

15th World Service Conference

AL-ANON

Al-Anon Family Groups New York, New York

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Our Conference Theme: TRUST . . . OUR WATCHWORD

"Trust . . . our Watchword" is the ideal which holds our fellowship together. We are interlocked through the trust we place in one another, on every level of our service, whether it be group, Assembly, Delegate, Board of Trustees, or World Service Office staff.

Our program, rooted in spiritual ideas, must also rest on a temporal foundation. We put our trust in the workers in our World Service Office, and by virtue of the Third Concept, grant them the right of decision in dealing with our business affairs, with the publishing of our literature, and exchanging ideas and information with our members throughout the world. These are the channels which carry our message, and that message is one of love—and trust.

The Opening Banquet . . .

The formal opening of the 15th Annual World Service Conference took place Tuesday evening, April 22, with a banquet held in the Windsor Ballroom of the Commodore Hotel, where the Conference was being held.

Ted, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, read the invocation; Penny, our Conference Chairman, welcomed the Delegates and introduced the WSO officers and staff, beginning with Lois, who spoke graciously and lovingly, as always.

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Ted's Welcome to the Conference

"This is the sixth time I've had the privilege of welcoming the members of the Conference. That privilege comes with being Chairman of the Board of Trustees, but actually I feel it is more fitting to introduce myself in the way we all know best. I'm Ted, and I'm a member of the Hazlet, New Jersey Al-Anon Group. Hi, everybody!

"I want to extend a very special welcome to Panel 15. And I urge you, from this moment on. *Participate*—ask questions—

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OPENING BANQUET

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Penny then introduced the guest speaker of the evening, Blanche D., of Texas (West).

Blanche's wit and deep perception dramatized the story of how she had come to Al-Anon.

She began by thanking the alcoholics who had so generously shared their program of recovery with us, then pointed out the paradox of the Al-Anon program, "in which the more you give away, the more you keep" . . . and of how one learns to hold on by letting go.

Blanche reminded us of our responsibility to ourselves. "You have to do what is necessary for your own serenity, before anything else. Each of us must be responsible for our own behavior and our emotions; we cannot accept that responsibility for others. We are free to plan our actions, but we cannot plan the results.

"Love with an open heart," Blanche told us. "What I lose by releasing was not mine from the start."

She spoke of how closely her personal life as the daughter of an alcoholic related to her first difficulties in accepting the program.

When her husband's drinking became a problem she turned to Al-Anon. Where once she held back from learning from others, she told the dinner guests, she has now found there's a wealth of knowledge to be had—from teenagers, from those of different ethnic groups and even from those who lack formal education.

There was much to be learned, and she learned it, for growth in Al-Anon is a learning process. Painful at times, but "pain has been my motivation for change." And her life changed radically for the better. As she found herself, she found God as she understood Him. She found a new way of life, learning to love, to give love, without asking for it in return.

Blanche closed by expressing her gratitude to Al-Anon and to all her many Al-Anon friends who gave love for itself, and not as an answer to a need. She thanked the Conference Committee for inviting her to speak, "By letting me give my thoughts to you tonight, you have contributed much to me."

TED'S WELCOME

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make yourself heard. Never forget this is an AL-ANON meeting, so relax—or try to.

"Now let me take a few minutes to talk about our Conference structure; it may help to clarify much of what is to come.

"The Conference is made up of the WSO Staff, the Volunteer Chairmen, the Board of Trustees, the Executive Committee, and last, but certainly not least, you Delegates. Staff members are: the General Secretary (known to the outside world as the Executive Director), her Assistant, the Controller and the Staff Secretaries. They are here to report on the old year's activities and to help plan the new. This provides the vital element of continuity from Conference to Conference. We look to them for the broad perspective on the needs of Al-Anon as a whole, for the working staff is engaged in endless correspondence with individuals and groups around the world. Only by virtue of Concept 3, the Right of Decision, can they meet the tremendous demands of day-to-day service. This is no small task when you consider that every action they take is subject to review by other elements of our structure."

Ted explained that each Standing Committee consists of a Volunteer Chairman, in-town members, 6 Delegate members, and usually a Staff Secretary. Each functions in a specific area: Institutions, Literature, Alateen, etc., serving as innovators for World

Service. According to Concept 11 they support the leadership vested in the Trustees, and even share that leadership.

"The Conference has entrusted to the Board of Trustees the responsibility for the World Service Office. According to Concept 6 the Trustees are chiefly held responsible for our service activities and world-wide public relations; they spearhead the formulation of Al-Anon policy and its execution; they are the guardians of our Twelve Traditions, and as our bankers, they are responsible for all funds and investments.

