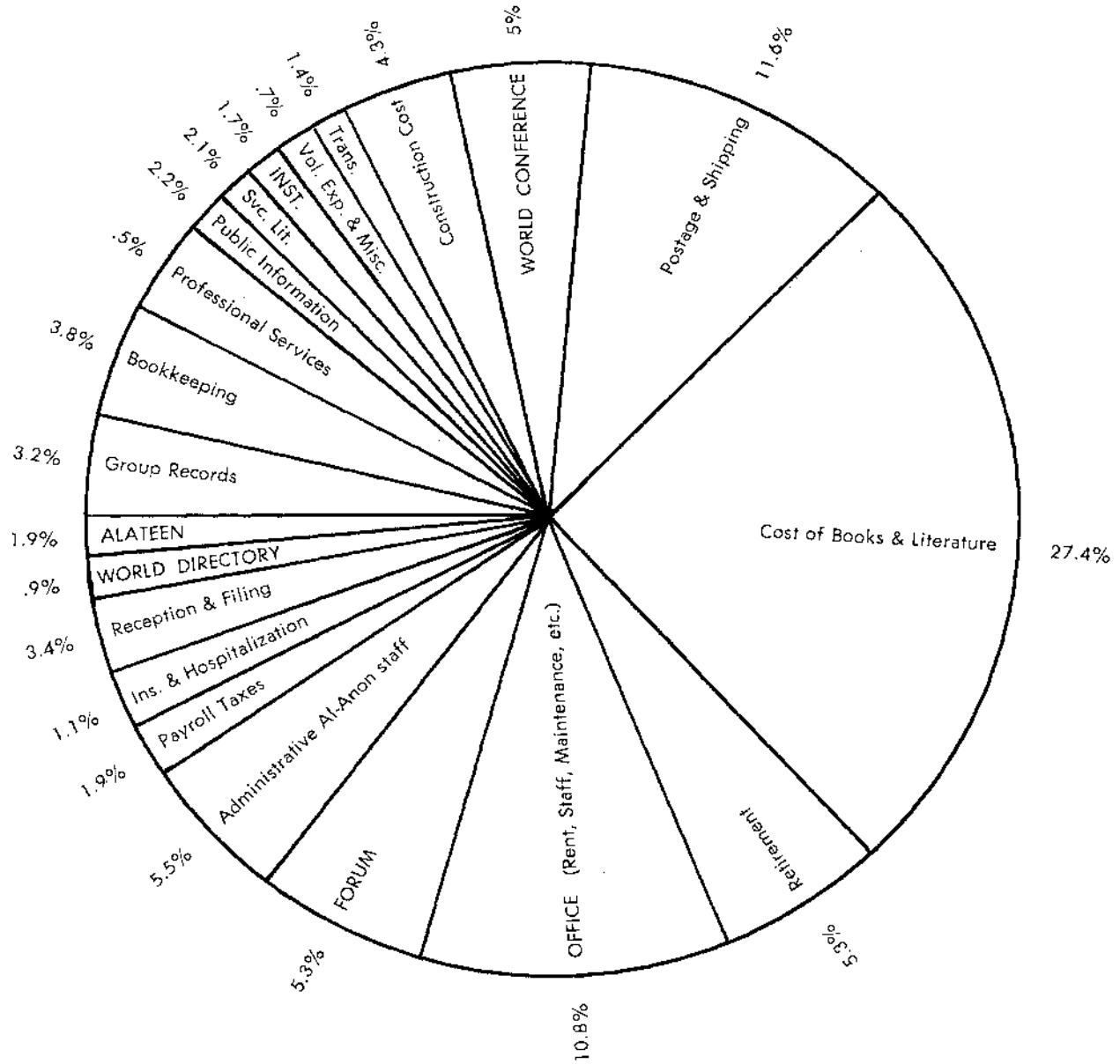
Policy Committee Meetings

6/19/73

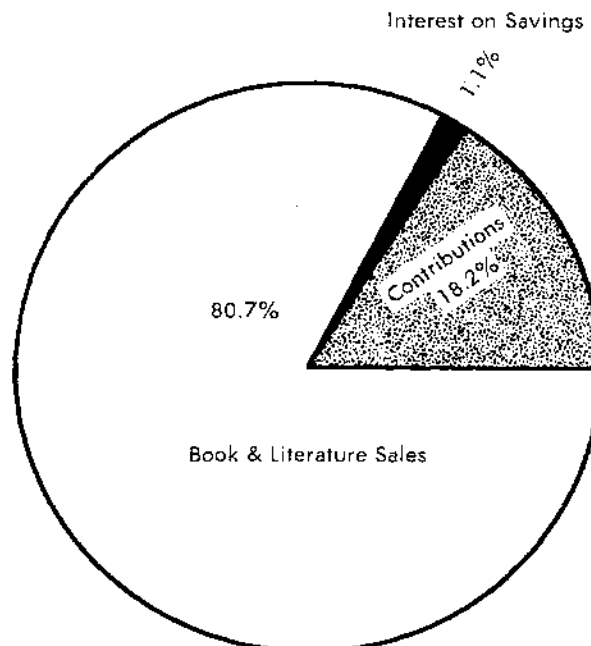
a. The growing awareness of alcoholism as a family disease has given rise to numerous instances of professionals forming groups which they refer to as Al-Anon groups. While we encourage the presentation of Al-Anon Family Groups' principles, it should be understood that an Al-Anon group is properly formed and directed by the families of alcoholics themselves. It would be permissible, however, for an appropriate agency to invite an existing Al-Anon group to provide a regular on-site meeting in the manner of other Al-Anon Institutional groups.

b. The WSO, in keeping with the Tradition of non-endorsement, cannot provide lists of suppliers for articles either properly or erroneously associated with the fellowship, i.e., plaques, jewelry, etc.

AL-ANON W.S.O. EXPENSES . . . 1973



AL-ANON W.S.O. INCOME-1973



9/18/73

- a. AAs who are also Al-Anon members are not eligible for the office of Group Representative (GR). As a matter of group autonomy, they may serve in other capacities. The focus at all times at Al-Anon meetings should be on the Al-Anon interpretation of the program.

(Revision of 1968 Policy)

- b. Al-Anon Conference Approved Literature grows out of a sharing of the ideas of many members, all expressing Al-Anon principles. The actual writing is done by longtime Al-Anon members who are professional writers. The finished copy is read and edited by the members of several committees, after which it is submitted to the ten members of the Literature Committee, six of whom are Delegates to the World Service Conference. As a final step, in addition to the General Secretary, two members of the Policy Committee are appointed to read all new and re-edited literature before it is approved for Al-Anon use.

Exceptions are made when a booklet, talk or article by a non-member meets a specific Al-Anon need, and then only with Conference approval. As a necessary courtesy, credit is given to the author or to the organization where the material originated.

- c. The name of an individual is not to appear in the title of an Al-Anon book.

(Revision of 1966 Policy)

1/8/74 (postponed from 12/18/73)

- a. In keeping with our Fourth Tradition, protecting the autonomy of groups, except in matters affecting other Al-Anon groups or Al-Anon as a whole, members interested in setting up Area-wide conventions should work closely with the Area World Service Committee which has the responsibility to appoint or elect a Convention Chairman, with voice and vote on the Area World Service Committee. In this way, a liaison between the Area WS Committee and the convention would exist, assuring good cooperation between the two, and preventing a duplication of effort.
- b. The slogan "Let It Begin With Me" is to be worked into a declaration, similar to AA's "I Am Responsible," and it is to be printed in a small leaflet to be introduced at the 1974 World Service Conference.

RECOMMENDATION TO THE CONFERENCE

At present, the WSO may accept no more than \$200 per year from an individual member, or a bequest in the same amount from a member, or his immediate family.

Two years ago AA raised to \$300 the amount a member may contribute to GSO. Since inflation has already cut the dollar value greatly, the Policy Committee reviewed this matter and weighed the possibility of raising the amount per year a member may contribute and increasing the limit of the legacy or bequest since it can be accepted on a one-time basis only.

Hence the Policy Committee recommends to the Conference that:

The yearly limit on contributions from individual Al-Anon or Alateen members, or a one-time contribution from the immediate family in memory of a member, be placed at \$400.

The WSO be permitted to accept a legacy from an Al-Anon member limited to \$1,000.

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Mary then invited the Delegates to feel free to write about any problems with which the Policy Committee might be of help. As she put it: "to help steer thinking over the rough spots!"

FORUM COMMITTEE

(Margaret's final report and farewell are included in the World Service Reports. This statement was made by Louise M., the new Editor.)

"Three years ago, when I became Chairman of the Literature Committee, I didn't know whether I was the most fortunate person at the WSO, or the craziest.

"The very first time I ever stood up to speak, was at Henrietta's group. AL-ANON FACES ALCOHOLISM was just being put together and Henrietta asked me whether I would submit my story for it. My story? I couldn't understand why anyone would want to read it, but I figured the people who were writing the book knew what they wanted, so I trusted their decision.

"Variations on that incident have been played over and over again in the past ten years.

"When Alice asked me to join the Literature Committee, I thought the same thing: "Why me?"

But fortunately, Louise did join the Committee, and three years ago became its Chairman. She spoke of having the same misgivings when she was asked to join the FORUM Committee, the Executive and the Policy Committees and the Board.

"I can't possibly express how very privileged I feel to have been asked to edit the FORUM. I know I can never be another Margaret. The FORUM, as we know it, is an outgrowth of her personality, her Al-Anon spirit, her talent—it is a reflection of her soul. When I do it, it will not be the same; it will be an expression of my experience and character, and it will be far from perfect, I'm afraid.

"But the most helpful lesson I have learned in Al-Anon is that we are only, at best, instruments of God, as Margaret brought out so beautifully in this month's editorial. This is God's program and He gets His message across, often in spite of us. All we have to do is try our best. And I sure will do that!"

WORLD SERVICE

(In Henrietta's presentation to the Conference which follows she supplemented with some dramatic highlights her complete report to the Conference to be found on page 23.)

Concerning the World Directory she noted that each Delegate received two copies of Part I of the World Directory, the extra copy to be passed along to the Area Secretary. And again she stressed the importance of sending in changes of information:

"The listings are as accurate and current as the information received by the time the Directory went to press. We're fortunate in having an extremely capable and conscientious young woman, Pat, in charge of the Group Records Unit, but she must depend on the groups to provide accurate information on changes of mailing addresses and telephone numbers. In this we beg you Delegates to keep reminding your DRs and GRs to keep the office informed of *any* changes, *any* time of the year. Each group is free to decide where its mail is to be sent—to the meeting place, the Secretary, a P.O. Box or to the GR. The *important thing* is that it does not lie around in a mail box or be held by a person who does not attend meetings regularly. Please help us to keep the channels of communication open!"

"This is the first Conference to which we invited Alberte C., the Chairman and Harriet L., the translator of our French Literature Services, Montreal, Quebec.

"Harriet is no stranger to the Conference, as she will tell you. Meet our very first French Al-Anon member, our Harriet!"

Harriet spoke briefly, but with lively charm, of the pioneering which included writing, at her kitchen table, the very first Al-Anon leaflet ever to appear in the French language! She told us of the excitement of coming to our First Trial World Service Conference in 1961 as an observer, to the Second as the Representative from the Province of Quebec, and to the WSO in 1963 as the first Delegate from her Area.

When the applause ended, Henrietta thanked Harriet and continued:

"There is one other item in my report to which I would like to add a bit: *English and Foreign Language Al-Anon Overseas*.

"Most of you will have noticed the display board of foreign language literature which shows just a sampling of the many pieces now available to our overseas Al-Anon groups.

"It was due to Harriet's dedication that we had our first piece of literature in French, as she has told you. And all over the world there are other dedicated Al-Anons inspired to do our translations, all of which must be sent first to the WSO for review and approval before permission is given to reprint.

"Every time a new piece is published and the file copies come to the office, I feel as if I had again given birth, or at least served as midwife! For this is an area of Al-Anon work that I love beyond all else, which is why I have, through the years, given priority to communicating with our faraway members. These love letters across the miles have had some exciting results.

"In May 1973, they brought us Lilian C. from Argentina, who had gone to Ontario, Canada, to her son's wedding and took two days at her own expense to come to us at the WSO for concentrated consultation on the direction Al-Anon General Services were to take in Argentina.

"A month or so later we had a visitor from South Africa. Margaret S. spent a week with us talking with the Staff Secretaries and learning all she could about the various functions at the WSO and how these could be adapted to the needs of a national service office in South Africa.

"In the two weeks just before the Conference, two tremendously exciting things happened! With almost no notice, I found myself, on Saturday night, April 8th, in Kennedy Airport awaiting the arrival of Marie-Odile R., Secretary of the Intergroup Les Yvelines in France. Although Marie-Odile and I had corresponded frequently, I had no idea of her age and appearance. Fortunately, in the rushed exchange of letters just before she was due to leave Paris, I had asked her how I could recognize her; she cabled back that she would be wearing a yellow coat and would be carrying a FORUM! Her Icelandic Airlines flight was two hours late. During that time, my daughter Carol, who was with me, accosted five different women who were wearing yellow coats to ask them if they were Marie-Odile. Finally another large group poured out of the Customs Section of the waiting room. As if drawn by a magnet I made a bee-line for the real Marie-Odile! She'd forgotten about the FORUM because the flight had taken almost 24 hours and she was exhausted.

"She, too, had come entirely at her own expense. She told me she'd used money for the trip that she'd been hoarding to buy a refrigerator; that's why she had to go as economically as possible. She spent a week at the office, at meetings, and, with the cooperation of Josie and all the other Staff Secretaries, returned home with a wealth of information to share with our other members in France who are struggling to establish a good foundation for their Al-Anon General Services.

"Finally, we had a visitor at the WSO last Thursday and Friday, from Brisbane, Queensland. Malie W. had just come from the Australian Fifth Trial Conference where she had been Delegate

from Queensland. She left with me all the notes she had taken there. She, too, came to us seeking, searching, wanting to know 'how we do it.' She will share with other Australian members the knowledge she gained here, to promote their efforts toward a national service office."

Henrietta then asked whether there were any questions about the World Service Office reports which the Delegates had received in advance. As there were none, a motion was made and the reports were unanimously approved.

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Following the reports, Ethel E. (Ark.) spoke some inspiring words on our slogan

FIRST THINGS FIRST

"*First things First* means that my first responsibility is to myself. It is upon that ME that I must work in Al-Anon. My energies must be turned upon accepting things I cannot change in others.

"It took me twelve years in Al-Anon to learn this!

"About four years ago my husband and I came up with a real problem. Instead of thinking *First things First* and keeping my sense of humor, which to me is a must, I lost everything, including all the Al-Anon I had gained in twelve years. Things went from bad to worse until we were about to get a divorce after 28 years of marriage, the last twelve with sobriety.

"If anyone had told me I was trying to change him I would have called him a liar. I continued to attend Al-Anon meetings regularly, but with a closed mind. I got sicker and sicker until I was just one step from a mental institution. Finally one night at a meeting something happened. We had a new chairman and, being a little nervous, she started the Serenity Prayer 'God grant me the Serenity to change—' just the switch of a well-known phrase and with my mind finally open, I realized what I had been doing: I was still trying to change things I could not accept. I was trying to change my husband. This will not work.

"This is the greatest thing I have learned in Al-Anon: to accept and love people not for what they are but in spite of what they are. 'Let It Begin With Me' certainly applies to me and *First things First*. I am the only person I can change.

"Another *First things First* for me is to find something each day to be happy about. I start each day with a verse from Proverbs: 'This is the day the Lord hath made. I will rejoice and be glad in it.'

"*First things First* also applies to the impression I make on the new guy and gal that comes to Al-Anon. I know exactly how they feel and think, and I want to let them know I understand and care. This means I must attend meetings. What if a new person came and no one was there? I will be ever grateful that when I came someone was there, and there was an Al-Anon to come to.

"And speaking of new people coming into Al-Anon, I don't think I can overstress the importance of Conference-Approved Literature. It certainly is one of the *First things First*. A new person may read something in the literature that will help more than anything said at the first few meetings.

"I haven't accomplished everything I would've liked to as Delegate, but one improvement is that the people of my state know more about World Service than they ever knew before. Making them a part of World Service has been one of my *First things First* as Delegate. They now realize its importance. They know that without World Service we wouldn't have made the progress we have achieved.

"I cannot express in words the importance of the World Service Conference to me personally. It has been an experience I will always treasure. Meeting and being with everyone, meeting and

getting to know the staff, meeting Lois and visiting Stepping Stones. I will never forget the feeling I had when I walked into Bill's Ivory Tower. I felt a reverence I have never felt before.

"Even though this is my third year, I am not retiring. This time next year, and each year to come, my thoughts and prayers will be with you."

After a brief coffee break, the Session continued with the **ALATEEN REPORT**

which Carole K., the Chairman, began by welcoming the new Delegate members of her Committee: Shirley B. (Colo.), Betty W. (Ore.) and Mary Y. (W. Va.)

Martha E., one of the intown members, spoke on *How Alateen Conferences Can Better Relate to the WSO and to their Assembly Areas*. Martha explained that it is hoped the Alateen Conferences can be brought into our present structure by means of Guidelines aimed at unifying them and providing a pattern for new Conferences.

There has been growing concern about Alateen Conferences not being covered in the over-all Al-Anon/Alateen structure. These Conferences do create tremendous enthusiasm and our Alateens work hard to make them successful. So far there are some 15 of these Conferences, four or five of them new this year, so the trend is growing.