"You may wonder how sixteen people, meeting only four times a year, can carry responsibilities of this magnitude. The answer lies in the theme of this Conference: TRUST. For much of this work must be delegated; to the General Secretary and the Staff, the Volunteer Chairmen and their Committees, and to the Executive Committee. They carry out many of the duties for which the Trustees are ultimately responsible and with this charge to act goes the Right of Decision; otherwise there could be only stagnation."

Ted went on to say that the Executive Committee of seven members meets each month to hear reports and assist the General Secretary and the Controller. They review administrative actions, projects proposed by the Standing Committees and later make recommendations to the Board.

"Since the Executive Committee acts with the full legal powers of the Board (as provided in Concept 8) it makes a complete monthly report of its actions to the Board.

"Concept 6 states that the Trustees should be the *second* most influential group in our fellowship. Most influential is the Conference itself, the largest part of which is made up of the Delegates. Through the years all have been keenly aware of the trust placed in them by their Areas, for it is to the Areas, through the Delegates, that the WSO and the Trustees must report and from whom they must take direction. By virtue of Concept 4, the Principle of Participation, the WSO and the Trustees are guaranteed the right of both voice and vote in all issues considered at the Conference. But it is the Delegate body, acting for the groups, which will determine the future course of Al-Anon. The Concepts implicitly recognize the responsibility for Al-Anon's welfare which you have accepted.

"And now some thoughts on the week ahead."

Ted then spoke of various items on the Agenda and described an innovation to be put into effect at this Conference:

"Each day, following the final session, the WSO members gather at a capsule meeting to review the day's work and to re-schedule unfinished business. We believe this mini-meeting could benefit from participation by Delegates, so we will be inviting some of you to join us for those few minutes each evening. Penny will tell you more about this."

Ted then talked about the Delegates Only meeting, which the Conference had agreed to continue. He said he would attempt, at the full Conference session, to define the relationship that should exist between the DO meeting and the Conference as a whole.

"Our most difficult task," Ted continued, "would be discussion of the Handbook.

"Last year the Conference decided to attempt a revision and much work has already been done. We can't be sure that either the work done by the Delegates' Handbook Committee or that done by the WSO represents a finished product. All of us have been victims of a rather large misunderstanding. When the Committee was appointed last year, I, and the other members of the WSO, naturally expected this Committee to function as our Committees always have, with correspondence channeled through the WSO. So it was a matter of great concern when we learned that a draft with extensive revisions had been prepared and widely distributed in December, without either the Conference or the WSO having had an opportunity to review it.

"With so little time left to review the revisions, and no opportunity to share in the large volume of correspondence which obviously preceded it, we called upon Lois who had always served as Chairman of the Handbook Committee. Working with the Staff, Lois made an analysis of the preliminary draft and established a line of communication, between her, the Chairman of the Handbook Committee and the Delegates. That's about where we are now. As much time as possible will be given for adequate consideration of all points of view. One pre-Conference meeting of the WSO and the Handbook Committee has already been held. When a final revision does become a reality, let's hope that future revisions will not share the fate of this one.

"I have rambled on and I know you're anxious to get going. I'll close simply by saying that, with the help of our Higher Power, I know this Conference will once more be an example of our unity—and mutual trust."

Ted then read the Twelve Traditions . . . which has become a tradition in itself at the World Service Conferences.

OPERATION DELEGATES' HEADSTART

Since 1972, this guide-to-a-Delegate's-job has been an opening feature of our Conference. It has been of immeasurable help to first-year Delegates who now, with the help of the more experienced Conference members, can tackle the job with confidence. This year the event was chaired by Bonnie H. (Cal. N.) who introduced the program and her panel:

"The Delegates who spoke at my first Operation Delegates' Headstart meeting really helped prepare me for the Conference and my responsibilities to the Northern California Assembly.

"The Panel 15 Delegates who have joined us this year are probably as excited and overwhelmed as I was two years ago, sitting here wondering if I could absorb enough, retain it and deliver it to those who had put their trust in me.

"The Delegate is the channel through which information flows two ways; the Conference gives us each an opportunity to share as well as receive.

"Ideally, each new Delegate should have had a careful, thorough briefing before he or she attends the first Conference. I strongly urge you to listen and take notes at each session.

"And now, Gwen, from Manitoba, is going to tell us about

Getting Ready for the Conference.

"I can't stand here tonight and tell you that I was prepared for my first Conference," Gwen began. "Nor that I did too much getting ready. I realize now how totally unprepared I was, yet I knew that's the one that needs the most getting ready for to prepare ourselves mentally for the job ahead. We are so deeply aware of the trust that has been placed in us by our Areas that we want to be as ready as is humanly possible.