A letter to the WSO from John B., former Chairman of METRO, the Conference for New York and New Jersey Alateens, stated the problem well:

"Alateen Conferences can grow and continue to be of value only if Alateens share them with the WSO. We need you; you are part of us. The WSO should be aware of these Conferences; they are the source of future Post Alateens, sponsors and Al-Anon members who will be the leaders of the fellowship in the future."

Among John's suggestions were:

1. That each Conference should invite representatives from the WSO as guests or participants.
2. That each Conference should prepare a summary of its annual meeting, with comments or recommendations for the WSO and themselves. This summary, to be prepared by the Conference Chairman or the Chairman of the Board of Directors, would be the final Conference act. A copy would be sent to the Alateen Committee at the WSO.

The Alateen Committee agrees there would be a closer relationship if John's suggestions were followed. It would also be desirable for the WSO to be informed well in advance, so the Alateen Conferences can be announced in the FORUM and in ALATEEN TALK. Many Conferences do this now. These notices should always include an address (preferably a P.O. box number) so those interested can write for further information. Naturally they should not include last names of individuals.

A beginning could be made toward closer cooperation if the Alateen Conferences were brought into the Area Assembly structure through the Alateen Coordinators. They are members of the WS Committee with voice and vote. This would also help the Conferences relate closely to their respective Assemblies to whom the Alateens could give advance information and a final report. Where several Areas are involved, the Alateen Coordinators from each Area might be asked to attend the Conference, along with the WSC Delegate if possible. This is now being done in some Areas.

In November, each Alateen Coordinator was asked to provide ideas and suggestions on this question. During the coming year all material received will be reviewed by a special committee. Carole and Timmy will attend as many Conferences as possible and bring back further recommendations from them. All this material will be used to prepare Guidelines for Alateen Conferences which will be brought to the 1975 WSC for approval.

If any Areas have already developed a good working relationship between Alateen Conferences and the Area World Service Committee, please let us have the benefit of your experience. And PLEASE, before the end of September.

A report on the *Preteen Questionnaire* was then given by Carole. Some 50 Areas had responded to the questionnaire sent out by the WSO. Opinions varied widely.

There are now some 65 groups including two or three in Australia. Most of these meet in conjunction with Alateen groups; others meet separately with their own officers, and plan their own programs. Alateens often sponsor Preteens, some have Al-Anon sponsors and one or two also have AA sponsors. Some 22 groups were disbanded for various reasons: sponsors became discouraged, meetings turned into baby-sitting services, lack of literature and other.

Some parents reported their younger children had been helped greatly by attending meetings; others said they became fresh and unmanageable after meetings. A few Preteens wrote about the help they had received from the program.

Most Alateens were in favor of registering Preteen groups and thought they could follow the program successfully; a few spoke against them, saying it would be a "classroom" situation or a baby-sitting service.

Most Areas did not favor registering and servicing these groups, but many felt it would be well to have a piece of literature for them, perhaps a comic book.

Although the general feeling was that these younger children do need help, there was marked reluctance in most Areas to assume responsibility for them. Many said that Alateen needs further developing and efforts should be concentrated on this.

Discussion from the floor followed; the Delegates had strong views for and against. Robin C., an Alateen intown member of the Committee, said that he had been in Alateen since he was 10 and had changed his attitude toward his alcoholic parent through the program. He urged the Delegates to keep Preteens in mind. The Conference members then voted on the three alternatives for servicing Preteens, which had been presented originally to the 1973 Conference, with the following results:

1. Preteen groups (8-12) could be registered under a new category and serviced accordingly.
(They could receive ALATEEN TALK and a free copy of the World Directory where they would be listed. They probably would not receive the FORUM nor the HANDBOOK, since they would not be eligible for representation at the Area Assembly.) [16]
2. They could be registered and serviced as a regular Alateen group, using Preteen or Junior Alateen in their name if they wish. [5]
3. The present policy of registering Alateen groups with members 12 years of age and over could remain. However, we would continue to encourage the younger members of the family to join an Alateen group, which, by autonomy, has the prerogative to divide into age segments. [60]
(There was one abstention.)

Next the Conference members heard an excellent talk by Becky J. (Iowa) on our slogan:

LIVE—AND LET LIVE

Coming into Al-Anon after surviving several despairing years of alcoholism in our marriage, this slogan, *Live and Let Live*, has meant a great deal to me.

"I break it into two parts; first, *live*. For an individual to live may mean no more than just to exist or survive, but through

the love and acceptance we find in Al-Anon this existence can take on direction and become meaningful, vital and effective. For some it may be difficult, for the admonition to *live* requires change, not in others but in ourselves. If we use the tools Al-Anon gives us, we can find direction; the Steps, Traditions and the Concepts of Service are a powerful help in producing change in us.

"But we cannot truly *live* unless we follow the second part of the slogan: *Let Live*. In doing that we find we change, from *controlling* to *releasing*, from *admonishing* to *guiding*, from *taking* to *sharing*, from *disregarding* to *respecting* others.

"*To Let Live* is to open the clenched fist to an open hand outstretched with love. This is a beginning that has no end—only continued outreach!"

Becky's brief but impressive discourse was followed by the REPORT OF THE LITERATURE COMMITTEE, which was given not by Chairman Louise, but by her predecessor, Alice B.

"When Louise asked me to do a little talk on our literature, I felt it was like turning back the clock, but of course I said I would. It isn't nice to say No when you're asked to do something in Al-Anon.

"Three years ago Louise became Chairman of the Literature Committee. In these years she has done a job that no one can fully appreciate who hasn't worked with her to realize the quantity and quality of what she has produced along with her Committee. She involves the Delegate members in each project and handles the immense amount of correspondence involved.

"Louise and I worked together before and after she became Chairman. Learning from each other, we became better writers, editors and practitioners of Al-Anon.

"My standing here today is like old times. Before Louise came, I told our literature story, hopes, plans and problems, to six Conferences, the usual Chairman's report each year. What I talked about most was Conference Approved Literature and what a job the Delegates did in carrying that message back to the Areas! One by one the groups saw the light and stopped fumbling around with fringe material. One by one the groups that were still printing and selling long-outdated material, offered to discontinue. We've made tremendous progress—for now, in all of the U.S. and Canada; only one Intergroup in one Area is still publishing so-called Al-Anon literature and selling it to groups around the country.

"It's sad for Al-Anon to have a separate big business exist as a competitor. But this is something we've long since left in the hands of our Higher Power.

"There is still a gap between the literature situation and how it is understood at the group level. Hardly a week goes by that we don't get at least one letter suggesting *another* piece of literature on a new subject. Out of a hundred there may be no more than one that merits serious consideration. Most of these ideas come from members who have not read the literature already available, so they miss the very ideas they're asking new literature for. Sometimes it's because they don't realize that our basic program can be applied to *every* situation and relationship involving alcoholism. True, the situations vary; in a sense, everyone's problem is unique. The only thing we have in common is that we feel somebody's alcoholism is driving us crazy. So all we have to do is to get *ourselves* sane.

"The tools for reaching sanity are in our six Al-Anon books and more than sixty booklets. The basic philosophy and procedures are all the same. What Al-Anon is all about, implicit in every piece of literature, in our Steps, Traditions and Slogans, is just one thing: *Release with love*.

"So, in closing, let me urge you once again to encourage the groups to sample *all* the literature. They might get some delightful surprises and they'd really get to know which will best serve

the needs of their particular groups. And, too, discourage requests for specific pieces of new literature. And continue, *please*, your efforts to get all groups to concentrate on CAL. That's where our answers will be found."

* * * * *

After Alice's talk on literature, the Conference got down to one of the most important pieces of business on the agenda: *Area Communications*, chaired by Ruth R. of Kentucky.

Ruth began by stating that "communication is the giving and receiving of information" a sound, simple description.

"This is something I've thought a lot about, even before I knew I was to chair this panel. Some time back, at two meetings I chaired, I used as my subject a title from DILEMMA: '*What Manner of Communications are these that You have One to Another?*' That made me think about communications in relation to my job as Delegate. I decided to improve our Area Communications wherever I could.

"Here, today, three of us are going to discuss some specific ways we can better communicate in our Areas; the other two will talk more generally on this subject. This panel is truly international and I know will reflect Al-Anon world-wide."

Ruth then introduced Jackie M. of Florida, who began by saying:

"I've been asked to talk about newsletters as a means of communication.

"Area newsletters, as I'm sure you know, are one of the most important means of communication we have. Ours, 'The Legacy,' with a circulation of 1000, is 8 years old. Copies are mailed to all Al-Anon and Alateen GRs, PI liaison members and the special Coordinators. Groups request the number of copies they need for their members. 'The Legacy's' expenses are now included in the Assembly budget.

"It has been the major means of keeping our Area members informed of everything of importance, and thus keeping us united."

Jackie also explained that support for "The Legacy" and expenses for DRs, for Assembly speakers and other needs are met by a simple formula, faithfully adhered to by the groups: "25¢ per member per month." This has provided ample funds for all needs.

She spoke also of the difficulty of finding a Newsletter Editor. In the interim, she herself has "put it all together" but deplored what she described as her lack of ability as a "speaker, an editor and a speller," closing with the comment: "We all agreed if I did it, somewhere out there in Florida would be somebody with the qualifications who would take pity on us and volunteer!"

(Further ideas on newsletters were presented later in the program by Claire B. of Quebec W.)

Jackie also spoke of the importance of Workshops in communication between the membership. "A gathering of fellow Al-Anons and Alateens sharing ideas and views should be educational and inspirational, should *not* do our thinking for us but rather reason things out for the ultimate good of the whole fellowship. A Workshop is Al-Anon unity in action.

"Our concern was 'What do we as a State need most?' and the answer was that we needed better-informed, better-trained, harder-working, more responsible DRs, willing to become better communicators to and from the World Service Committee and their Group Representatives and ultimately to the members.

"Our next concern was 'What phase of service did we need the most help in?' We have focused our Workshops on Public Information, CAL, Al-Anon in Action, The Importance of Service at all levels, and our junior segment and our responsibility, Alateen.

"On May 4th, after I get home from this Conference, we will once again have our spring Assembly. We need to know much more about Institutional Groups, so that will be the subject of our Workshop.

"If you ask me whether Workshops work, whether they really help communications, I can only say YES, YES, YES!"

Ruth then introduced "T," S. of Kansas who began by saying:

"The premise of my topic, 'Developing *Better Area Communications*' suggests that some already exists to give us a starting point for improvement. If it is merely one-way communication, it needs to be made *two-way*, the kind of interchange that is built into the Al-Anon Service Structure at all levels. The tools are available; we need only to use them and encourage their use by all members.

"Some three-quarters of our Kansas groups are in rural sections, so improved communication is urgent to improve understanding in every way. Our state has a relatively small number of members in its slightly over 100 groups spread over considerable distances. Most of our groups are small, and perhaps 50 to 60 miles from the next small struggling group. Therefore, we recognize the need to search out practical means of communicating and making the most of every opportunity for personal contact.

"At AA Conventions we are often offered space and time (during their business meetings) and we make good use of these get-togethers; we plan meetings and Workshops on Problems of Rural Districts, Unity and Traditions."

"T" spoke of the communication with Alateen and suggested that Al-Anons communicate with Alateen through their GRs rather than with sponsors alone, and personally as well through DRs, so the Alateens may be better-informed and take their places on a one-to-one basis beside Al-Anons at Assembly, District—and financially.

"Sponsors who are knowledgeable about structure and Traditions and DRs willing to give 'that little extra bit' could certainly improve communication with Alateen groups.

"Another fact of life is the group that wants no part of anything outside their regular meetings. They are not a majority, but enough to cause serious concern, usually due to lack of information. With love and effort we should stress the importance of each and every group to the whole of the fellowship. Direct contact can often help; if you cannot visit them personally, it would be well to enlist the help of the DR or other members of the WS Committee. You can also visit with them via the printed word; personal letters are a great help, too, and if pertinent questions are asked, a reply is usually forthcoming.

"Letters of welcome to new groups can give them information they need, offer assistance and stress their group's importance to the fellowship as a whole. Asking information from them (where they meet and when) usually brings a response. This is a first step in establishing communication."

"T" also suggested the use of flyers; they're eye-catching, can be put up on bulletin boards, and are easily read.

She then spoke of the importance of the DR's role, calling them "valuable links in the Al-Anon structure." She suggested that DRs should be encouraged to visit groups frequently, get to know the GRs and the group members personally; have Workshops within their Districts to familiarize GRs with service literature and establish monthly District meetings for the study of Traditions and Concepts. She also thought it a good idea for the Alternate GRs to attend these meetings along with the GRs.

"We should also encourage DRs by expressing our confidence in them and indicating the importance of their function, and finally, we should encourage DRs to use the Delegate as a sounding board to keep communication flowing freely in both directions."

In conclusion, "T" felt it was important to search out weak links in the chain of communication and concentrate on these.

"As I see it," she said, "we improve and share our understanding through communication; thus our problems diminish and the quality of our Al-Anon improves. This is how I can 'Let It Begin With Me.'"

* * * * *

Next came the International feature of the panel to which Ruth had referred in her introduction. Leah B., representing the United Kingdom and Eire, gave us a view of the similarities and differences in procedure, and how communication works over there:

"In our Area of the United Kingdom and Eire, which consists of 18 Districts, we have District Coordinators. When the Districts were first formed, they were eager for experienced help from outside their Districts because they were not exactly sure what they were supposed to do.

"At first the World Service Representative supplied this help by explaining the World Service Conference. But this obviously could not be done by one person so, for the first time this year, two District Coordinators were elected at the Service Conference. One is to unify the ten English Districts, the other to unify the eight Scottish/Irish Districts. One of these Coordinators is then elected to be the World Service Representative.

"The Coordinators are responsible to the Board and report to it twice a year. Each visits all Districts at least once a year and keeps in touch with the Chairman of the District. Each of our Districts have a Chairman, a Secretary, a Treasurer and a District Representative. This Committee takes the place of the Assembly in other Areas. They also meet between District meetings to decide the form the next meeting will take, see that District affairs run smoothly and help the DR to inform and unify the groups, as well as encourage them to become involved in Al-Anon matters outside their own groups. Each District has its own idea how this can be done. And we always use flyers.

"Most Districts have three or four meetings a year; each starts with a short period devoted to business matters followed by a Workshop or a discussion on an Al-Anon subject. The latter is essential, for if we do not devote at least half the time to the programme, we have complaints from the members. Any interested Al-Anon member may attend these meetings but only the GRs have a vote.

"All our Districts are responsible for Lone Members in their locality. The nearest group is usually asked to look after them and, if possible, they are involved in District affairs, being invited to District Meetings or any Convention or Get-Together. New groups are also sponsored by the nearest established group.

"Alateen groups are invited to attend and take part in open discussions although as yet they have no GRs.

"Before we had District meetings there was no Area communication between groups in Ireland or other parts of the U.K. except at AA Conventions, and then it was quite disorganized. Since the District meeting idea has spread and Al-Anon has grown so much, we now find it necessary for Al-Anon to have its own hotel and meeting accommodations at national AA conventions.

"The District meeting brings our city and rural groups together, making each of us realize we are not separate groups but all are part of world-wide Al-Anon.

"'Let It Begin with Me'—I would like to take this theme of our Conference and explain what it means to me. The 'me' in this context is the member who is elected GR; she must learn to interest herself in District affairs and put this message across to her group members.

"The next 'me' is the DR or Committee member who must interest all GRs and other members, too, in attending their Dis-

strict meetings regularly. These should be held at a place and a time suitable for the groups in the District. In a large scattered area as in the Highlands of Scotland, or as in Northern Ireland, they try to choose a reasonably safe venue, although our members travel to their District meetings and these problems are seldom mentioned.

"Let It Continue with Me would suggest the importance of continuity in holding office. This has caused difficulty in many Districts, but most of them now are beginning to see the advantage of having District Representatives attend three Conferences. The experience they thus gain is of great value to the District and the Area as a whole. It is from these experienced DRs that members of the General Service Board and the Representative to the World Service Conference are elected.

"Let It Pass from Me—following our traditional rotation, let the responsibility of World Service Representative, District Representative, Group Representative or Delegate pass on; only then will we find new strength for our growth.

"Let each and every one of us accept our responsibility to this world-wide fellowship and 'Let It Begin with Me,' so that my Area Communications are not broken by the link I represent at the World Service Conference."

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Ruth then introduced another "International" member of her panel, Claire B. of Quebec W.

"When I was asked to speak on newsletters today, I really panicked. Being French-speaking, I thought nobody would dare ask me, but they did dare, so here I am, and with great pleasure!"

Claire spoke at length of the very special difficulties that beset a bilingual community, in their case, 80% French and 20% English. When they lost the Newsletter Editor due to illness, they went to extraordinary lengths to find a replacement, without success. They then decided to divide the responsibility. Up to then the Editor, usually a past Chairman of the WS Committee, did the whole job alone, selecting and revising articles, plan and type the newsletter and have it printed. The only help she had was that another member did the mailing.

"This system proved to be a disaster, for when the Editor had to resign or had completed a reasonable term, nobody was prepared to take her place.

"As a result," Claire continued, "we were left without a newsletter for the past year, which meant simply no communication except by letters written to the groups; these were invitations to Al-Anon Day, The September General Assembly, the AA Provincial Bilingual Conference in October and an Alateen Day. These letters were all composed, translated and sent by the Assembly Secretary."

Finally, after an endless and discouraging search for an Editorial Committee, an Editor turned up, enthusiastic and ready to do the job. "A real gift of God," Claire called it! This "gift" also assumed the responsibility for finding whatever help she needed, so the newsletter problem was solved as of last February.