"Of course I did the basic things: answered correspondence, sent copies of the Workshop questionnaires to our Area, compiled a resume of the returns, made my plane reservation, packed my bags. But that is about as far as I was 'ready.'

"As I approached my first Conference, I was so overcome by the enormity of it all that I never even thought to ask our past Delegates what was ahead.

"I made a book full of notes, but somehow the whole Conference seemed to go by in a blur. I had no idea what I was going to make of my notes. On my way home, I panicked, but I knew that I would have to deal with this dilemma of my own making. I had a report to prepare by the following week-end.

"The first evening home, I tried to put all the material together, but nothing worked. The second night, as I sat with my head on

my hands praying for guidance, suddenly, just like a light going on and taking away the darkness and confusion, the whole Conference flashed before me and everything came clear. I can't describe the feeling I experienced; I felt as though I were floating. Never again will I doubt that my Higher Power will give me the help I need if it is to be.

"As I was getting ready for my second Conference, I was able to prepare in an orderly fashion, and so again this year.

"A word to the new Panel 15 Delegates: If you have any doubt or questions, or you're feeling uneasy and overwhelmed by it all, ask any of us old timers, now, before the Conference gets underway.

"Our theme, 'TRUST—OUR WATCHWORD' tells me that Confidence and Faith will carry us through."

Bonnie thanked Gwen for her inspiring message and then announced:

"I thought I should assign at least one chore to myself, so I'll tell you my thoughts on

Getting the Most Out of the Conference

"To me this means I must tune out the world and become totally involved with the happenings at each session. It is important to remember that even though a particular issue does not apply to my home District, it may be of interest and value to the Area I represent. Therefore I must take notes of all reports and meetings because my groups are counting on me to share this information with them.

"Each night when I get to my room, I review the notes I have taken during the day and edit them as necessary so they will be perfectly clear whenever I want to refer to them. Because I have to give the Conference Report on Saturday after returning home, I work up an outline of my report. By the time I get back to California, I am ready to share the World Service Conference with my Area Al-Anons.

"Getting to know the other Delegates and exchanging experiences and ideas with them has been a great help. It is important, too, to visit the World Service Office and get to know the staff members some time during the Conference. They have given me a great deal of strength and help during my term.

"It is so important to capture the mood of each session in order to share it with the Area. It has a great effect on the listeners as well as on me and I am so grateful for this program and the opportunity to serve that I want to share the enthusiasm and loving warmth as well as the pertinent facts, figures, policies and decisions of the Conference.

"To sum up: Get your thoughts, impressions and facts down on paper as soon as you can, while enthusiasm and inspiration are undiluted by home and local level activities."

"And now Peggy from Texas (East) is all ready to tell you how she goes about

Reporting Back After the Conference.

"I like to recall the time when I was nominated and elected to be Delegate, and think of what was involved, what my responsibilities would be. I knew I had three things to rely on in spreading the news of the Conference all over my Area: my notes and the Committee Reports, and my memories, to be followed later by the Conference Summary, which would give everyone a permanent record of the events and decisions.

"Like Bonnie, I made it a point each night when I returned to my room, to review the day, all the interesting happenings, all the matters decided. Those notes then become the basis of my report. With everything fresh in my mind, I expand and clarify my notes, spicing them with a record of the warmth and enthusiasm I found everywhere.

"In delivering the message, I begin with our Assemblies. We have two a year, with two-and-a-half hours allotted for speakers. Of this I use from 45 minutes to an hour. Many Delegates, I know, have more time to give their reports but in Texas we don't have all that much tolerance for listening. I do impress on the assembly the importance of carrying back to their groups as much information as possible, and I send reports to each GR as well.

"I make charts that clarify specific matters that have been brought up before the Conference and show them, as well as a display of Conference-Approved Literature which I carry with me wherever I go. One of the points I also make is how the WSO, the Trustees, Volunteer Chairmen and Staff, operate as our trusted servants, ready to help and cooperate with any part of Al-Anon. One way or another, I manage to blanket East Texas with news about the Conference.

"After I've given my report, members will come up to me and say that it made them feel as though they'd actually been at the Conference themselves and that makes it all worth while!"

Bonnie thanked Peggy for her interesting statement, then introduced the next speaker, Lucille from Minnesota, who spoke on

Working in the Assembly Area

"It all begins," said Lucille, "with the Delegate's Report on the Conference. As soon as I get back to Minnesota, I send an outline of what was covered at the Conference to all Officers, DRs, Co-Ordinators and Liaison Members. This outline gives them an incentive to attend the Delegate's Report Session.

"One method we've used in giving the report is to call a special Report Assembly in Minneapolis or St. Paul. Members come from all over the Area to hear it. Another method is to have the Delegate cover the Area and give the report in five or six key locations with the DRs and members from that District attending.

"By that time we are preparing for the next Committee meeting where the Delegate calls attention to any new material from the WSO concerning Literature, P I, Institutions, Alateen and service work. We then discuss the best ways of using this material throughout the Area. The DRs are urged to hold District meetings between the Committee meeting and the full Assembly. This provides a good program for their District meetings.

"At our spring Assembly I showed the new P I material, posters and mats, and the new Alateen cartoon booklet. I handed out notes on my report to all key people, again highlighting the important points, to help the GRs and DRs in reporting to their Districts and groups.

"Our Area Assembly is scheduled at the same time as the spring and fall Al-Anon/Alateen Conference, held in a different part of the state each time. The Delegate speaks to the Conference on areas of service work and encourages all members to participate. I have used the same displays as were used for the Assembly.

"Between Committee meetings and Assemblies, I keep in touch with the key people and whenever possible, work with them on their projects.

"For example: for the past two years the Alateen Coordinator and I have been working with Alateen sponsors in the Twin Cities to set up on-going Sponsors' Meetings. The Sponsors will continue these meetings on their own, a model for other Sponsor Meetings throughout our state.

"Promoting unity between Intergroup and Area Assembly has resulted in gratifying cooperation. Just one instance: the St. Paul Intergroup helped to unite all groups in the St. Paul-Minneapolis Districts in financing the use of our spot announcements on television.

"We Delegates also have the responsibility to prepare for Workshops and Standing Committee meetings at the WSC. This involves informing the GRs and DRs about these Workshops in advance

of the Conference and getting their experiences in the areas to be discussed. When I learned about our Workshop program, I sent questionnaires on Rural Group Problems to the DRs to share with the GRs. Another questionnaire was sent to learn about Al-Anon/Alateen involvement in Alcoholism Treatment Centers. Sharing information to help prepare the Delegate for these agenda items, gives our members a greater feeling of involvement and more interest in the Conference Report.

"We regard finances as important, so we give each DR a report of group contributions in their Districts twice a year. This is confidential information, used only to make groups aware of the importance of contributing to World Services. I also report to the Assembly our membership growth, as well as our total contribution to the WSO.

"The Delegate's Corner in our Area newsletter is available to keep members aware of happenings world-wide and in our Area, and to interest them in participating in the Assembly by sending a Group Representative.

"To sum up: the Delegate's job is to keep in close contact with every element in the Area. These contacts have given me an opportunity to share, inform and encourage, an interchange which has been of immeasurable help to me. True, it takes much time and effort, but the rewards are abundant; there is joy in the very duties."

Lucille's statement was greeted with applause. Then Bonnie called on Ruth of Kentucky to give her ideas on

You're Not Finished Until the Last Day of Your Term—and Then Some.

"To me, my subject is so obvious that I wonder why we need even to talk about it. My blue badge tells you I am one of those Delegates who will need to remember that I'm not finished. No matter how much we do, there is always lots more to be done. The last three words really say it all:—*and then some!*

"It hadn't even occurred to me to think about the time when I would be finished with my responsibility as Delegate. Oh, sure, I know that by the calendar on January 1st, 1976, I will no longer be a World Service Delegate, and I've even thought—but only fleetingly!—how nice it would be to sit down and read a book instead of feeling I should be writing to someone about something.

"Really, this topic goes to the very heart of something more important, namely *responsibility*. What are my responsibilities to World Services? To my Area? Where do they begin and end? For me they began two-and-a-half years ago when I was willing to let my name stay on the blackboard when Kentucky was electing a new Delegate. I was saying then, if elected, I will do the best job I know how. It has been a learning and a growing experience from which I have benefited far more than my Area or World Services.

"It's been work, sometimes real hard work. I've had to do things I don't much like to do, such as writing lots of letters.

"It has taught me to discipline my time better in order to practice our first two Legacies: Recovery and Unity. I've discovered that whatever I learn at one level applies to others, that all three sides of our triangle, Recovery, Unity and Service, are interchangeable. 'Practicing these principles' has to apply when I'm working in my Area or at this Conference, just as it does in my home or at my group. 'Principles above personalities' applies at all levels, so I can hear what is being said rather than who is saying it.

"Kentucky was not always divided into Districts. Convincing our groups that they need to elect a GR and then a DR was not always easy. Pioneer work rarely is. We still have a long way to go but we have progressed and grown. We now have DRs in all our Districts, all of them willing to do the job.