"Our newsletter's main purpose is to provide the groups with information, in other words, communicating. This includes important events in the Area (such as the ones we had to write letters about) activities of the PI, Institutional and Literature Committees, everything pertaining to Alateen and reports of District meetings, formation of new groups, changes of meeting places, dates and times, and other essential information. A small section is reserved for personal recovery stories, experiences, med-

itations which the members wish to share with each other. We also plan to have a section for questions and answers.

"We feel that communication is an important factor in our unity, so that groups may be better informed and in a better position to help newcomers and carry the message of Al-Anon and Alateen."

After thanking Claire, Ruth began on her part of the panel: *Al-Anon Conferences/Conventions as a Means of Communication*. "An Al-Anon Conference gives an Area, its Delegate and Officers one of the most effective ways of communicating with members of the groups.

"This all starts with good planning; as with the WSC, ours in Kentucky takes year-long preparation. We meet each month to check the progress of the various committees; the groups are kept informed by means of flyers and reports in our newsletter.

"Because of distances, not all Districts take part in this planning but all participate in the final stages and in the sharing experience of the Conference itself.

"We have two Assembly meetings a year, one during the Area Al-Anon Conference, the other during the AA Conference. Our Assembly attendance has increased tremendously as a result of inviting all Al-Anon members to attend as observers. This helps to increase interest in service because they learn what it's all about at these events. Groups which never had a GR are electing them now.

"This can be another way of reaching rural groups and those concerned primarily with their own groups and personal recovery. Using the Conference as a vehicle gets them interested and involved, in both District and Area functions. Another result is that more of the groups become willing to provide financial support for the Area.

"There is still much pioneer work to be done in Kentucky. We had a communications problem because our hub—Louisville and environs—was too big for our wheel. Now the wheel is beginning to catch up. A little more than a year ago we weren't even divided into Districts. When I became Delegate, that was the first job I undertook and now all the Districts, but one, are beginning to function. Increased Area communication was the answer."

Ruth then explained that the Workshops planned for these occasions dealt with the Traditions (discussed by past and present Delegates); a Unity Ask-It Basket and an Alateen Sponsor Workshop which led to persuading more members to become sponsors. At another, the film *LOIS'S STORY* was the feature, "showing what the WSO has made it possible to share with each other." At still another Assembly, CAL was thoroughly explored and illustrated with a Literature Display. They also have a literature table at these events and much literature is sold. In Ruth's view, "CAL sold at a Conference has a far-reaching effect. Many AA members took back our CAL and suggested starting an Al-Anon meeting as a result.

"Alateen plays an important part at our Al-Anon Conferences. About 25% of our registrations are now Alateen members (who are given free registration). Along with our Alateen Coordinator, they plan their own activities to take place between the speaker meetings. They also choose their own speaker for the Conference. We've been working very hard to improve our communication with Alateen, and a Conference is a good place to do it.

"These occasions also give an excellent opportunity for concentrated PI work. Our Host Committee PI Chairman has for some years succeeded in getting a good deal of radio and TV coverage. We have at least five broadcasts in the two weeks preceding the Conference; we have five-minute interviews on news broadcasts and an hour and a half radio show which covers most of the eastern half of the country.

"These are some of the opportunities for communication pro-

vided by a Conference—and there are many more. Certainly a good Al-Anon Conference is an experience, better felt than described.”

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The DELEGATES ONLY Meeting

It has become traditional for the Delegates to have a private meeting at which they can freely discuss problems, questions and suggestions to be submitted later to the Conference as a whole. This meeting began at 8:00 Wednesday evening, chaired by Don B. of Nevada. The recommendations from that meeting appear on page 21

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Thursday began with the usual preliminaries, like roll call and announcements. And then, to start the day right, we had some wise words on one of the slogans by Sue M. of Wyoming:

EASY DOES IT

“Easy Does It, just three small words, an ordinary, everyday phrase. But what a tremendous amount of help it has been to me.

“What good have I ever done, or what have I accomplished when I’ve tried to make a decision while I’m filled with hysteria, hate and anger? How could I help but defeat my purpose when I react on impulse, saying the first thing that pops into my head? When we are new in Al-Anon, we’re sick, very sick. We need someone or something to help us, so we often try to learn too quickly. Take the Twelve Steps, for example. How could anyone possibly live up to them without long and patient study?

“Easy Does It. By taking a single thought from any piece of our literature, the Twelve Steps and Traditions or the Serenity Prayer, and applying it to our lives each day, we cannot help but gain a little of the security we need.

“When I slow down, stop trying so hard to change things, and remember *Easy Does It*, I am guided into a better frame of mind. Not only is my purpose being accomplished but I am slowly growing into a better person.

“Through this program, I am not only becoming more flexible, but I am learning to get rid of my habit of expecting others to do what I want. Expecting things to happen the way I want them to can only create frustrations, disappointments and unhappiness.

“Easy Does It is a gentle reminder that we can accomplish more by not forcing issues. It takes time to improve our attitudes and our states of mind. Haste and impatience can only defeat us.

“Easy Does It: three small words, but how important in our lives!”

INSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEE SESSIONS

Jo K., Chairman, Ann S., Secretary

In Jo’s brief introduction to the session, she marveled again at the tremendous advances made by the Committee in the past year, as indicated by the WSO Report (page 30)

“Great things are happening everywhere from Australia to Alaska and all over the U. S. and Canada.

“The 1800 letters mentioned in our report were extremely effective; their impact was not limited either by time or space. From South Australia we had word from an AA member who had run across a year-old letter; he asked us to help his wife.

“Another interesting ‘first’—in Pittsburgh, half a dozen Al-Anons presented a mini-meeting to staff members, followed by questions and answers. The result was ‘an absolutely unbelievable

response.’ A detailed account appeared in the July ’73 issue of *Institutional Highlights*.

“The Alateens are busily carrying the message to juvenile correctional institutions. And far surpassing other years were the inquiries and information received from institutional personnel, counselors, chaplains and others.

“And now I’ll step aside to let Lucille of Minnesota tell you how groups were established in her state.”

Lucille told us that one of the first hurdles was to educate the Directors and staffs to the fact that alcoholism is a family disease.

“We did this by telling our own stories, especially about our recovery through the help of Al-Anon, and by providing literature. The staffs then became most helpful in referring families of the alcoholics to Al-Anon.

“The next step was to establish Institutional groups and Orientation classes. Our early groups had a great deal of opportunity to grow in patience, understanding and persistence. We accepted what we couldn’t change, even if it meant a tiny space in a sub-basement. Yet however much our beginnings were hampered, we knew these institutions were a potential reservoir of Al-Anon members. We were sure, too, that the Directors and staffs were potential allies for Al-Anon, and with patience on our part, they would become just that.

“Many AA members gave us moral support and encouragement, often inviting us to share their programs and Conferences in the institutions. Alateen members sharing in this work and giving Alateen literature, is the way all members of the alcoholic’s family can be reached.”

Lucille said that most counties in her state have treatment centers for alcoholics, and they are reaching out to them continuously. She said she had recently talked with the Director of a newly-opened facility who told her he “wouldn’t even have opened the doors if Al-Anon had not been involved with the families of the alcoholics; otherwise only half the problem would be dealt with.”

Minnesota has had an Institutional Coordinator for the past six years, whose function is, 1) to keep a current list of the Institutional groups registered with the WSO, 2) to keep a list of contacts, Committees or Intergroups sponsoring orientations in each institution, 3) to provide Al-Anon/Alateen literature for institutions. (Money for literature is donated by individual groups or by Al-Anon members who do not have an Institutional group in their part of the state.) 4) to give a report on Institutional work to the Assembly or through the Newsletter, or both and 5) to arrange mini-workshops on Institutional service work at the State Assemblies from time to time.

Lucille’s report was an inspiring lesson in the vast potential for Al-Anon in this vital Twelfth Step work and it is hoped that all Delegates will carry home this message and put it to good use.

After thanking Lucille, Jo went on to introduce her next speaker:

“It certainly seems our Higher Power is watching over us to make sure we get the right person for every job that needs doing. Here’s Ann, our new Staff Secretary and editor of *Institutional Highlights*, to give you a report on our Standing Committee meeting held yesterday morning.”

Ann called attention to the interesting development, reported by many Delegates, that their Areas now had Institutional Coordinators.

“Doris (Sask. Can.) was asked by an AA member who counsels alcoholics in a penitentiary to prepare a tape to be used in maximum security prisons. It was suggested she talk with Jean A., our Regional Trustee, who has had a great deal of experience in this work.

“Renie, (So. Dak.) told about a couple who found AA and Al-Anon at the Yankton State Hospital while the husband was a pa-

tient there. Al-Anon received much credit for the recovery of the family, including their 13 children!"

Ann concluded by explaining that it was agreed that Guidelines for Institutional Coordinators were needed and that suggestions would be sent in throughout the year for the Committee to review at next year's WSC. Guidelines for speakers, staff, patients and families are in use at a facility in Central Islip, New York and copies will be sent to each member of the Committee.

Jo then introduced Elsie Q., (Cal. S) who described the structure into which their Hospital and Institution (H & I) activities fitted. It is part of their Intergroup, and was originally part of their PI Committee, but has been a separate H & I Committee since 1968.

Elsie explained that their H & I people work closely with the courts as well (as when those Driving Under the Influence were ordered to meetings at which they were exposed to AA.) Ultimately the AAs helped to get Al-Anon groups started for the spouses.

Southern California's H & I starts with Orientation Meetings which they have found a good preparation for regular group meetings.

"When H & I first began," Elsie said, "contact was made with the AA Institutions Committee to let them know we were ready with help for the families.

"The Orientation Meetings are played by ear for whatever the need is in the particular facility. Meetings are informal, more like 'rap sessions.'"

Elsie explained the financing of these activities, in part, are through contributions from the Assembly.

"I feel," she said, "that H & I work is a giant 12th Step. We select our panels, sponsors and coordinators very carefully, remembering that the Al-Anon image we present at the Orientation meetings may be the only contact the newcomer will have with the program that could save his or her life. 'Let It Begin with Me' is a strong factor in this work."

Thanking Elsie for her enlightening presentation, Jo said:

"I am sure these reports will have convinced you that many professionals in the field of alcoholism are using Al-Anon as reinforcement in total treatment. In some institutions part of the training program for personnel includes attending at least four Al-Anon meetings. They have become aware that the Al-Anon philosophy is the most effective tool they have to offer families of alcoholics."

Following the Institutions Report, a presentation on

PUBLIC INFORMATION

was given by Hank G., Chairman. He reported on the many different projects being initiated and developed by the PI Committee and spoke at length about our Labor-Management program.

It seems that even though it took much longer than had been anticipated to get this program off the ground, we are now beginning to see results. The discouragement the committee felt at the start, was dispelled by the progress reports that were received during the month before the Conference (six months later than originally expected). These reports were truly great and contained a wealth of information.

Three skits, in which several Delegates, Trustees and PI Committee members participated, were presented based on some of the comments in the reports. The first two skits showed what *not* to do and the last one showed one successful way to handle the industrial program interviews.

Following the skits, Josie gave the report of the PI Standing Committee meeting. The main problem facing all the Delegates

was the usual confusion about the difference between attraction and promotion and the question of anonymity. Josie reminded everyone of the Workshop at the 1972 Conference on Tradition 11 which was developed to help clarify the misinterpretation that surrounds this particular Tradition. The questions and answers prepared for this workshop are available at the WSO.

The 1974 PI Workshop was then introduced by Josie C. The entire Conference was divided into five parts, each meeting in a separate location. Each section was assigned a reporter to take notes; (Bonnie H., Calif. N., Charlotte M., Ohio, Anne H., Penna., Irene K., Ill. N. and Norma W. Ind.). Anna H., as Summary Reporter, coordinated the results which appear on page 18) under Session VIII.

REGIONAL TRUSTEE COMMITTEE SESSION

Loretta L., Chairman

The Western Region Delegates at the 1974 Conference met at a luncheon in the Walnut Room on Thursday to discuss the nomination of their RT nominees which should take place prior to January 1, 1975. The Delegates were briefed on some of the pitfalls encountered in the past and were told how important it is to follow procedure according to the Experimental Plan.

EXPERIMENTAL PLAN 1972-1974

Delegates' decisions on whether the plan should remain experimental would depend on various factors. They could decide to:

1. adopt the present plan.
2. revise the present plan and continue it as experimental for another 3 years.
3. revise the present plan and then continue it as permanent.
4. discontinue the plan of Regional Trustee.

Some of the points discussed at the Conference were:

1. the vigorous growth of Al-Anon may make it advisable to increase the number of Regional Trustees.
2. the revisions to be made in the RT Experimental Plan.
3. the present plan works well with the 3 Regions. If these Regions were subdivided, however, increasing the number of RTs, the plan would have to be revised.

Revisions in the RT Experimental Plan that were considered:

1. Stressing that one-page resumes of candidates must be submitted to the WSO no later than January 1.
2. When electing a candidate, Canada is in the minority with nine Delegates in the Region. According to the Plan, all Delegates from the Region vote, plus six Delegates selected from the two other Regions and six Trustees. United States (E) and (W) Regions each have 25 Delegates, making the voting ratio 25-12. In order to put Canadian votes in the majority, it is suggested we decrease the number of Delegates from the two other Regions to four Delegates and the Trustees to three, making the ratio 9-7.
3. Should this change in the number of outside Delegates and Trustees be automatic every third year when Canada has an election, thereby providing a majority?

All the above items were again reviewed by Loretta at the RT session on Friday and revisions to provide Canada with a voting

ratio of 9-7 were incorporated in the "RT Experimental Plan—1975-1977."

ELECTION OF THE REGIONAL TRUSTEE

from the Eastern Region, was chaired by Ted K., Chairman of the Board of Trustees. The new RT is Paul L., of Louisville, Kentucky who, some years ago, served on the Board. Bobbie C. of Nashville, Tennessee was elected as Alternate.

* * * * *

Then we heard from Jim C. (Mo.) on

LET GO AND LET GOD

"What an absurd suggestion!

"How could anyone dare suggest that I should *Let Go and Let God*.

"I had no problem in living, with but one exception, and that one would be no problem if *she* would only listen to me.

"However, when I came to Al-Anon, it was suggested to me that I *Let Go and Let God*. And thank God, for the first time in years, I kept my mouth shut and listened. Gradually it began to get through my thick skull that my thinking not only kept me from solving the problem, but that I was part of the problem. By beginning to repeat this slogan as a part of my morning meditation, I began slowly to actually *Let Go*. Now the use of this slogan helps me to work Step 3 daily. Use of this slogan is applied to my total life, personal, business, and that portion I spend in Al-Anon work.

"Missouri is a large Area; with Al-Anon growing so fast it is impossible to do all that needs doing, and go everywhere you are asked. I am blessed with a very understanding spouse, and an employer who also understands.

"With God's help and theirs, I do the best I can.

"In closing may I quote ONE DAY AT A TIME, April 16, 'May I always keep in the forefront of my mind that I am not all-wise and all-powerful. Only God is that—and it is on Him that I must rely.'"

* * * * *

The principal feature of this Thursday afternoon session was the ASK-IT BASKET, always a highlight of the Conference. Since it was impossible, in the time allotted, to cover the more than 70 questions, this segment of the Conference was divided into several time slots.

The following are a few of the questions asked, and answered by a committee composed of Blanche D. (Tex. W.), Anne H. (Penna.), Myrna H., Staff. The session was chaired by Mary S., Chairman of the Policy Committee.

ASK-IT BASKET

Q. With such a large percentage of our membership having alcoholic relatives who are sober, why is there so little literature directed to this situation? Could more literature be written for these members.

A. All our literature is concerned with our attitudes and behavior, whether the alcoholic is drinking or not.

Q. Can we have more literature on sex in the alcoholic marriage so we can conduct meetings on the subject?

A. There should be enough material in DILEMMA to conduct at least a year's meetings on this topic! True, DILEMMA doesn't go very deeply into the medical aspects but that would be too deep for a meeting anyway, wouldn't it?

Q. More literature for the AA member who qualifies for Al-Anon?

A. We're working on it.

Q. What's the possibility of older Alateens (18 to 22 years) being sponsors for Alateen groups?

A. They're ideal, particularly for groups of young Alateens. These sponsors should, however, attend their own groups regularly as well.

Q. Is it a break of Traditions for a member to furnish the World Directory to a treatment center for alcoholics?

A. Since the World Directory is a confidential publication, it should not be given out indiscriminately by members. The 1972 World Service Conference had requested that the Delegates be entrusted with the responsibility of deciding if an outside agency should receive a Directory. Therefore, before a Directory is sold to any agency, the WSO first requests authorization from the Delegate of the Area to do so. It follows through that individual members should do the same. Delegates' names and addresses appear in the World Directory at the head of each state and province.

Q. Is it a prerequisite that an Al-Anon be a member for two years before being eligible for Alateen sponsorship?

A. There is no rule for this but a good understanding of the program is essential.

Q. What can be done about a person who constantly interrupts at meetings?

A. Have a firm, tactful chairman who can control these interruptions.

Q. Does using ODAT too soon tend to make the newcomer feel this is all the information or books needed?

A. It would be well to suggest that the newcomer start with our basic book, LIVING WITH AN ALCOHOLIC. Having a group lending library would make it easier for those who can not afford to buy our books.

Q. What is the Al-Anon view of using the Lord's Prayer in closing meetings? What about the non-sectarian people who feel out of place with a religious prayer?

A. It is very important to preface the prayer, if it is the group's habit to use it, with the words, "Will all who care to join us . . ."