"And what does that 'and then some' mean to me? It means I

remain active when I am no longer a Delegate, using what I have learned these last three years to continue work in my Area. Anything less than that wouldn't make sense to me. What a waste it would be if I were to become inactive after I finish my term. This is what gives continuity to our structure. The new Delegate will have a learning period just as I did; it's my job to prepare her or him for the role of Delegate. In the past, the Delegate has become our Area Chairman. If we continue this practice, God willing, I'll remain active.

"But if not in that capacity, there will be another place to serve. That's what it's all about—SERVING, service and responsibility. Will all of us continue to be active to the last day of our term—and beyond? Are we willing to do the 'and then some?' The answers have to come from each of us."

Wednesday Morning April 23

After Penny had called the roll, we had a brief but moving welcome from Lois which set the spirit of our Conference.

Henrietta announced the continuing and new members of the Standing Committees and told us where each would have its meeting.

Those not on a Standing Committee were free to attend the meeting of his or her choice.

	Panel 14	Panel 15
ADMISSIONS:	Doreen W. (N. Dak.) Reba C. (Okla.) Dolores K. (Wisc.)	Joy C. (Ont. No.) Isabel R. (Puerto Rico) Julie J. (New Mexico)
AGENDA:	Joan P. (Alta.) Dot H. (Ga.) Mary Ellen McG. (Wash.)	Eunice D. (Wyo.) Betty M. (Ia.) Jackie O'C. (Neb.)
ALATEEN:	Shirley B. (Colo.) Betty W. (Ore.) Mary Y. (W. Va.)	Agnes L. (Ark.) Barbara S. (N.H.) Lois B. (Sask.)
INSTITUTIONAL:	Virginia H. (Ala.) Betty McK. (Ariz.) Louise B. (Va.)	Dorothy D. (Nev.) Rose M. (N.Y. So.) Pat McC. (La.)
LITERATURE:	Alice T. (Atl. Prov.) Diana W. (Miss.) Jean S. (Mont.)	Louise J. (Maine) Anna Marie B. (Utah) Martin D. (Ill. So.)
PUBLIC INFORMATION:	Norma McG. (Mass.) Walter H. (No. Car.) Theresa F. (Que. E.)	Irene R. (So. Dak.) Darlene P. (Ida.) Ruby D. (So. Car.)

After the meetings, we all gathered for luncheon at 12:15.

Wednesday Afternoon

One of the important features of our Conference—the reading of Annual Reports—included questions and discussion from the floor.

ANNUAL REPORTS: WSO ACTIVITIES

Report by Ted K., Chairman, Board of Trustees:

And We Continue to Grow

Ted thanked all those who have contributed so much enthusiasm and energy in their efforts to spread the message . . . "the folks back home" at the group, District and Area levels, as well as

the assembled Delegates.

"This year, as in the past, my report focuses on the continued growth of our fellowship. We passed the 9,000 mark in groups registered with the World Service Office by the end of the year.

"WSO's serenity was certainly tested this year," he told us. "In February and March telephone service was wiped out by the worst fire in telephone company history. The staff managed to continue its work, but the fire did delay renovation of our new floor, which was needed to accommodate new additions to WSO staff. It was completed just in time for visits by Conference members.

"At the January meeting, the Board of Trustees authorized appointment of a full time Controller. Henny, for many years our Head Bookkeeper and General Office Supervisor, took on the added responsibilities of this post. A writer is also to be added to our staff."

Ted spoke of our expansions at a time when the uncertain nature of the economy might have discouraged such undertakings. But we weathered last year's storm quite nicely.

"Last year's Public Information effort was at an all-time high for Al-Anon. Carried on with the Traditions firmly in mind, Al-Anon's cooperative effort with the producers of DRINK, DRANK, DRUNK! helped to present our fellowship to millions who might have searched for years before they ever found an answer to their problems."

Ted closed with best wishes to the Delegates and the groups they serve.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Carter C.

We are fortunate indeed to have as our Treasurer a man who brings to the guarding of our funds his long experience, both legal and financial. Although ours is a spiritual program, we could not continue our work without a sound financial base. This is why our Concepts specify that our funds be administered prudently.