Q. Does the Area World Service Committee have the right to rescind a policy decision made by the Assembly?

A. No. The WSC is no more than a steering committee and can only make recommendations to the Assembly.

Q. What can be done about a practicing alcoholic who turns up at a closed Al-Anon meeting?

A. If he is eligible for Al-Anon membership and is not disruptive, nothing should be done. But if he is troublesome, he should be asked to leave.

Q. Must anonymity be observed within the fellowship, especially at the group level?

A. No, but it is more reassuring when newcomers are present to use only first names until they understand how our anonymity works. See "Why Is Al-Anon Anonymous?"

Q. Should Al-Anon groups ever use AA literature?

A. While we do not recommend the constant use of AA literature, an occasional reference can reinforce our own application of the program. But group funds should be used for the purchase of Al-Anon literature exclusively.

Q. Is there a ruling on using our Twelve Steps and Traditions by other self-help programs such as those concerned with drugs, over-eating, etc.?

A. *These principles have long been in the public domain due to the liberal attitude of AA and Al-Anon toward other helping organizations. We do not, however, grant the right to reprint our copyrighted literature.*

Q. Can you clarify the responsibilities of an Alternate GR, DR and Delegate?

A. *To share and learn to understand the responsibilities of the office, and to represent him or her in case of absence.*

Q. When a Project Supervisor of a State Alcoholism Program suggests starting a group and furnishes room and coffee for meetings, what should be done?

A. *Unless it is an Institutional group, room and refreshments are an obligation of the group. See Tradition Seven.*

Q. Some groups find they can get literature more quickly from Michigan and California than from New York.

A. *As long as only CAL is bought, it may be ordered from the nearest point. However, much material from Michigan is not CAL in which case you would be helping to support the local Intergroup office. It would also be well to compare the prices with those on the WSO Literature order blank.*

Q. How can a group which has been repeatedly invited to send a Group Representative to District meetings, be persuaded to do so?

A. *If it is possible to reach speakers who are going to speak at their meetings, suggest that they explain the importance of this participation.*

Q. Would it be possible to include the day and time of group meetings in the World Directory?

A. *Oh, no! Read the World Directory Report and see how impossible it is even to keep abreast of changes of address.*

Q. Should counselors employed by the city participate in discussions at Al-Anon meetings?

A. *They may attend only open meetings where they may ask questions, and, if necessary, discuss.*

Q. Is an AA member who works with families of alcoholics qualified to attend closed Al-Anon meetings?

A. *No. Closed Al-Anon meetings are restricted to members.*

Q. What is Al-Anon's position on accepting invitations to speak at open AA meetings; not necessarily speaker meetings but rather discussion-type?

A. *It doesn't happen often enough! We ought to avail ourselves of every opportunity to explain Al-Anon to AAs.*

Q. Should money from the group treasury be used to buy flowers or gifts for members or relatives in cases of illness or bereavement?

A. *No. Group funds are solely for group needs and never for personal remembrances. This should be done only by individuals who wish to pay for them personally.*

Q. Should Alateens be allowed to attend closed Al-Anon meetings if they have their own group?

A. *Most young people feel more comfortable attending Alateen meetings. However, if teenagers wish to attend Al-Anon meetings in addition to, or instead of, Alateen, the decision for them to do so is within the autonomy of the Al-Anon group.*

Q. Are you breaking your anonymity if you accept an invitation to speak to local high school students?

A. *No. But if you're concerned, use only your first name and initial. It may be more prudent for an Alateen member, who is easily recognized, to decline.*

Q. How can we get rid of an AA co-sponsor of an Alateen group who uses offensive language?

A. *Is he trying to be one of the kids? Ask him firmly to correct his language or give up sponsoring.*

Q. Does an Alternate GR who is also a member of AA have a voice and a vote at Assembly in the absence of the GR?

A. *No member of AA may serve as GR or Alternate. See page 21 of Al-Anon & Alateen Groups at Work.*

Q. Why can't AAs who are members of Al-Anon be GRs?

A. *An AA's first allegiance must be to AA. A GR may be in line to become Delegate. See above.*

Q. Can we have a listing of Area Newsletters included in the Directory?

A. *No. The Directory is solely for information about our groups.*

Q. Can an Alternate Delegate be re-elected who is serving the first year of a three-year term?

A. *Yes, if filling out an unexpired term, may be re-elected for a full three years.*

(Here are two questions which may indicate a trend to be nipped in the bud.)

Q. Should there be such a thing as a "Mother" group? Our Area has one group with an officer in each function: GR, Secretary, Treasurer, etc., who serve three or four groups which the "Mother" group considers under its jurisdiction.

Q. Should a group which meets three nights and one afternoon, be registered as ONE GROUP with one Secretary and one Program Chairman responsible for getting leaders for all these groups and speakers once a month?

A. *No group should hold a monopoly on others which may have been formed as an outgrowth of the original one. This is denying the right of group autonomy. Each group should be registered individually at the WSO and have individual officers, to allow other members to hold office and grow in responsibility.*

* * * * *

Next we heard from Nancy R. (N.Y.S.) who spoke on:

KEEP AN OPEN MIND

"I would like to share with you, that although I came to Al-Anon with a tightly closed mind, the gentle nurturing of this marvelous program caused it to open slowly like a beautiful flower and which has reached eagerly toward the sun of understanding ever since. I really would like to tell you that; but, if I did tell you that it would not be indicative of an open mind, merely of a hole in my head.

"I stand here today as Exhibit 'A' for the proposition that the Slogan be changed, at least for me, to read; 'Get An Open Mind.' After all, I can't keep what I haven't got!

"When Penny's letter arrived, I was recovering from extensive oral surgery. By return mail, I replied that I could not possibly

“speak, nor eat, nor cough—I told her my whole sad story. She graciously accepted my refusal. There is a passage in ODAT that states a formula for *getting*, as well as *keeping*—an open mind! It suggests that we listen and think. Haven't you noticed how hard it is to discuss one slogan without mentioning another? Had I done either, listened or thought, I would have realized that others had survived and that *This, too, shall pass*.”

“When I was new, as part of her gentle nurturing, one old-timer (with whom I identify) said to me, ‘Just forget the *think* slogan—you’ve done too much thinking already. Just sit there!’ That was sound counsel for me then but she surely didn’t mean forevermore. The rewards of keeping an open mind are many, they tell me. Had I done so, I would have had a better-prepared, uplifting talk to share with you for one thing, and for another, I would not have come so perilously close to missing this opportunity to express my gratitude for the privilege of being Delegate. I am very grateful. Thank you, Penny, for giving me a second chance and thank you all for being here!”

* * * * *

Thursday evening everybody was free to relax—at theater, movie, or, the place preferred by most, at little get-togethers in the Hospitality Room.

* * * * *

Friday morning, after roll call, we had an inspiring message from Jeanne W. (Nebr.) who spoke on *One Day at a Time*.

ONE DAY AT A TIME

“This slogan has been a life-saver in our family. I often said: ‘If I had to live in fear of that next drink and it comes, I just didn’t want to live.’ Taking this program on 24-hours at a time takes away the tragedies of yesterday—and the fearful anticipations of the tomorrows.

“My life had a negative outlook on everything, faith in no one, and a lack of love for the alcoholic and for myself. Someone said at one of my first meetings that we should live each day as if it were our last day on earth.

“We begin to be grateful and start to count our many blessings. We are thankful for our mate’s sobriety, and if we are working the program, we will find serenity in maturity and spirituality.

“Living one day at a time gives us a second go-around with life and makes our lives richer and more full of the good things.

“It is plain to see why the alcoholic mate must live the program on a 24-hour basis. Problems are always there, and even the sober mate has to face everyday problems and crises.

“*One Day At A Time* has been very helpful to me, for so many days, but when I sit down to read the thought for the day, the message hits me right between the eyes. I need to be reminded when I am over-reacting to a situation and not turning my will and life over to my Higher Power, but trying everything *my* way, and managing everyone else’s life.

“Even upon my first trip to the WSC, I was upset; not turning my life over for that one day, the anticipation of my first flight, and the first big city—all this really got to me. But when I work the program, it takes a great load off me and I can accept God’s will for my life.

“The Bible tells us, in Matthew: ‘Take no thought for tomorrow.’

“These 24 hours of our sharing days together are very dear to me. Thank you for sharing your lives with me and most of all for my new life in Al-Anon.”

AL-ANON IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND EIRE

Leah B., Representative

“Hello, everybody, I am Leah from Enniskillen, Northern Ireland and I am privileged to represent the UK and Eire Al-Anon Family Groups at this Conference.

“I feel very inadequate but grateful for this opportunity to share in this world-wide fellowship that means so much to each of us.

“I should like to tell you a little bit about how our overseas structure works. It is, of course, based on the Traditions and Concepts; any changes that have been made were approved by the WSO.

“One of the main differences is that we have our own Conference; our Delegates are the District Representatives and just as you Delegates are conscious of being part of the worldwide fellowship, so our District Representatives are conscious of responsibility far beyond their own Districts.

“*Our Responsibility* was the theme of this year’s Conference—it was for only one day. Our hardworking Committee included Dorothy and Helen who were here at this WSC in previous years. We had a full agenda: Retiring DR’s Reports, GSO Staff Reports, Discussions on Motions passed at 1973 WSC, Election of District Coordinators, 1974 World Service Representative and Change of General Service Board members.

“After lunch, our Conference Chairman introduced our Handbook which was approved. We then had a Workshop on “Our Responsibilities” at District and group level. Then followed a District Forum with questions from the Districts.

“A wonderful day—and all this in a Church Hall. However, we are looking forward to this year’s Conference which we have extended to a week-end. This will give our DRs, GS Board Members, Office Staff and Committees a better opportunity to talk over problems, but mainly to help to spread the Al-Anon message.

GENERAL SERVICE BOARD

“Our Conference appoints or approves service arms for the Area. These are the General Service Board and the General Service Office, London. The General Service Office is answerable to the Board, as are any Committees appointed by the Board, and the Board itself is answerable to the Conference.

“Our Board meets twice a year for three years, and consists of members from all parts of the Area. Although our Area is tiny compared to some of yours, it includes five countries and four of these (Wales still has too few groups) have Representatives on the Board. These Representatives are in a small way, like your Regional Trustees, and we do find they spread the responsibility and the experience over all the Area. They also know the views and the needs of the groups in their own country.

“Two workers in the General Service Office are ex-officio members of the Board as are any Coordinators. Total Board membership is ten, but Chairmen of any Committees may also attend to give their reports. The board meets in London, and if more than two meetings a year are needed, we call a one-day meeting of as many members as can attend, some of whom must travel great distances.

“The Board makes the same kind of decisions for our Area as the WS Board makes for the world Al-Anon. Of course we consult the WSO on any decision which could affect world-wide Al-Anon.

U.K. & EIRE STRUCTURE AND OUTSTANDING EVENTS

General Service Office

"Our office in London, open five days a week, is staffed by volunteers except for one part-time paid worker. The services they provide for our 240 groups include:

Dealing with enquiries received by telephone or letter and passing them on to the groups.

- Producing and distributing a printed Directory of meeting places twice a year
- Keeping up-to-date records of every group in the Area
- Distributing 1500 copies a month of our Area magazine, 'News and Views'
- Keeping in contact with other helping agencies

"It has become obvious that the volunteers who serve so faithfully cannot continue to work under the conditions they now accept so uncomplainingly. At the last Board meeting we decided to find better accommodations, a difficult task, as we have so little money. But we remember that the WSO, with not much money but with lots of faith, took the plunge and found the groups did support their move to adequate quarters. And our Districts have agreed to support such a move.

Committees

"The Board has appointed three committees—The Conference Committee, which organizes the annual Service Conference, Finance, which reports to the Board on our financial state, and the Literature Committee. The latter began as the Service Handbook Committee, and is continuing with such responsibilities as:

- Considering which pieces of CAL we should print (An overseas Area gets permission from WSO to print literature instead of ordering it from WSO.)
- Assisting the World Service Representative to make the fullest use of materials received from World Service Office
- Adapting such pieces of literature as the 'Fact File' so that it can be used in our Area (Alterations other than changes in the description of helping agencies etc. are always approved by the Literature Committee and thus are CAL.)

Al-Anon in Prisons

"Our British Home Office which, strangely enough in spite of its name, is responsible for prisons in our country, is showing some interest in the part that Al-Anon can play in prisons. A member has recently undertaken to start coordinating the work now being done, which so far has been done only at group level.

THE U.K. & EIRE SERVICE HANDBOOK

"As Helen told last year's WSC, we had found the World Service Handbook did not cover our somewhat different structure. A committee was formed to compile our own Service Handbook, based, of course, on the World Service one. The completed Handbook was distributed to every Group in the Area last October. It will be experimental for three years. After that it can be altered, if necessary, in the light of experience. Many Districts and Groups have already said how useful they find the Handbook.

CONVENTIONS

"There isn't a U.K. & Eire Convention, but several national ones each year; one in England, one in Ireland and two in Scotland, and for the first time last year, there was one in Wales.

"These are all AA Conventions, but Al-Anon plays a big part in them, with an Al-Anon Committee to plan and manage. Usually the District where the Convention is to be is asked to form this Committee. Tickets sold for these Conventions usually cover all expenses, so Al-Anon need not raise any money prior to the Convention, other than a fund borrowed from the Area treasury.

"We also have a good many one-day Mini-Conventions run by a District, usually held in the summer outdoors (indoors in Ireland—it rains too much there—that's why its grass is so green!!!). These are AA Conventions, but again Al-Anon takes part, and in some cases hold their own Mini-Conventions as our Northern Ireland District did last June, possibly the first Al-Anon Convention in Ireland. Although it was only a one-day affair, it was a great success and is being repeated again this year.

ALATEEN

"Our Alateen groups fold up and re-form again fairly frequently. This may be because the founder members of a group grow too old for Alateen, and either start going to Al-Anon meetings or drift away. The groups disband until someone else who is enthusiastic starts another group.

"We now have 12 Alateen groups, some of them very active, and a need for Alateen meetings at Conventions. At the English Convention in October 1973, several Alateen members were present from Belgium and they, together with members from our own Area, organized their own Open Alateen Meeting which was well attended and aroused interest. Dublin is very active and I believe ran their own Alateen Convention.

"So far we have found it difficult to involve Alateens in District affairs, but we hope this will come.

DISTRICTS

"Our Area of 240 groups is now divided into 18 Districts; 16 of these were represented at our 1973 Service Conference. Of the remaining two, one is still not active but sent an observer (which is like a Representative to the World Service Conference) and the other has only just formed and hopes to send a Delegate to the 1974 Conference. Thus the whole Area is beginning to take an active part in affairs outside the group.

AL-ANON IN IRELAND

"Originally in 1969-70 there were only two Districts in Ireland, one in Northern Ireland and one in Southern Ireland or Eire. Both were represented at the first General Service Conference in London and brought back to their Districts news of the work being done there. Eire was too large an area for one District, but the visits of our District Coordinator who was also our WSR—Dorothy, and then Helen, spread the idea of forming more Districts, so we now have five which include all of Ireland.

"AA and Al-Anon were asked to provide speakers for a recent campaign organized by the Irish Government aided by the National Council on Alcoholism. As a result there were thousands of enquiries and many hospital admissions, as well as people seeking help in AA and Al-Anon groups.

"In N. Ireland Al-Anon is playing a very important role; it can be truly said in this fellowship there are no political or religious divisions. Members come together at group and District level with no thought or mention of the dangers in traveling to these meetings, only wishing to spread the Al-Anon message. More and more groups are being formed throughout this whole area. Change of attitudes brings peace through Al-Anon.

LOIS'S VISIT

"The finest and most exciting event in our year was the visit of our beloved Lois accompanied by Evelyn who came to the English A.A. Convention at Selsey and to the Irish Convention in Cork. But to us in U.K. & Eire Al-Anon, that Lois came to our Conference, taking part in all our discussions as one of us—sitting all day on a very hard chair—her loving simplicity and humility is an example of Al-Anon at its highest level. May she long be with us, and we can only be eternally grateful for the use she made of *THAT SHOE!!!*

"I bring messages of goodwill from the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, Glasgow, Edinburgh. England—North, South, East and West. The GSO in London. From Wales. From the Channel Islands, and most of all from Ireland—Dublin, Wexford, Kerry, Limerick, Galway, Sligo, Donegal and Cork, where this year's Irish Convention was held, and where we were honoured by the presence of Lois and Evelyn. Good wishes also from groups in Belfast, Omagh, Newry, Portadown, Lurgan, Lisburn, Londonderry (place names heard of only in the international news about bombs), most especially from my own home group, Enniskillen, which began ten years ago. For the first 2 years we had only two members, we registered with WSO—I remember how difficult it was for Tillie and me to complete that first registration card from New York! We now have a very thriving group and helped to form a District in Northern Ireland. This would not have been possible without the help given by WSO and GSO in London . . . which reminds each one of us of the theme of this Conference 'Let It Begin With Me.' We cannot allow the message of Al-Anon to end—how else would this fellowship have been so world-wide!

"I thank you all for being here and allowing me on behalf of all the folks in the United Kingdom and Eire to come to this World Service Conference and speak to you."

ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Jeanne W. (Nebr.) Chairman

"Hawaii wrote to ask about the procedure for seating a Delegate at the WSC. Our answer included a copy of the Guidelines and we hope to see Hawaii represented at the Conference in 1975!

"Vermont and Alaska have decided to defer sending a Delegate or a Representative.

"Our Committee suggested bringing the Guidelines for Admission up to date, particularly in the numerical standard for splitting an Area and adding a Delegate; at present, an Area with 200 or more groups may send another Delegate to the WSC.

"After considerable discussion, we came to the following conclusions:

1. If more of the Delegate's responsibilities could be shared by the Alternate and the DRs, an additional Delegate could be unnecessary, even for a greater number of groups;
2. The doubled expense must be taken into account, and
3. The fact that additional Delegates would decrease the participation of all at the WSC.
4. If adding a Delegate seems imperative, after thoughtful and well-organized sharing of responsibility at the Assembly level, the key number of groups would probably have to be increased to 300 or more.

"These considerations, although difficult to resolve, all point up to the marvelous growth of our fellowship.

"We are most grateful to Holly and the Delegate members of our Committee, Panel 13, our new Chairman, Irene K. (Ill. N.), Helen S. (Ont. S.) and John C. (R. I.) and our new Panel 14

members, Dolores K. (our new Secretary) (Wisc), Reba C. (Okla.) and Doreen W. (No. Dak.)"

REPORT OF OUTGOING REGIONAL TRUSTEE

Jewel S.

"As I reach the end of my three-year term, I have seen much growth in Al-Anon. To me, the most significant step was the finalizing of *Guidelines for Trustees*.

"When I first came, I was at a loss to know where my duties began and ended. Since Regional Trustees were a new concept in Al-Anon, some of us had the impression that we were still linked to our Areas and Regions, but we learned that our concern, like that of all the Board members, is for Al-Anon world-wide.

"When Loretta became Chairman of the RT Committee, she was asked to prepare guidelines and after much careful research and study, she submitted a first draft to the Board, where each item was carefully weighed and discussed, and some changes suggested. After a great deal more study and work, Loretta's final version was unanimously approved and will certainly be a big help to each of us who joins the Board of Trustees.

"I would like to quote the defining paragraph: 'The Regional Trustee brings to the Board personal knowledge of his/her Region, providing a view of that Region which is at once comprehensive and intimate. The RT does not represent a Region in the sense that a Delegate represents an Area. His concern, like that of the other Board members, is with the fellowship as a whole.'"

Jewel said she felt that the RT is at some disadvantage in having to miss the meetings of the various committees between Board meetings, but recognized that this is offset by the RT being kept informed through minutes of the meetings of the Executive, Policy and Conference Committee meetings.

She mentioned also that as of now no RT has continued through a second term, but looking on the bright side, she commented that the advantages of this are the fresh viewpoint each new RT brings to the deliberations and views of the Board of Trustees.

Jewel then closed by saying:

"This has been a rewarding experience for me. I shall miss the meetings and the exchanges with all the fine office staff, as well as the privilege of attending these Conferences. And I hope to see you all in Denver next year!"

Summary Report on the

PUBLIC INFORMATION WORKSHOP

Anne H., (Penna.) correlated the ideas which came to light at this Workshop and reported as follows:

How Do You Find and Encourage Members To Do PI Work?

"WSO should be informed of PI set-ups in the various Areas, so they will know where the various PI projects initiated in New York can be adequately taken care of.

"All use the various means available to get people to do the jobs, e.g., Assemblies, District Meetings, Intergroups and Information Services and lots of informal *personal* contacts.

"Public Information is handled very differently in rural areas than in the urban centers. In rural areas it is frequently done on an individual basis—not even at a group or District level. An Al-Anon will take it upon herself to make contact with local clergy or doctors, or perhaps an Al-Anon group will present a set of our hard-cover books to the local library. Occasionally ads are run in

local newspapers. Anonymity is of much greater concern to our members in the rural areas.

"One Workshop section suggested that WSO might work up a set of Guidelines for Rural PI work. It should be done by someone well acquainted with rural ways of doing things.

"All means available are used to report on PI projects, both written and oral, at Assemblies, District Meetings, Conventions, Workshops.

"Everyone stressed keeping complete files of work done and encouraging follow-up on contacts already made, to insure continuity when passing the job along to another member. Always date every item, every clipping, report and every scrap of paper! Valuable information can become meaningless because it isn't dated. Also, keep files and records strictly Al-Anon—no AA, no general alcoholism information—and do weed out the files from time to time. *Keep It Simple!*

"To some extent we all are qualified to do PI work, but some WSO-initiated projects require special talents.

"Most all of us make some sort of effort to include Alateen in our PI work.

How Do You Carry Through World-Wide PI Projects Initiated at WSO?

"Many Areas have PI Coordinators and many Districts have PI Chairmen. So do some Intergroups and Information Services. Communication with the PI coordinator is important.

"All the Delegates have kept in touch with WSO, according to the answers on the questionnaires. It appears that the Delegates have not had too much success in carrying out the projects initiated at the WSO.

"All felt it would help if WSO would include a questionnaire in their first mailing.

How Do You Prepare Groups to Handle the Results of PI Projects?

"Many Areas have PI Workshops at Assemblies or District Meetings, and at Area Conventions, Seminars, Round-ups or other gatherings. All have some sort of telephone contact arrangement.

"Awareness of Directory listings and how they are used is increasing. I think all are conscious of this and will alert our groups in November, when Directory cards are mailed, to the importance of returning them promptly and to the fact that names and addresses in the Directory will be used by WSO for 12th Step referrals.

"There seems to be an ample supply of volunteers for follow-up in most Areas. The greatest difficulty seems to be encountered in the rural parts of an Area.

"We all have some sort of arrangement in our groups to make newcomers feel welcome and comfortable, including all of those listed on the Questionnaire."

After our usual three o'clock break, we had the report of the 1975 INTERNATIONAL AA Convention Preparations: by Henrietta and Myrna:

"Once every five years," Myrna said, "thousands of AAs, Al-Anons and Alateens from all over the world come together in one city in the United States or Canada. This awe-inspiring event, AA's International Convention, marks the anniversary of Alcoholics Anonymous. Al-Anon and Alateen are invited to take part in this occasion.

"The next Convention honoring AA's 40th Anniversary will be held in Denver, Colorado, the Fourth of July week-end of 1975.

"Like the making of a movie spectacular, the making of a spectacular Convention takes a lot of hard work. The activity that takes place behind the scenes begins at least a year before.

"First a Committee is chosen at the WSO. Henrietta, as chief executive, chairs the Committee. As Henrietta's assistant, I serve as Secretary. The rest of the Committee are Staff Secretaries, Holly, Timmy, Josie and Ann.

"Next a Host Committee is formed in Denver. As reported at the 1973 Conference, Dorothy E. is the lovely lady who consented to serve as Chairman of the Host Committee. Dorothy made a visit to the office in January to meet with the Convention Committee. She has begun to assemble the Host Committee, officers and sub-committee chairman. As their regular meetings are held, copies of minutes, as well as other correspondence, are to be forwarded to us.

"Preliminary steps were to find out how much space and what facilities are available for us. Henrietta and I flew to Denver in March and stayed at the Denver Hilton Hotel where Al-Anon and Alateen activities will be held. The following day we made the grand tour of this fine hotel and found to our delight that there is ample space for our meetings and workshops. A spacious section off the lobby will serve for our registration purposes, literature displays and information tables.

"Knowing now that we are not restricted in our planning, we can safely promise a fuller, richer program than ever before. We want it to be chock full of everything for everyone!

"While we were in Denver, Dorothy arranged for us to meet members of the Al-Anon Host Committee. We brought with us copies of the Guidelines used by the Miami Host Committee in 1970, revised and updated. These Guidelines cover Hospitality Room, Alateen Hospitality, Literature Displays, Registration Desks, Public Information, Volunteers and much more.

"Jack M., the Chairman of AA's Host Committee invited Henrietta, Dorothy, Marge A. and me to his home on Tuesday, the evening before our return to New York.

"Two members from the AA GSO Staff, Waneta and Kleina, knowing we were planning to visit Denver, decided to fly out at the same time, so they were present at the special meeting as well. Many matters of importance and mutual concern were discussed. We are agreed that we'll work together toward one goal—a spectacular Convention.

"From the moment of our arrival, until we left, Dorothy generously made herself available as chauffeur and guide. With Jack's cooperation, she also arranged a visit to Currigan Hall, the huge Convention Center where all the AA meetings will be held. She also drove us through many beautiful parts of Denver and the Rockies. Marge A., who completed her term as Delegate in 1973, and Shirley, our present Delegate, went with us on this trip.

"We'd be grateful for any ideas you may have for this Convention; there's a Suggestion Box in the Hospitality Room—please use it!

"And do plan to join us in Denver and encourage everybody in your Area to come, too."

Then Henrietta spoke on this important subject:

"Thank you, Myrna. As Myrna said, the Al-Anon and Alateen Convention Committee includes the Staff Secretaries, but we six are not the only ones who will be deeply involved in developing the program. All Trustees and WSO Standing Committee Chairmen will also be working hard throughout the coming year, and at the Convention itself. Al-Anon's trusted servants do apply our newly-adopted Declaration, 'Let It Begin With Me.'

"Incidentally, we had originally (well over a year ago), had the idea that this would be the theme of our participation in the Convention.

"Since every step we take is subject to the approval of the AA GSO Convention Committee, we approached them about using this theme. AA found it so appealing, they may adopt it for the 1975 International. They may also have felt it would be confusing to

have two different themes for the Convention. We'll have definite word on this soon.

"In addition, to our WSO members, we must rely heavily on all you Delegates to recommend qualified, inspired, informed, vital, knowledgeable, program-oriented speakers, with varied accomplishments! We have placed some Questionnaire Forms on the table for speakers planning to attend the Convention. Please take some with you to use in recommending the people who will be going to Denver and may be asked to participate on the programs.

"I notice that we made no provision on the form for one important qualification, a sense of humor. Please keep it in mind!

"Many of you have asked, 'Is there anything I can do during the Convention if I'd rather not speak at one of the meetings?' There sure is! Both the WSO Convention Committee and our enthusiastic Denver Host Committee will need a group of volunteers to help. We have prepared a letter with a form that can be filled out by anyone who wishes to volunteer a few hours to help make the Convention a great success. Please take some of these letters with you; they're on the table, too. If you need more, just ask. Both the Questionnaires and the Volunteers forms should be mailed back to the WSO."

* * * * *

Information Services Study

Henrietta then introduced Eric E., Regional Trustee (Western Region), who spoke about a special project on Information Services assigned to him and the two other RTs, Jean A. and Jewel S., and Myrna H., of the WSO staff. This committee is to find out how to improve cooperation and communication between local services and the Area World Service Committees and to determine how local services could best fit into the Al-Anon structure.

"To launch this study," Eric said, "a questionnaire was sent to a number of Information Services, Intergroups and Delegates. The responses revealed a great lack of understanding of World Services. Most Information Services and Intergroups operate independently of the Assembly Area Structure. The reasons are various: many were formed earlier than the Area Assemblies; individuals involved often are reluctant to relinquish their authority; the WSO Guidelines are mistakenly interpreted to encourage a separate structure. Our conclusions: the study should be continued and our guidelines clarified in order to encourage a single line service structure."

Eric explained that the committee has already recommended minor revisions in the guidelines for immediate change. "We also recommend that copies of all correspondence regarding Information Services/Intergroups, particularly those with problems, be brought to the Delegates' attention. We urge that the Delegates encourage their DRs to improve understanding and cooperation with the Information Services in their Districts.

"A few recently established Information Services are working within the framework of the Area Structure. We're counting on their success.

"To gain additional experience, an experimental pilot project was initiated in Nassau and Suffolk Counties of New York. The member groups of the Nassau/Suffolk Information Service agreed to change their present structure to one proposed by our committee which brings them directly in line with that of World Services.

"The transformation was not easy. The Districts, which had never functioned in this way were now directly involved in order to make the project workable. Many kinks still need to be ironed out. But Myrna tells me that participation has already improved greatly during this brief period of re-organization.

"It must be stressed that in no way is an attempt being made

to abolish Information Services or Intergroups. The idea is to give better service locally in every way possible by insuring better cooperation throughout our service arms. This will be accomplished by having a strong single line structure starting at the Area level, to the District, to the group and by including Information Services/Intergroups in this line."

There were a number of questions by the Delegates following Eric's explanation of what this special committee hopes to achieve.

Myrna briefly expanded on the pilot project in Nassau and Suffolk counties and how the transformation was made. She summed it up by saying "You can't change guidelines unless you have experience on which to base a change. So we're banking on the experimental pilot project to provide us with the experience that can be shared with our members world-wide."

Decisions by The World Service Conference

Motions were made, seconded and passed:

- to accept the World Service Office reports (1973) as printed in the Delegates' Brochure.
- to approve as submitted the 1973 Treasurer's report and the 1974 proposed budget.
- to accept the 1973 Policy Committee report as submitted in the Delegates' Brochure.
- to accept the slate of the Board of Trustees as presented.
- to accept the FORUM report as submitted.
- to limit all contributions from individual members of Al-Anon and Alateen to WSO to \$400 per year and a one-time contribution from the immediate family in memory of a member be set at \$400.
- that the WSO may accept a one-time legacy from an Al-Anon member in any amount up to \$1,000.
- that the '74 Conference accept the recommendation of the Board of Trustees that Lois be authorized to write and produce her autobiography.
- that the Regional Trustee Experimental Plan be accepted as revised and continued as an experimental plan for another 3 years.
- that the WSO be permitted to use the World Service Handbook as currently printed and that the Conference appoint a Handbook Committee to revise the Handbook to represent the experience of the Areas.
- to accept the recommendation of the Board of Trustees not to extend the 1975 Conference over the present length.

* * * * *

We then heard the report of the Admissions Committee, after which the entire Conference separated into five sections for the

WORKSHOP

Planning an Area Al-Anon Convention

Connie D. of Connecticut, chaired the Presentation and explained the topics to be discussed by the five panels: Planning, Finances and Program.

The planning had to do with such questions as *What Sub-Committees Should be Formed; How Can Districts Be Encouraged to*

Take an Active Part? and *Publicizing the Convention*. The questions on Finances had to do with registration fees, keeping funds separate from the Assembly treasury, whether a checking account should be opened and the use of the proceeds, if any. For example, should a reserve fund be started for the following year's Convention.

The Programming section dealt with the selection of a theme: should the event be termed a Conference or a Convention; whether speakers from the helping professions should be invited to take part on panels and how their expenses would be paid. And very important, the ways to involve Alateen in the Convention.

DELEGATES ONLY MEETING

The Thursday evening meeting, which only Delegates attend, brought the following recommendations to the Conference:

1. That information to be acted on by the Delegates be in their hands no later than March 1 for reading and necessary coordination prior to coming to WSC.

Response/Action: The materials will be sent as soon as possible. Some delays have been due to postal service laxity.

2. That all Delegates receive a copy of the Board of Trustees Bylaws, as soon as possible and continue to do so in the future.

Response/Action: As the Bylaws are in process of extensive revision, the decision will be taken under advisement.

3. That the changes in the Handbook be rescinded and any proposed revisions in the future be brought before the World Service Conference for approval.

Response/Action: This recommendation was rescinded and it was agreed to continue to distribute the current printed

version. A special Handbook Committee was appointed to work out changes. Delegate members of this Committee are Elsie Q. (Calif. S.), Connie McD. (Conn.), "T" S. (Kansas), Cathy C. (N.J.), Charlotte M. (Ohio), Anne H. (Penna.) It was further agreed that review of the Handbook would be put on the Agenda for the 1975 WSC.

In addition to the above recommendations, the Delegates also voted:

To thank the Conference Committee for their work in preparing and carrying out this Conference.

To give Margaret Doorty their warmest love and appreciation as she retires as Editor of THE FORUM.

SUNDAY MORNING; THE SPIRITUAL MEETING

Speakers:		
Penny R. (Chairman)	Bev. D. (Maine)	Ted K. (Board Chairman)

The meeting was a real spiritual experience for us all. Penny made a brief, moving statement in which she quoted from Shelley: "the shadow of a starless night was thrown over the world in which I lived alone . . ." to convey her pre-Al-Anon unhappiness, and from the Bible to illustrate her understanding of Al-Anon and her new life: "Set thy house in order."

Bev and Ted, too, compared the old life with the new in beautifully chosen words and ideas.

It was a fitting close to a wonderful Conference; and a wonderful message to take back home.

WHAT YOUR WORLD SERVICE OFFICE DID DURING 1973

In April each year, a report is made to the entire fellowship, through its Delegates to the World Service Conference. In this report, Henrietta, our General Secretary, (known to outside business contacts as the Executive Director) gives an overall account of the activities of the World Service Office.

(All these activities and all decisions follow the guidance of our Twelve Traditions just as they are expected to do in every Al-Anon and Alateen group, to insure our unity and growth.)

These annual reports summarize those made each quarter to the Board of Trustees of Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc. by the General Secretary, the Staff and the Committee Chairmen.

Henrietta's broad responsibilities include coordinating the work of the Standing Committees and as Personnel Administrator, supervising the Al-Anon Staff Secretaries. She consults with the Treasurer, Carter C., and George H., Trustee, in the complex financial business of the fellowship and is responsible for preparation of the annual budget.

(Administrative decisions between quarterly meeting of the Trustees are made by the Executive Committee which then reports them to the Board.)

Henrietta also keeps in frequent touch with overseas and foreign language groups, many of whom need guidance in setting up national and local service structures. As reported by her in her talk before the Conference (Page 7) this has had dramatic results—a considerable number of personal visits from Al-Anons in

foreign lands. This is a significant factor in cementing the fellowship world-wide. Producing our literature in foreign languages is an important part of this activity, and is growing month by month. Our books have been translated into French, German, Spanish, Finnish and Portuguese, our booklets into still more, and all this material is in wide circulation both here and abroad.

Employment of business personnel in publications, shipping, group records, FORUM subscriptions, bookkeeping and clerical

work are the responsibility of Henny, who works closely with Henrietta in all these areas.