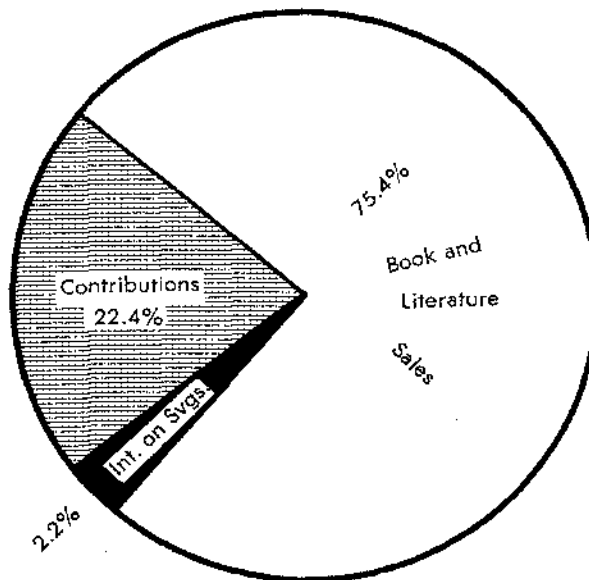
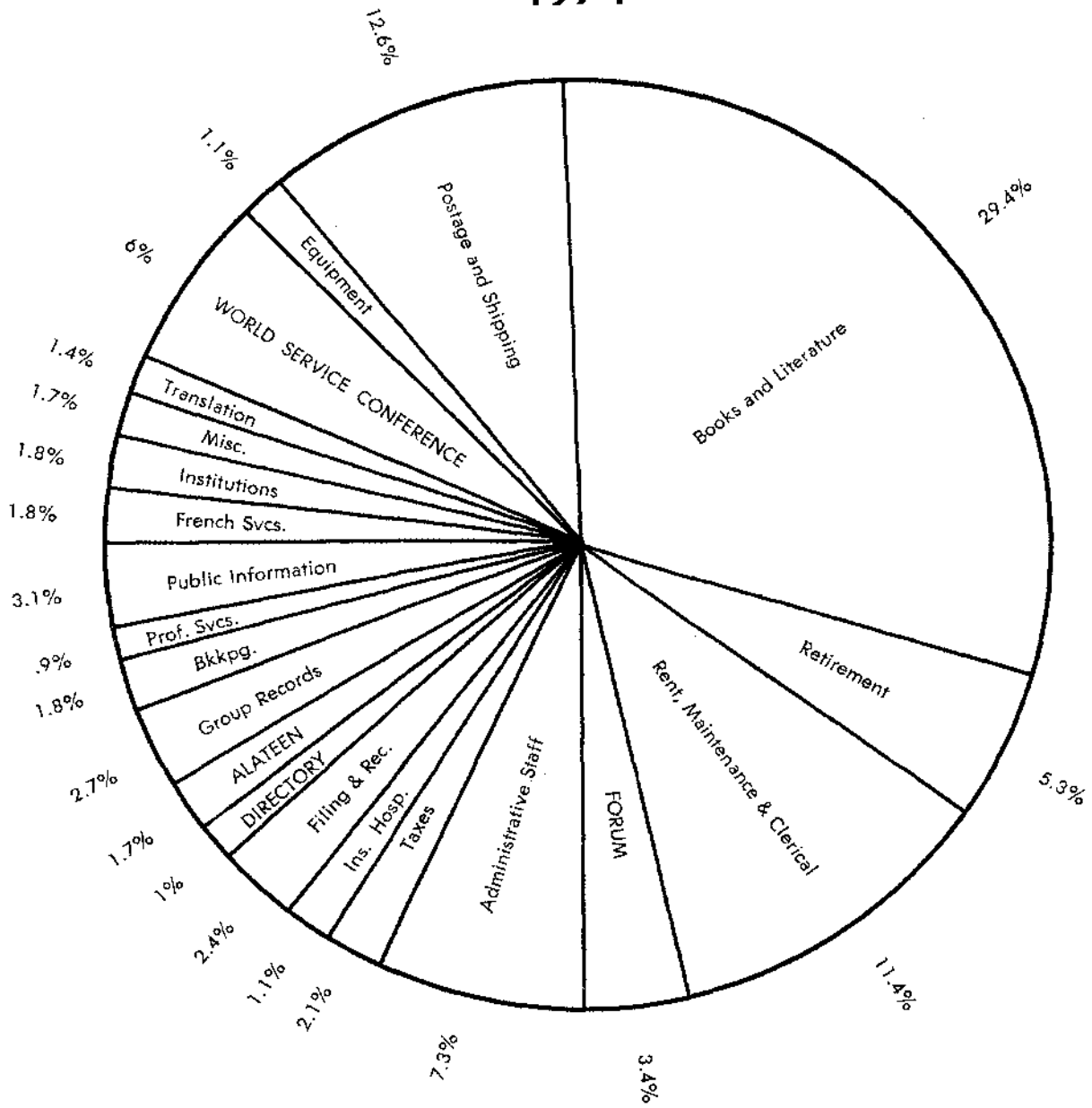
Carter reported to the Conference that despite the country's gloomy economic picture, Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc. has shown impressive financial growth. This was the result, he said, of the services provided by the fellowship, and the work of the Delegates in transmitting information about the work to Assemblies, Districts and Groups.