At mid-year, Myrna, our Institutions Secretary, became Henrietta's assistant. She has taken over such tasks as preparing final copy for the printer, reading proof of material to be printed and working with the Chairman of the Literature Committee as its official secretary. She is also serving as Convention Secretary in the complex preparations for Al-Anon/Alateen participation in the International AA Convention at Denver in 1975.

The other four Staff Secretaries handle the work of individual committees—Timmy W. for Alateen, Holly C. for Conference, Josie C. for Public Information and Ann S. for Institutions. Holly, Josie and Ann also reply to letters from specific geographical sections of the world assigned to each. All Secretaries attend weekly Staff meetings where they and Henrietta consider current problems and ways of improving procedures. The Secretaries also attend Conference Committee meetings each month to help make plans and set the agenda for the Conference.

The Business Staff

There are now 29 people who handle the business work of the office. Their excellent cooperation with the Staff Secretaries and Committee Chairmen and other volunteers made a smooth operation of what has been the busiest year since Al-Anon began.

Bookkeeping

Three of our people handled routine bookkeeping tasks; Henny, our office Supervisor and bookkeeper, continued to administer the employees Severance and Pension Funds, prepare the quarterly financial statement and handle all disbursements, excepting payroll and tax returns which are now prepared by an outside computer service.

The Shipping Department was moved to the 12th Floor which we leased and remodeled earlier in the year. This left space in our 8th Floor quarters for much-needed additional offices. This tremendous job was accomplished without difficulty, a real test of the cooperative Al-Anon spirit that pervades the entire operation of the office.

AL-ANON LITERATURE RESULTS

Sales of our publications were nothing short of spectacular during the past year! One reason was the greater number of groups that concentrate on Conference-Approved Literature; another, the increasing interest in Al-Anon by professionals and the armed services.

ONE DAY AT A TIME sold 62,347 copies, 16,169 more than the year before.

LIVING WITH AN ALCOHOLIC increased 1,695 copies for a total of 8,643.

AL-ANON FACES ALCOHOLISM increased 1,423 for a total of 6,095.

THE DILEMMA OF THE ALCOHOLIC MARRIAGE dropped 1,985, to a 1973 total of 8,094.

AL-ANON'S FAVORITE FORUM EDITORIALS sales totaled 4,162, or 1,087 more than the year before.

ALATEEN—HOPE FOR CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS which came off the press in November, had sold 5,294 copies by the end of the year!

The Spanish version of LIVING WITH AN ALCOHOLIC sold 1,036 copies, which so depleted the stock that a new printing will be needed.

Total Book Sales amounted to \$316,000, an increase of more

than \$76,000. Sales of other literature increased 19%, from \$254,000 to more than \$303,000. This included the profit on the sales of the French LWAA.

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REPORT OF THE LITERATURE COMMITTEE

Louise M., Chairman

The following suggestions were gratefully received at the WSC and followed by our committee:

- "Alcoholism . . . the Problem Brought Up-to-Date" was dropped.
- "Alcoholism the Family Disease" now lists the Twelve Steps on the inside front cover.

New Literature

ALATEEN—HOPE FOR CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS

This long-awaited hard-cover book appeared near year's-end and is selling well.

- "Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions for Alateen" became available early this year.
- "How Can I Help My Children? Asks an Al-Anon Member" appeared in the fall and is selling so well that a second printing has been ordered.
- "Guidelines for Beginners Meetings," mimeographed, was added to the supplementary price list.

Current Work

Still in the process of being written and edited:

- A booklet for the adult children of alcoholics
- A booklet of questions and answers derived from our literature
- A cartoon booklet for Alateen
- An expanded Fourth Step inventory
Proposed (under consideration)

With more and more professionals becoming interested in Al-Anon, and more and more members becoming professionals in the field of alcoholism, there appears to be need for a piece of literature that will answer many questions and avoid confusion.

The new material would explore such issues as:

- How does a professional qualify for membership in Al-Anon?
- How should a professional act within the fellowship?
- Should an Al-Anon member who becomes a professional break his anonymity to his clients?
- Is membership in Al-Anon sufficient training for professional work?
- The importance of placing principles above personalities, Guarding against giving advice.
- Avoiding endorsement of outside enterprises, and
- Maintaining anonymity at the public level

Revisions

Minor revisions and editorial changes were made in the following items before they were reprinted:

"This is Al-Anon"—"My Wife Drinks Too Much"—"Lois's Story"—"Purposes and Suggestions"—"Al-Anon's World Service Office"—"Al-Anon and Alateen Groups at Work"—"CAL—Al-Anon and Alateen"—"Alcoholism the Family Disease"—"Alateen Traditions"—"Al-Anon's Twelve Concepts of Service"—"World Service Handbook" and LIVING WITH AN ALCOHOLIC.

New Members

Paul K., an Al-Anon member with considerable editorial experience, joined our committee. Myrna, as Secretary, is a valuable asset to the Literature Committee.

The FORUM. 255,183 copies were mailed; 20% more than in 1972. This was due to the increase in the number of free copies sent, and in the number of paid subscriptions. Actual sales increased by \$6,000, or 19%.

Subscriptions at year's end:

1972	1973	Increase
12,061	13,986	1,925

FORUM REPORT

by Margaret D.

Working a schedule two to three months in advance makes time get a bit mixed up. The minute I'd typed "by Margaret D., Editor" of any issue, I had to begin working on the next month's. Thus I've been always deep in the future, so going back to make my annual report has always come as sort of a jolt.

In 1973 we published a condensed history of Alateen, which was well received. Many readers had had only the sketchiest idea of Alateen and were glad to know more.

There was much diversity of opinion on the question of committing alcoholic spouses for treatment, also on whether or not to join hands while saying the Lord's Prayer.

We're making a little headway in getting members to include full names and addresses in writing to the FORUM. Also we're pretty well convinced our readers that the FORUM never, never uses poetry. Far from a 100% success, but not a complete failure.

So much for the past. For the future, beginning July 1st, 1974, our talented Literature Chairman, Louise M. will succeed me as Editor, and I am gloriously happy about that!

It is high time, I believe, for me to retire. I can't tell you what a wrench it will be for me to give up The FORUM. It has been so much a part of me and my life for so long—like a child I've raised and watched grow from a tiny infant to a sturdy adult.

But before I say good-bye—or adieu or aloha might be better, since I'll never leave Al-Anon entirely—I thank everyone in the fellowship for the priceless opportunity I have had to read your letters and to write to you. I've always said I wouldn't have traded places with anyone—not even with Lois!

This past year was a sad and difficult one and it has become more and more wearing to do the job. So I'd like to retire before somebody tells me I've slipped. My husband Jack always says, when I'm practicing a talk on him, "Always end your speech while they still want more." I hope that's what I'm doing now.

I am stopping with a fairly light heart knowing the FORUM will thrive with Louise as its editor. But I'll surely miss all of you. For more than twenty years you've given me your generous support, encouragement, praise and love. I have the deepest gratitude to God, and to Lois who first suggested that I edit the FORUM (and AFFE as well; I love leaving a permanent record behind me)—and to all Al-Anons and Alateens everywhere.

My love and thanks to you all, always.

GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

Henrietta S.

Group Services

More than 8,000 groups and Lone Members throughout the world were served during the year. Each proposed group received a welcoming letter with suggestions for procedures and programs, a free packet of literature and a FORUM. After registration, each also received the current World Service Directory, "Al-Anon and Alateen Groups at Work" and, to those with

Conference representation, a World Service Handbook. A free copy of the first printed edition of the Handbook was sent to all registered groups in the U.S. and Canada. All English-speaking groups and Loners received a free FORUM subscription, a Conference Summary and a Directory. ALATEEN TALK went bi-monthly to all Alateen groups and Loners; to the Spanish groups, the mimeographed AL-ANON/ALATEEN EN ACCION each month.

The World Service Directory

The tremendous growth in numbers of groups made it necessary to publish our Directory in two parts; one for the U.S. and Canada, the other for overseas groups. The latter was distributed at mid-year.

Unfortunately nearly half the groups in the U.S. and Canada neglected to return the data card which had been sent out the previous November. Many changes came in after the January deadline and so could not be included because the Directory had gone to press. There were even longer delays in return of data cards from overseas groups.

All groups are urged to provide us with this vital information promptly so the Directory listings can be made as accurate and up-to-date as possible.

Frequent changes in groups' mailing addresses continue to be a vexing problem. Often we are informed of a change in a mailing address without a change in the group's telephone contact. This prevents correct referrals and leaves people out in the cold who desperately need Al-Anon.

It is therefore extremely important to notify the WSO immediately of any change of address and contact. If a group uses a Post Office mailing address, someone should be appointed to see that the rent is paid on time.

Neglecting to keep the WSO informed means a staggering financial waste as well. In addition to the original postage, we have to pay 10¢ for each return plus another 10¢ to re-send it. Added to this waste of funds, there is the cost of staff time and handling. *It is a serious obligation for every group to let us know of changes that will need to be made in the next printing of the Directory.*

Mailing and Mimeographing

Postage and shipping expense increased to \$48,870, or \$8,100 more than in 1972. This was due to the re-mailings mentioned above, to more orders, higher costs of packing materials and a heavy increase in the number of letters mailed, 42,267 more than in 1972, for a total of 148,851. Packages shipped increased by 23,614 for a total of 74,517. Mimeographed sheets processed rose to nearly half a million!

Ten group-wide mailings included the tri-annual appeal letters, a letter about our film, LOIS'S STORY, announcements of new literature (an index for AFFE, the new Alateen book, Alateen Twelve and Twelve, and the booklet "How Can I Help My Children?") notice of a special discount on our three service manuals and the Directory letter. These totaled about 70,000 of our 148,851 pieces of outgoing mail. There were over 4,000 items in PI mailings. The balance was in letters to Delegates and other Area Committee members, guidance for overseas service centers and clerical and business correspondence.

General Correspondence

A steady flow of answers to inquiries resulting from favorable publicity accounted for many hundreds of individual letters.

By far the greatest number of inquiries from within our fellowship could well have been handled at the local or Area level, or by referring to our Traditions. All were answered by members of the staff. Typical are these:

Do our Traditions discourage holding open meetings?
 Objections to taking of attendance
 Would any problem ensue from handling Al-Anon literature lists to AAs who are interested in introducing Al-Anon to their wives?
 Can a group be over-organized?
 How do you keep alcoholics from attending our meetings?
 Is it proper to ask a four-year member who cannot attend regularly to chair a meeting?
 Can one belong to more than one group? Hold office in both?
 Has an Intergroup the right to suggest that groups be established for a while before informing the WSO?
 Will the WSO provide identification badges designed as a butterfly?
 How do you prepare an Al-Anon/Alateen literature display for an AA convention?
 Why can't an Al-Anon member, who is also in AA, be elected to an Al-Anon office?
 Should a member be asked to leave the group because she had phoned another member's home about delivering Avon products and told the active alcoholic she would give his wife the cosmetics at an Al-Anon meeting that evening? (The alcoholic hadn't known his wife was in Al-Anon)
 Complaints about members discussing who attended meetings and what transpired, with their husbands, both in AA and not
 Requests from outside agencies for our Directory
 Professionals interested in starting Al-Anon and Alateen groups
 A PI chairman asking the WSO to influence the local Intergroup to purchase \$300—\$500 worth of literature for PI projects
 Complaints about Schizophrenics Anonymous using our literature
 Misuse of group funds to buy gifts for individual members
 Why is there "East Coast" and "West Coast" Al-Anon literature?
 Should a couple whose daughter is in a mental hospital be allowed to attend Al-Anon meetings?
 Why doesn't the WSO encourage the formation of groups for the deaf?
 A group which had voted to invite professionals to occasional meetings was "ordered" to disband by the AA group with which Al-Anon shared meeting facilities (but without paying its own way)
 Questions on eligibility for membership
 From a group in Ireland, why their GSO in London should look to them for support
 A request that WSO share a detailed list of outside publications on extraneous subjects (finances, sex, smoking, etc.,) which a member had found helpful
 Many complaints of gossip and domination of groups by individual members, causing disunity
 A suggestion that the FORUM promote a multi-vitamin approach to the treatment of alcoholism because it had helped a member's alcoholic husband when all else had failed
 How can a group meeting in a hospital fulfill our 7th Tradition on self-support?
 A recommendation from a sponsor that Transactional Analysis be made part of the Alateen program

Objection to announcements of Serenity Retreats at Al-Anon meetings

A group that explained its reason for not contributing to WSO because all their funds were needed to support AA's central office and answering service, which also did Al-Anon work

"Many of these questions," Henrietta commented, "could have been resolved at the group level if the members knew and used the Traditions. In other cases, the GR could have brought the problem to a District meeting or sought the help of the Area Delegate."

FOREIGN LANGUAGE AL-ANON

French.

The French Literature Committee (FLC) in Montreal is the WSO's agent in the translation and production of the FORUM and CAL. It services all French-speaking Al-Anon/Alateen groups in the world. The Chairman, Alberte C. and the translator, Harriet L. work on a monthly fee basis.

By means of careful planning, Alberte managed to arrange that the functions of the FLC were carried on without interruption during her hospitalization and convalescence early in the year. The routine work of the Committee was in competent hands also during her month's vacation in Europe in July, during which she had fruitful meetings with members in Belgium and the two Intergroups in France.

(A detailed report of the FLC follows this section)

Belgium. During the two days Alberte spent in Brussels last summer, she conferred with Alice B., the chairman and Renee, secretary of the Brabant Intergroup and four other Al-Anon members.

French Al-Anon there is completely subordinate to AA. Before forming an Al-Anon group, the consent of the AA group is asked. The annual Convention is held jointly and a theme imposed upon Al-Anon. Al-Anon would like to hold a study day apart from AA but no one has had the courage to ask permission.

Alice has tried to overcome this situation, but explains that the membership is too passive, not yet capable of asserting themselves and assuming their full responsibilities. Alberte explained to Alice that similar situations had been a problem in certain sections of the U.S. and Canada until recent years. This subordination to AA was a hangover from the early days when many Al-Anon groups were mere AA auxiliaries.

It was suggested that the FORUM carry an article about the domination of Al-Anon groups by local AAs and the topic was covered in the November 1973 issue under the title: "Affiliate? NO! Cooperate? YES!" When the French edition is available, there will be something in print so that Alice can back up her position.

The Brabant Intergroup's keen interest in the film, LOIS'S STORY, required production of another copy of the French adaptation, which was leased to them and shipped, in late November, directly from Montreal to Brussels.

France. Alberte also met with members of the two French Intergroups, Quai d'Orsay (Paris) and Yvelines (Versailles) between whom rapport seemed to be lacking. She suggested a joint meeting of the two Intergroups, an idea which met with little enthusiasm at first. Subsequently she sent to the WSO correspondence received from the d'Orsay Intergroup concerning difficulties of arranging payment for literature through legal channels. Part of the problem was that a male member had had himself recorded as President of Al-Anon in France, without election by the groups. Members of Les Yvelines cooperated with those of the Quai d'Orsay Intergroup and formed a working committee to resolve the problem.

Marie-Odile, secretary of Les Yvelines, corresponds regularly in English with the WSO. She explained the scheduling of a joint meeting of the two Intergroups and representatives of all the French groups on December 12 at the Quai d'Orsay. The President resigned and a new committee made up of a president, a secretary and a treasurer was elected for a one-year term. The committee was registered with the Prefecture of the Seine, and a newly-created service, *Brochures Al-Anon France*, under the supervision of the General Service Committee, has been granted permission to reprint CAL.

This interim committee is to lay the foundation for a national Al-Anon General Service body. An initial project is to take over the bi-monthly publication *Le Chaine* and a special committee is exploring the possibility of publishing it monthly as an informative bulletin to keep all members in France aware of Al-Anon's development and encourage participation in provincial groups.

Al-Anon took part in a popular TV program on December 4 resulting in more than 250 inquiries and a request for Al-Anon to organize a special meeting in early January for medical and social workers. The WSO forwarded material for the meeting and copies of the mimeographed form letters we use in replying to prospective members, students and professionals.

(This report, covering just one foreign country, is included in some detail (though not complete!) to give our Al-Anon members an idea of the kind of problems in which their WSO is constantly involved. It accounts in large measure for the extraordinary growth of Al-Anon overseas.)

Report of the French Literature Committee

This report, by Alberte C. Chairman, was translated by Harriet L., who was also responsible for the widely-acclaimed translation of ONE DAY AT A TIME into French.

"Our Committee has just taken an important step: for the first time we have been invited to participate in the World Service Conference. In serving French groups all over the world, the FLC is a part of the World Service Office.

"The publication of the French version of ODAT was our major accomplishment of the year. Since its publication in October, 3,750 copies had been sold by year's end, of which 300 went to France and 100 to Belgium. In January, the revised second edition of the French version of LIVING WITH AN ALCOHOLIC came off the press. Thanks to our translator's continuous hard work, we will soon publish, for our Alateen groups, *Youth and the Alcoholic Parent*."

"The World Service Handbook has now been translated, including the 1974 revision, and will be available in April. At present, Harriet is working on *'Al-Anon's Twelve Concepts of Service'* and will soon be revising *'Al-Anon and Alateen Groups at Work.'*"

Alberte then went on to explain the difficulties of keeping up with the translation of the FORUM. It has thus far been impossible, with their limited help, to keep pace with it issue by issue. Cay C., Panel 7 Delegate from Quebec, has been enlisted to speed up this work. Alberte explained that, in order to be up to date by 1975, two issues per month will have to be translated.

She is certain that Cay and her committee will meet this challenge.