This year's financial record:

- Total income was increased by about \$158,000, 24.8% over 1973. In 1973 the increase was almost 29% over the previous year.
- An increase of \$185,700 in the sale of books and literature; ODAT represented \$59,000 of this amount.
- Contributions amounted to \$176,800, as compared to 1973's \$146,900,—an increase of 20%.
- Increase in operating expenses was \$142,000, or 30% higher than in 1973.
- Salaries were higher by 34%.
- Annuity policies for our WSO Retirement Program cost \$45,011 in premiums.
- Excess of income over expenses was \$183,800, compared with \$137,400 for 1973.

"The increase of 30% for operating expenses was due to inflation; prices of everything we use have increased. The 34% increase in salaries was due to our adding seven new employees, the 10%

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cost of living increase to all employees in September, and to the regular merit increases authorized under the WSO salary plan. All this also increased payroll taxes, hospitalization and disability insurance.

"The Retirement Plan, adopted in August 1970, covers all employees aged 30 to 55, with two full years of service. The plan provides a lifetime annuity at 65, equal to 25% of his salary at that time. Employees retiring at 65, with fewer than 25 years of service, receive a proportionately reduced annuity. WSO purchases annuity policies on an annual basis and pays the entire cost of this program.

"In April, 1970, we established a Reserve Fund to set aside an amount equal to one year's operating expenses in the event of a severe economic recession. In 1974, interest and earnings on the Reserve Fund investments, amounted to \$23,677. Another \$80,000 was transferred from the WSO general fund, bringing the total to \$272,648 at the end of the year."

Carter concluded his formal remarks by introducing Henry N., who is now our Controller. Both answered questions from the floor as to the type of investments made (non-speculative), the fine reputation of our non-paid financial advisors, and incidental questions on operating costs.

POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

Mary S., Chairman

The Policy Committee Report brought out many questions on policy which were clarified by Mary.

Open discussion from the floor served, as always, to bring all the Conference members closer together in mutual understanding and trust.

Mary told us that "there has been a much greater variety of requests for guidance in the past year, reflecting an ever-growing awareness of the part our Traditions play in maintaining the unity of the fellowship." She spoke, too, of the great achievement by Loretta L., in compiling and categorizing all existing policies into a much-needed Policy Digest, mimeographed copies of which had been given to the Delegates.

Mary then introduced Loretta, Chairman of the Regional Trustee Committee, who had also assumed the over-all responsibility of compiling the Policies.

After greeting the Conference, Loretta said: "I am so pleased to know that each Delegate has received a pre-publication copy of our Policy Digest. There are so many ways this vital information can be useful, in regular meetings, in District meetings and at the Assembly level.

"Maybe some of you are curious to know what it was like to have chaired the special committee assigned to the task of condensing years and years of policy decisions.

"It all started at my first Board meeting. Ted, our Chairman, said there was a tremendous need for someone to capsule and organize the policies for easier reference by our membership.

"At that time I didn't even know there was such a thing as a book of our policies. But I accepted the assignment—and I'm very glad I did.

"I could see this was going to be a monumental task. To save time, I had each page of the Policy Book xeroxed and took it home with me. The more I got into it, the more fascinated I became. It made me feel as though I was a part of Al-Anon's beginnings, when our founders and early members worked so hard for those of us who were yet to come. Every time I picked up the book, I was so intrigued I found it difficult to put it down. I even took it to bed with me; I usually read before turning out the light. It was like a book I could not stop reading until I finished it.

"First I organized the policies into categories. Long ones had to be condensed. Some policies were vague, some too brief. The important thing was to convey the precise intent of each policy. Finally the first stage was completed. Now came the real work.

"The Committee consisted of Mary, Henrietta, Myrna and me. Four different personalities and four different minds. We met all through the year, took each policy as I had interpreted it and compared it with the original. Sometimes the Committee seemed amazed at some of my interpretations. As we examined the policy more closely, Henrietta or Mary would recall the circumstances that required the stating of a policy. They understood it, and would explain all the details to me. It was as though whole chapters of Al-Anon history came to life. Then we made the proper changes or additions to make the policies perfectly clear, so all could understand them.

"We spent many hours over each policy to make it letter perfect, never losing sight of the intent. Then the policies were arranged in a logical sequence for easy reference. The time and effort we spent together seemed to bring about a merging of our minds. My part in this project seemed insignificant compared to theirs, and it gave me the rich experience of sharing, in a special way, in Al-Anon's beginnings.