The FLC serves 183 Al-Anon groups in Quebec, four in New Brunswick, 10 in Ontario, two in the USA, 28 in Belgium, 25 in France and seven in Switzerland. A Twelve-Step Correspondence Service is available to our 38 Lone members and a first contact has been made with three persons elsewhere—in Brazil, Chile and Martinique.

"We have almost doubled our book sales for the year (\$12,159.85 for 1972 compared to \$24,058.62 for 1973.) For January 1973 our

sales totaled \$776.35; for the corresponding month of 1974 we sold \$2,290.16.

"Our Assistant Clerical helper has prepared and mailed 1,163 parcels of literature, 271 letters to group secretaries, members and individuals, 1,583 official communications to groups, 35 Al-Anon and five Alateen free starter packages in addition to orders for one, two and as many as ten books at a time. Although most of our publications are now in printed form, 65,000 sheets of mimeographed material were also processed.

"We are deeply aware of our responsibility toward all the French groups and will continue to serve them to the best of our ability."

* * * * *

Spanish

Argentina. Early in the year, Lilian C. secretary of the General Service Office (GSO) in Buenos Aires wrote to Henrietta that an Intergroup was being formed. This was welcome news, since it relieves the GSO of planning the monthly joint meetings of the local groups and allows more time to cope with the growing problems of Al-Anon at the national level.

In June, when Lilian C. was in our office (see page 7), she brought our mailing list of Argentine groups up to date. She told Henrietta that Al-Anon now has legal status, recognition as a non-profit organization.

The list of Spanish reprints of CAL, for which we granted permission, is expanding gradually. They can now place much larger print orders than the original 5,000, and will soon need a reprint of the Spanish LIVING WITH AN ALCOHOLIC.

Much new interest in Al-Anon was created by a TV broadcast in which a member took part. Though it was a personal invitation, she sought the advice of the Buenos Aires Intergroup P.I. Committee on her answers to questions to be asked during the interview. It resulted in many new members and visits by social workers and even by the Vice-President of the National Council on Alcoholism.

A new Information Center is being started in Rio Gallegos (more than 2800 kilometers from Buenos Aires) and an AA, referred by the CADA (Argentine Committee on Alcoholism) came to the GSO to find out how to establish mobile Al-Anon groups there because distances are so vast.

Colombia.—A former member of Bogota who now lives in London, wrote that she volunteers regularly at the GSO of the United Kingdom. She started a new daytime group, and earlier in the year visited a Spanish-speaking group in Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Members in Bucamaranga asked for guidance about domineering members; also how to best participate in the June 1974 AA convention. An Al-Anon Information Service has been formed and its secretary writes to us frequently.

El Salvador. Good results were reported from special efforts in Public Information. The General Services sent us copies of their new reprints of *"Alcoholism the Family Disease"* and *"Purposes and Suggestions."*

Mexico held its first Trial Al-Anon Conference in Oaxtepec in September; 23 members participated, including Delegates from nine States and the Federal District. Susy K., secretary of the GSO in Mexico City, did a hurried translation of the Service Handbook for use at the Conference. To encourage representation, Gloria, a member of the GSO, spent a week before the Conference in Yucatan. She found only three of the 20 groups really active. Her hard work with these groups resulted in Yucatan paying the expenses of a Delegate and an Alternate to attend the Conference.

There is considerable confusion about Al-Anon and AA rela-

tions in Yucatan. The secretary of a new group there asked the AA group's permission to form an Al-Anon group; some AAs attend Al-Anon meetings regularly.

The final act at the Conference was to disband the Mexican Al-Anon General Service Committee and elect a seven-member Board of Trustees, with Articles of Incorporation drawn up by a lawyer. The Board applied for legal recognition as a non-profit organization and a special permit to allow entry of Al-Anon literature duty-free. A copy of the Spanish "*Why CAL?*" was given to each Delegate, Alternate and GR to discourage the use of non-CAL in Mexico. The trustees are now working toward accumulating a literature fund so they can start publishing.

The WSO received a photograph of the Conference members which we had framed and hung in the office of Teresa, our Spanish correspondent.

Other Spanish-Speaking Countries. Correspondence has been very lively with many other Spanish-speaking groups around the world. They are obviously growing in numbers and in program quality. New Spanish groups are on the increase in the U.S., too.

Additional service material we provided this year included the PI Workshop at the 1972 World Service Conference and a sample letter for professionals.

Flemish

LIVING WITH AN ALCOHOLIC has been translated into Flemish by an AA member and is now being edited by five Al-Anon members. The AA translator asked that his name appear in the finished book, a request which was naturally denied because of our Tradition of anonymity. (No author or translator of Al-Anon literature has ever been identified, a decision inherited from AA itself)

During the year several more pieces of CAL in Flemish were added to our foreign publications.

In December, Karel M. secretary of the ADB for Belgium and The Netherlands, acknowledged receipt of the film, LOIS'S STORY. From the time of its arrival in July, it had already been widely distributed, with many more showings scheduled.

The film is fostering spiritual growth in our own fellowship and creating greater understanding between AA and Al-Anon. As Karel wrote: "This visual contact with the founders of Al-Anon, the WSO, employees and staff is very beneficial for our worldwide union." He also asked whether such informal get-togethers as Lois's picnic were common in the U.S. In Belgium, he said, the social get-togethers are more formal, such as a large supper or a card-and-dance evening.

Finnish

Early in the year, we received 22 complimentary copies of the beautiful Finnish edition of AL-ANON FACES ALCOHOLISM from the Al-Anon Kustannus r. y. in Helsinki.

The translation of the revised version of DILEMMA was reviewed by our AA friend Mikko, and returned with his corrections to Marjatta in Finland.

Twelve hundred AA, Al-Anon and Alateen members attended a joint Convention the first week-end in November in Riihimäki. It was most inspiring and a huge success.

We sent Marjatta complimentary copies of our new Alateen book and the new pamphlet, "*How Can I Help My Children?*" for translation.

German

The annual meeting of the working committee of the Zentrale Kontaktstelle (the Service Center for Germany) was held in Munich, with the Swiss groups represented. It was agreed to en-

courage groups in Germany to subscribe to M+F, the Al-Anon periodical published in Switzerland.

Our request for special prices on WSO orders for CAL printed in Germany, earlier refused, was reconsidered at the October meeting of the working committee in Aschaffenburg; our orders are to be billed at cost price. The Swiss General Service Committee agreed to combine future literature needs so all German literature can be produced in Germany.

New items included: "*A Guide for the Family*," "*Homeward Bound*" and "*Sponsorship: What It's All About*." Five thousand copies of LIVING WITH AN ALCOHOLIC were published; ten copies were sent free to the WSO. As soon as their funds have recovered, they will produce "*Freedom from Despair*," "*Why is Al-Anon Anonymous?*" and "*What Do You Do About the Alcoholic's Drinking?*" Translations of "*Lois's Story*" and "*What's Next*" were reviewed and corrected by Alice B., and by Ursula P. of Salt Lake City and returned to Germany with our permission to print. A review of their translation of "*Alcoholism the Family Disease*" has been undertaken by an Israeli-born member of a local group. Some members in Germany are impatient over the length of time it is taking to review the translation of ODAT. It is a tremendous job and we are dependent on the volunteer services of Ursula alone for completion of the work.

Al-Anon and AA have been closely interrelated in Germany, but both are becoming aware that the two fellowships are separate. Al-Anon is making every effort to become independent of AA, but this will take time. Near year's end, Ursel, secretary of the Zentrale, sent the WSO a copy of her letter to the Committee members, indicating how time-demanding and complex the secretary's work at the Zentrale Kontaktstelle has become. She submitted her resignation as Secretary but offered to stay on if an immediate successor was not available, provided she could be relieved of some responsibilities.

Swiss

In the spring, Jean B., secretary of the Swiss-German Al-Anon General Service Committee, wrote for advice on accepting an invitation to have three Al-Anons on an AA board. Several years earlier we had agreed that it would be useful to have one Al-Anon serve. Jean wrote:

"Since then relations have improved tremendously so that we are always informed of AA activities in radio, TV, public meetings and other activities. Because AA is registered as a charity and I am a board member, Al-Anon has benefited in the printing of literature. As Swiss Al-Anon has now discontinued printing, however, this is no longer important."

We questioned the advisability of increasing the number of Al-Anon members on the AA board and suggested that having one Al-Anon serve would maintain the cooperative situation.

The Swiss/German Al-Anon committee, formed in 1969 with representatives from each group, was restructured in June to provide a more workable unit. Jean is remaining as Contact of the reorganized committee which will also include the editor and subscription chairman of M+F, a treasurer, and representatives from four regions of the country. M+F, the Al-Anon monthly in German, celebrated its 5th Anniversary in January with a "bumper edition." It has more than 700 subscribers.

Japanese

Our lone member in Kodaira, Tokyo, sent us copies of a bulletin for families of inmates of an Alcoholic Rehabilitation Hospital, in which she is using articles about Al-Anon. The mimeographed talks transcribed from the Al-Anon sessions at the Miami In-

ternational AA convention in 1970 are providing her with material.

Portuguese

Members in Sao Goncalo, Brazil, where Portuguese is spoken, were sent the Spanish version of "Al-Anon Information Services" and subsequently formed and registered a local service.

In June, two busloads of AAs, Al-Anons and Alateens made a two-day excursion to a town in Rio, where they put on a meeting from which a new Al-Anon group was started. Later in the year, the Grupo Fenix of the same city sent us an enthusiastic report of their First Anniversary, attended by more than 200 AAs, Alateens, as well as social workers, doctors and other "outsiders." AAs and Alateens helped serve refreshments; the latter also baby-sat with younger children in another room.

Ten Al-Anon groups took part in a First Al-Anon Workshop in Sao Paulo planned by the General Service Committee. A second workshop was held later in Minas Gerais.

Other Languages

The secretary of a group in Ceylon, Republic of Sri Lanka, reported that the "Flame of AA and Al-Anon is still burning." He sent copies of their newsletter, a portion of which was in the national language, *Sinhalese*, since most of the natives do not know English.

We have received requests for literature in *Polish*, *Yugoslavian*, *Ugandan* and *Italian*.

A *Swedish* translation of sections of LIVING WITH AN ALCOHOLIC was done in Finland.

Various members from distant parts of our Al-Anon world (British Columbia, Canada and England) have volunteered to help with Polish translations.

ENGLISH AL-ANON OVERSEAS

U.K. and Eire. Early in the year two copies of the revised District Representatives' Handbook were sent to us to prepare for discussing it with Helen M-S when she came for the 13th WSC. The Handbook had been approved at the 4th U.K. and Eire Conference in October, but the Handbook Committee had some improvements to suggest for the final version to be adopted at the end of three experimental years. (They wish to make the term of their Representative to the WSC one year—or two at most. We agreed this would be acceptable since the Conference Charter does not stipulate a three-year term for overseas Representatives.)

Dorothy H., Chairman of the Handbook Committee, wrote that their GSO had been asked, by South Africa and some Australian states, for help in developing Al-Anon structure. She sent them samples of U.K. material and suggested that they should, nevertheless, look to the WSO for guidance. "It was from there that all our help came, with the result that our growth and development progressed with as little difficulty as possible."

At year's end, copies of the Summary of the Fourth Conference were mailed to the WSO. It was decided to extend next year's Conference to two days, providing suitable accommodations can be found.

At the annual October meeting of the Al-Anon General Service Board, a committee was appointed to investigate other premises for the London office as its present location is inadequate for their needs. The editor of "News & Views," their monthly magazine, asked that a WSO member do a special series of articles on the Steps, Traditions and Concepts, for which Margaret D. volunteered.

Australia. Minutes of the Fourth Australian Conference held in Perth, W.A. at Easter weekend indicated that much time and effort had been given by the various state sub-committees throughout the year and by the Delegates at the Conference to understanding the "Twelve Concepts of Service." It would have seemed more practical to begin by establishing a national Al-Anon structure before concentrating on this complex body of principles, since no practical application is possible until there is such a structure. In all other countries where an Al-Anon Conference has come into being it was preceded by an Al-Anon General Service Committee, forerunner of a Board of Trustees which usually functioned in a centrally located Al-Anon office.

This year the Delegates are again reviewing the Concepts and the Service Handbook with their sub-committees with a view to the possibility of dividing their states into districts with elected representatives.

Diane Z., secretary of New South Wales CSC, wrote that she and the chairman were the Delegates to the Conference. They agreed it would have been better to have Delegates who were not carrying the responsibilities of the Central Service Office. At mid-year she wrote: "I am beginning to appreciate in practical terms the advantages of an Australia Service Office. The Victorian Delegates are more experienced and competent than I am and after another year's work, we are looking forward to meeting them on their home ground next Easter when the Conference will be held in Melbourne. We think it should be held there permanently because of its geographical situation instead of following the AA Convention around the continent every year."

A number of Australian states questioned our decision to permit NSW to reprint ODAT. We explained that the Executive Committee was influenced by demand vs. the difficulty of keeping a supply on hand. Since it takes two to three months for shipments to reach Australia, producing the book there would be a solution. The favorable terms quoted by a local printer, and financing through a bank loan made possible by Al-Anon members' guaranteeing repayment, were also deciding factors. As soon as the book is in print, NSW is to advise the other Australian states where their orders can be placed. None of the profit on sales is to come to the WSO. It will be held in a reserve fund by NSW for the national Australian Al-Anon Conference.

Here are some highlights from letters, bulletins and minutes of CSC meetings from all states:

- Request from *South Australia* for use of excerpts from CAL in their monthly newsletter.
- A report in booklet form received from *Victoria* entitled "Alcoholism the Family Disease," of the Sixth Leonard Ball Oration, chaired by Sir Charles Burns of the National Society of Alcohol and Drug Dependence, New Zealand. It included most favorable comments on Al-Anon and Alateen. Al-Anon was again invited to present a paper at the Summer School in January, 1974.
- Request from *Western Australia* for suggestions on their draft of guidelines for volunteers' office duties.
- Because of the need of a paid worker, *Victoria* initiated "Operation Gratitude" to raise funds. Members were invited to register to receive monthly contribution envelopes.

New South Wales moved into larger offices and engaged a staff worker. In response to our questioning the wisdom of the NSW Central Service Committee's joining the Council of Social Services, it was decided that they would withdraw from membership.

A letter from their Newsletter editor read: "We have our annual meeting of Delegates next week with election of officers for the coming year. The year 1972-73 has been so rewarding—great

progress with growth of unity. Enquiries for information now come from many sources and we are trying to rally sufficient Al-Anon power to meet the demands. It is all very promising and stimulating."

New Zealand. We had considerable correspondence with NZ Al-Anon Service Center and the Auckland Service Center; the similarity of names made it difficult to know which was the national body.

After sending them copies of "Al-Anon Information Service" and "Guide to Overseas General Service Structure," the NZASC wrote to all Delegates about a name change and informed us (just in time for listing in the World Directory) of their new title: *New Zealand Al-Anon General Services*. Glad M., Secretary, wrote that the National Conference in August was to consider remodeling their structure according to the World Service Handbook. The Auckland Center has also changed its name: *Auckland Al-Anon Information Service*.

A lengthy reply, on which Mary S. and Lois were consulted, was sent to four N. Z. Delegates who had sought our views on a problem of a "First Lady of Al-Anon" in NZ whose attitude and recent actions completely disregarded our Traditions and Concepts. Copies of the letters from the four Delegates and our reply were sent to Glad M., as well as copies of our Bylaws and the "Guide to Overseas General Service Structure."

Mavis, the Al-Anon Field Representative, sent us an outline of the talk she gives on visits to groups around the country. Both she and Heather wrote that all were deeply moved at the viewing of LOIS'S STORY.

In the fall, we received a summary of the 1973 August Conference which reported as follows: It was decided to increase the annual contribution to WSO from \$100 to \$150; the film had more than paid for itself; there is a need for better group support to provide more adequate Travel Funds for Delegates attending Conferences; Delegates from Northern and Central Areas were increased to three each; initiation of GRs to meet periodically in the various Areas; postponement of their General Service Charter for further consideration.

Margaret McD., editor of the NZ annual Al-Anon magazine, sent us a copy of the 1972 issue with a request for an article from someone at the WSO for the 1973 edition.

South Africa. Many letters and a lengthy telephone call were received early last year from Margaret S., secretary of the newly formed Witwatersrand AIS in Johannesburg, concerning problems they were having with Al-Anon General Service in Pretoria. It came to light that the AGS had been functioning since 1963 on a simple definition of their Aims and Objects, with no provision for election of Trustees or rotation of responsibilities. Further correspondence with Essie T., secretary of the AGS, recommended that thought be given to establishing a General Service Board for South Africa Al-Anon. We sent copies of our corporate Bylaws and the *World Service Handbook* to help them develop their own Conference with Delegate representation and a Board of Trustees.

In reply to a cabled request in April, we advised Essie T. that it was too late to admit a Representative from South Africa to the 13th World Service Conference. Because of the tight WSC agenda, it would not have been possible to consider SA's General Service structure at that time and postponement to a later date was suggested. This would give more time to consider SA's problems and share the experience of other overseas countries in establishing their national service structures.

Later, Margaret S. came to New York at her own expense and spent most of the week of August 27th at the WSO with various staff members who answered her many questions. Some of the problems of AGS in Pretoria were touched on. Margaret planned to report to AGS and the groups affiliated with AIS.

Later the AGS secretary wrote about the expansion of their Executive Committee and the chairman's suggestion of starting a Provisional Provincial Committee which would be the forerunner of provisional representation to their annual Conference. This proposal had been unanimously approved at their 1973 Conference/Convention. The chairman hoped to visit all South African provinces to encourage support for the idea.

Toward year's end, Sue K., former secretary of AGS for many years, requested three copies of the WS Handbook and reported that much of the past year's controversy re: their GSO had been cleared up.

Trinidad, West Indies. Secretary of the San Fernando group wrote that their Al-Anon meetings differ from those in the U. S. Members attend open AA meetings for the first half of the evening, then the Al-Anons meet separately after the coffee break. Though East Indians are in the majority in the AA group, many are reluctant to have their wives attend.

* * * * *

REPORT OF THE ALATEEN COMMITTEE

Carole K., Chairman; Timmy W., Secretary

This report, gives a vivid picture of the tremendous growth, in size and activity, of the Alateen part of our fellowship. All this points up again the importance of having many more Al-Anons ready and willing to act as sponsors for Alateen groups.

Two members of the Alateen Committee had to resign during the year: John L. (Trenton, N. J.) due to a heavy school schedule and Amy S. (Flushing, N. Y.) who had a baby girl in May. Fortunately we found two excellent replacements: Martha E., Alateen Coordinator for N. J. and sponsor of the Ridgewood group, and Robin G. of the Fairlawn (NJ) Post Alateen Group.

Lu C., (Utah) a Delegate member of the Committee resigned and was replaced by Diane S., who as Alternate Delegate, will fill out Lu's term. Diane is a former Alateen sponsor, and Alateen Coordinator for Utah.

Much time was spent throughout the year on the question of Preteen Groups. At its January meeting, the Board of Trustees asked members of the WSO to present arguments for and against registering and servicing these groups. The resulting material was sent to the WSC Delegates so the matter could be discussed in their Areas to provide them with material for discussion at the WSC in April 1973.

All this entailed much correspondence and telephoning to get the opinions of as wide a cross-section as possible.

Despite all this preparation, no decision could be reached at the 1973 Conference and a special committee was formed to study the subject further. A questionnaire was prepared by the Committee and sent to the Delegates in June, with a follow-up in September. About fifty Areas responded but much of the material was voluminous and duplicated, so it took much time to coordinate it into a report to the WSC in 1974. An article in the December issue of *Area Highlights* reminded the Delegates to be prepared to vote for one of the three alternatives at the Conference. (Details on page 8)

The three final installments of the History of Alateen were sent to the groups with the February, April and August issues of ALATEEN TALK.

We worked with Louise, Chairman of the Literature Committee, on the final editing of our new hard-cover book ALATEEN—HOPE FOR CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS. All the in-town members of our Committee read the manuscript and gave their

suggestions. Final editing of our new booklet "Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions for Alateen" was also completed.

"Guidelines for Alateen Coordinators" were mailed to each Coordinator. Some excellent suggestions from the Coordinators themselves were incorporated in it. They also received a paper entitled: "How Alateen Conferences Can Better Relate to the WSO and Their Areas." It spelled out a plan to draw Alateen Conferences (which are springing up everywhere!) into the Al-Anon structure through the Area Alateen Coordinators.

Alateen Conferences continue to flourish. Carole and Timmy attended the following: Fourth BIG MAAC (Middle Atlantic) at Frederick, Md.; Fourth METRO (N.Y. and N.J.) at Staten Island, N. Y.; Fourth NEAC (New England) at Saratoga Springs, N. Y. and the 12th ESAC (Eastern Seaboard) at Atlantic City, N. J. Timmy also attended the Second Midwestern Alateen Convention at Itasca, Ill. It is very clear that our attendance at these Conferences creates much good will and makes WSO come alive to Alateens and their sponsors.

Other Alateen Conferences about which we have been informed: Third SCAC (Southern California) in April; Second Northern California Alateen Conference; Fifth TAC (Texas) in April at Brownwood, Texas; Second Interprovincial at North Battleford, Sask. in May; First EAR (Eastern Alateen Roundup) in July at Camp Carolina Retreat; Ninth Southeastern Alateen Roundup in Memphis, Tenn. in December. BIG MAAC became so big that it was decided to split into MINI-MAC, (Maryland and Washington, D. C.) NO-MAAC (North Mid-Atlantic) for Penna. and Del.; MEAC (Mid-Eastern (Va., W. Va. and No. Car.))

There was a tremendous surge of interest in Alateen in New South Wales (Australia) in 1973. The first Workshop was held in June with 83 Alateens and Al-Anons participating. Theme: "For Greater Unity and Growth in NSW." The Federal Minister of Health sent a telegram saying that Alateen is one of the best resources he knows of for young people. The first Alateen Camp was held in December with 94 full-time campers and several others who came for two days. There were Workshops, recreation activities, meetings and a combined spiritual meeting on Sunday morning. A beautiful week-end! Nine new Alateen groups have started in NSW during the year.

The rapid growth in Spanish-speaking countries keeps our bilingual secretary, Teresa, busy writing to groups in need of help. She has translated the mimeographed sheet "Alateen Speakers' Suggestions" as well as the article, "Alateen, Junior Segment of Al-Anon" from the August issue, 1971, of ALATEEN TALK. The latter was for the newsletter which is sent to all Spanish-speaking groups. It emphasizes that Alateen is a part of Al-Anon, not of AA, and urges Al-Anon members to sponsor Alateen groups, although AAs may, in case of need, serve as co-sponsors.

A letter from Socorro, an Al-Anon member in Vera Cruz who sponsors an Alateen group, told of taking a busload of Alateens to the Puebla AA Convention where they performed the Jarocho, a traditional dance, in native costume. The audience was enchanted with the performance and with the Alateens' attitude in general. An Alateen member, Laura, volunteers at the Comité de Servicios Generales Al-Anon in Mexico City and helps with translating. She is working for the unity of Alateen in Mexico.

Alateens are continuing to participate in Area Assemblies, particularly in West Texas and Florida, where they held their own workshops. Timmy attended the Florida Spring Assembly with more than 35 Alateens participating in a special workshop with lively discussions.

ALATEEN TALK was published six times during 1973 and groups buy a good many extra copies at 10¢ each. A free copy is sent to each Alateen Coordinator, Information Service (Inter-group) and Newsletter Editor.

Tri-annual appeal letters were sent to all Alateen groups. Many contribute to the WSO, some most generously. The Alateen Conferences often send a handsome surplus to help continue our world-wide Twelfth Step work.

During the year, 517 letters were written to new or proposed Alateen groups, enclosing free packets of material. This included six Post-Alateen, 19 Spanish-speaking groups, three Institutional and two Young Alateen groups. We also wrote 242 letters to interested individuals, enclosing literature. Many of these came through a story in the May issue of SEVENTEEN MAGAZINE.

Letters from outside agencies wanting to start Alateen groups numbered 14. All were sent the special sheet, giving information about Alateen's relationship to Al-Anon and the necessity of having Al-Anon sponsors. We included the name of a contact for the nearest Al-Anon groups, and wrote them at the same time, asking them to cooperate by sponsoring an Alateen group.

Of the 227 letters written to groups, some were "problem" letters which required considerable consultation with other staff members; in some the Area Coordinator and/or the Delegate were also involved. There were 17 letters to Delegates, 31 to Alateen Committee members, 29 to Coordinators and 12 to Alateen Conferences.

REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Penny B., Chairman; Henrietta S., Co-Chairman; Holly C., Secretary

Staff Secretaries Ann, Josie, Myrna and Timmy also serve on the Conference Committee.

One of the most exciting developments of the year was the production of the "World Service Handbook" in printed form for the first time. A free copy was sent to each Al-Anon and Alateen group in the U.S. and Canada and given to each Delegate at the 1973 WSC. We are most grateful for the many glowing comments on the Handbook's new printed format.

The 1973 Conference Summary was mailed to each English-speaking group with the August FORUM. A small supply was sent to the General Service Offices of foreign groups for distribution.

Delegates were given an opportunity to request additional copies of the Summary for distribution in their Assembly Areas. Requests for 10 to 25 copies totaled more than a thousand!

Our annual work on the Conference Committee is divided thus:

January to March

We compile the WSC agenda and make final plans with the hotel (arrange for meals, special Regional Trustee Luncheon, room reservations, space for meetings and workshops), and work closely with the Hospitality Committee Chairman, (badges, brochures, special lists, etc.). Penny prepares a Conference budget which is reviewed at the January meeting of the Board of Trustees.

April to June

Recommendations from the Conference are reviewed. All presentations and motions of the Conference are compiled for the Conference Summary.

July to September

Plans started for the following year's Conference: selecting a theme, planning the agenda and choosing subjects for panels and workshops. Suggestions of the Agenda Committee, which meets during the Conference in April, have been most helpful.

October to December

Lists of the incoming panel are compiled and a letter of welcome is sent to each newly-elected Delegate. The Area World Service

Committee is asked to list all its DRs and officers on a form which we provide. These forms are referred to frequently by our secretaries when they write to the elected Area Coordinators. When a Coordinator is unable to complete a full term, we make the necessary changes on the master list.

A quarterly report—AREA HIGHLIGHTS—is mailed in triplicate to the Delegates in March, June, September and December. Extra copies are for distribution by the Delegate to members of the Area WS Committee. If the Area has a newsletter, one copy is also mailed to its editor who may use material from AREA HIGHLIGHTS for the information of GRs and the groups.

Mailings to Delegates. Information on new and active groups and copies of contribution slips, are mailed with the FORUM each month to be shared with the DRs. A copy of the annual Directory letter mailed to each group is sent also to each Delegate to share with the Area WS Committee.

Copies of the tri-annual appeal letter are sent in March, July and November. Many Area newsletters reprinted the appeals to reach the widest possible audience.

PANEL 14 DELEGATES. As soon as the names of newly elected Delegates were received at the WSO, each was assigned a second-year Delegate to act as his/her Conference sponsor. Many lovely letters were received telling us how helpful this plan has been to the incoming panel.

Your Conference Secretary, Holly C., thanks each and every Delegate for their prompt responses to our letters. It has helped us to maintain up-to-date lists of the Area World Service Committees and provide better service over-all.

INSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Jo K., Chairman; Ann S., Secretary

During the past year, Delegates, Institutional Chairmen, Coordinators, Al-Anon members throughout the world did a great job of carrying the message of hope to families of alcoholics in institutions.

Alateen groups in institutions showed a substantial increase. We received an abundance of valuable material on meetings, formats, programming and public information. All this reflects the deep interest and dedication of our membership.

Mid-year, Ann S. became the new Staff Secretary of our Committee.

Institutional Groups. New groups were established in Fontana, Hollywood, Long Beach, Taconia, (Cal.) Hartford, (Conn.) Alamoonte Springs, (Fla.) Atlanta (Ga.) Chicago, Joliet (Ill.) Louisville (Ky.) New Orleans, (La.) Togus (Me.) Baltimore, Cumberland (Md.) Saginaw, (Mich.) Crookston, Jordon, Minneapolis, (Minn.) St. Louis (2), Alateen (1), (Mo.) Albany, East Meadow, (N. Y.) Berkeley Heights, Jamesburg, (Alateen), Marlboro, Summit (N. J.) Greenville, Rocky Mountain (Alateen) (No. Car.) Cleveland, (O.) Malverne, Pittsburgh, (Pa.) Lynchburg, (Va.) Milwaukee, (Spanish-speaking) Wausau, (Wisc.) Brandon, Manitoba (Canada)

Institutional Highlights. Four issues were published in 1973. We are grateful to the many members who sent material. Institutional Coordinators, and Information Services (Intergroups) have been added to our mailing list. Several Newsletter editors used excerpts from it.

Annual Letter. In July the AA GSO again helped by addressing the envelopes for the 1800 letters sent to AA Institutional Groups offering Al-Anon's help to relatives and friends. Our letter resulted in many referrals from groups in all parts of the world.

Institutional Correspondence. Requests for information and literature came from many professionals in this field. One result was the placing of literature in several V. A. Hospital libraries. To those professionals who wanted to establish Al-Anon groups, we explained that such groups are always started by the membership. We also informed the Delegates and/or Institutional Coordinators of these inquiries and suggested they make contact with the inquirers.

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE

Hank G., Chairman; Josie C., Secretary

The Committee continued to meet at regular intervals throughout the year. Many projects were initiated and developed.

Public Service Spot Announcements. Production of TV spots started early in 1973 and were completed in time to be introduced at the WSC in April. They were favorably received and have been selling well. Complete sets of eight spots were more in demand than the two sets of four spots, so the latter were not ordered.

We are also encouraging their use wherever a 16-mm. sound projector is available and films about alcoholism are being shown, (PTA meetings, industry, health fairs etc.) A local telephone or P. O. box number can be announced at the end of the showing.

Industry. Our introductory packet for industry, "Al-Anon, a Resource for Labor and Management," was developed and is being used to launch our Labor-Management program.

The National Council on Alcoholism published an editorial, "Alcoholism, a Family Disease," by Don Sandin, in the March-April 1973 issue of their Labor-Management Alcoholism Newsletter. The editorial describes how Mr. Sandin's firm, Merrill Lynch, is using Al-Anon in their alcoholism recovery program. NCA gave us permission to reprint and it is now part of our Labor-Management packet.

Western Electric and IBM are working with us to explore ways to use Al-Anon more effectively.

Our Introductory Packet for Industry is still in the formative stage. Changes will be made as we work more closely with various employee and military personnel programs. Meanwhile the material can be ordered directly from the WSO at 35¢ per packet.

"PI Guidelines for Labor-Management Projects" were developed for our members and are available from the WSO at 15¢ each. We are hoping to coordinate our efforts with members-in-the-field when working together on national or international projects.

Participation at Annual Meetings.

The American Personnel and Guidance Association. Its national convention, held in San Diego, Calif., was attended by over 7000. Aura C. (Panel 10 WSC Delegate) was our official representative.

The National Council on Alcoholism held its annual meeting at the Shoreham Hotel, Washington, D. C. The local Al-Anon groups planned their annual open meeting to coincide with this event. The Reverend J. L. Kellermann was the main speaker. The open Al-Anon meeting was announced in the NCA program, the first time an Al-Anon event had been included. Margaret R., (Panel 11 WSC Delegate, Va.) was our official representative. We are to present a Workshop at their 1974 meeting.

National Conference on Social Welfare held its 100th annual Forum at the Atlantic City Convention Hall in N.J. We were officially represented by Ruth K. of the N.J. Intergroup.

National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA, of the Department of Health, Education & Welfare) held its Third Annual Alcoholism Conference at the Shoreham Hotel, Washington, D.C. Margaret R. (Va.) again was our official representative.

The American Medical Association. We participated for the first time at their annual meeting and exhibit held at the Coliseum in New York. A very important breakthrough for Al-Anon! We were officially represented by Nancy R. (New York S.) Panel 12 Delegate to the WSC.

The National Medical Association. We took part in their exhibit at the 78th Annual Convention and Scientific Assembly held at the Americana Hotel in New York City. Nancy R. again was our official representative.

Alcohol & Drug Problems Association of North America. Its 24th Annual Meeting was held at the Radisson South, Bloomington, Minn. We participated in their program for the first time, and, at their request presented two mini-Workshops. 1) "*Al-Anon, Its Relationship to Labor and Management*" with William B. Cowan, Western Electric; Lewis F. Presnall, Kemper Insurance; William Dunkin, Ass't. Director Labor-Management Division of NCA and Charles Johnson, Associate Director of Labor Services, NCA. 2) "*Al-Anon, Its Relationship to Community Services*" with Reverend J. L. Kellermann, his associate James F. Emmert, John C. Flanery, Director NCA, St. Louis, Mo. and our Minnesota Delegate, Lucille C.; Hank G., Chairman of the P I Committee, was moderator.

Our professional display was sent to all these exhibits and was seen by thousands of people. This resulted in many requests for additional information.

Magazine Articles appeared in SEVENTEEN Magazine, "*My Father Was an Alcoholic.*" PARENTS Magazine, "*Are We Overlooking Our No. 1 Drug Problem?*" Our P. O. Box 182 was listed at the end of both articles. An article "*Problem Drinker at Home?*" by Barry Leach, PhD, appeared in the Claretian Publications. These are but a few of the many articles and stories that have appeared during the year.

The Dick Cavett Show released a two-part program on alcoholism in April. Many TV stations announced local Al-Anon telephone numbers. In the national broadcasts, our P. O. box number was flashed on the screen at the end of the second program along with addresses of NCA, AA and NIAAA.

VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE REPORT

Evelyn C., Chairman

As I do at each Conference, I give my heartfelt thanks for the great work done by our little army of local volunteers. Although it is getting harder to find members to do the every day chores we need help with, to lighten the load of our heavily-burdened staff, a few do come regularly the whole year through. A listing of their achievements will give you an idea of what real dedication can accomplish:

Preparing the FORUM for mailing, (23,000 copies per month); stapling for different types of distribution; stuffing into envelopes.

Helping to sort thousands of letters received as a result of articles in newspapers all over the world, and coding them with the nearest group to which each inquirer was referred. Stuffing the group-wide mailings, such as Appeal and Directory letters, and many other things!

Another group that Al-Anon couldn't live without—our Volunteer Chairmen and their committees who concentrate all year long on special segments of Al-Anon—FORUM Editorial, Alateen, Conference, Investment Advisory, Literature, Policy, Institutional, and Public Information.

I must not overlook a special thanks to those nice people who staff the Hospitality Room at our Conference at all hours, ready to welcome even the first early-bird Delegate!

I've saved this thanks for last: to all of you wonderful volunteers—our Delegates—who, over and above your once-a-year appearance at the Conference, labor ceaselessly to bring all Al-Anon closer together. Thank you all from the bottom of my heart.