"Our founders worked hard, not for themselves, but for us and for those who will join us in the future. The fruit of their labors is not merely a few pages of policies, it's who and what we have become—in Al-Anon."

* * * * *

The announcement of the Policy Digest gave rise to discussion as to why an organization such as Al-Anon, whose authority is derived from the group conscience, would need a written set of policy decisions. Walter H., (No. Car.) expressed concern about the ever-increasing number of policy decisions being adopted. Ted K. pointed out that policies are formulated only in response to questions dealing with the interpretation of the Traditions. Henrietta made the point that set policies helped Al-Anon function uniformly throughout the world.

In summing up the comments, Mary S. reminded the Delegates that our policies are not rules and regulations; that policy decisions, arrived at through the combined experience of the Policy Committee, are submitted to the Conference for final approval only after being approved by the Board of Trustees.

The next step was to ask approval of the decisions made by the Policy Committee during the past year. As revised by the Conference these were:

Policy Committee Meetings

3/19/74

The following was adopted as Al-Anon's declaration: "LET IT BEGIN WITH ME—When anyone anywhere reaches out for help, let the hand of Al-Anon or Alateen always be there and LET IT BEGIN WITH ME"

6/18/74

No articles, including those Al-Anon-related (such as Praying Hands, Steps, Traditions, etc.) may be sold at meetings, conventions or conferences for personal gain.

6/18/74

In keeping with Tradition Seven, Alateen groups should not accept contributions outside of Al-Anon. However, they may raise money for the Conferences or other Alateen purposes by

performing services and by means of activities within the Al-Anon or AA fellowships (e.g., bake sales, car washes, spaghetti suppers or the sale of articles pertinent to the program, such as Serenity Prayers, Praying Hands, Slogans, etc.) These activities should be held at reasonable intervals and with the permission of the respective AA or Al-Anon groups which will be directly affected by these activities.

6/18/74

The WSO will register any group designating itself as an Al-Anon Family Group with the understanding that it will abide by the Traditions and that meetings will at all times be open to any Al-Anon member. Many groups identify themselves by selecting a name that will attract members with similar needs and problems, such as the Alateens, Stag Groups, Parents Groups, Young Peoples Al-Anon, etc.

6/18/74

Information Services and Area World Service Committees may have a need for posters which can be produced inexpensively and distributed within their area of service. Although the Conference has designated Al-Anon WSO as the sole publishing agent for the fellowship, the WSO extends permission for the production of such posters, reserving the right to review these items before they are printed and distributed in order to protect our public image. Such permission is, of course, not required when posters are made up for single local events. Although the Conference has designated Al-Anon WSO as the sole publishing agent for the fellowship, the WSO extends permission to Information Services or Area World Service Committees to publish only one Public Information piece, which can be produced inexpensively and distributed within their area of service. This often is incorporated with the local meeting schedule. The WSO reserves the right to review such items before publication.

6/18/74

Al-Anon Information Services, or groups which perform similar services, may call themselves Information Services, Service Centers or Information Centers, as they choose. The term, "Al-Anon Central Services" is reserved for overseas service centers serving entire states or provinces.

6/18/74

Al-Anon members who attend several groups regularly and participate fully in all of them may consider themselves members of all those groups. Membership entitles a person to vote and hold office. Whether members may hold office in more than one group is a matter of group autonomy, although it does deprive other members of the privilege of serving and growing. No member may, however, be Group Representative (GR) of more than one group.

12/10/74

The World Service Conference has authorized Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters to be the publishing agency for the fellowship world-wide. Permission to reprint extensively from our publications cannot be granted to any outside agencies or individuals, or even to our own membership, in the U.S. and Canada. Each request received at the WSO to reprint limited excerpts will be evaluated on its merits and the circumstances. If approved, the WSO should receive, prior to publication, the context in which it is to be used, along with file copies after publication. The appropriate credit line must accompany the excerpt.

12/10/74

The WSO cannot refuse to fill orders for literature from anyone—Al-Anon members, General Service Offices or others. It is up to the Al-Anon General Service Offices to educate their groups to the advantage of purchasing literature from them. In this way, the groups strengthen their own National General Service Committees.

12/10/74

Tradition 11 is sustained if, when appearing on a television program as an Al-Anon or Alateen member, anonymity is maintained and precautions are taken to avoid recognition of the participants, e.g., back to camera or silhouette; face to camera with appearance altered to preclude recognition (wig, moustache, dark glasses, etc.)

In either of the above cases, a pseudonym or first name only should be used. This policy applies equally to visual tapes for closed circuit TV (Schools, etc.).

When appearing on a TV program as the relative of an alcoholic, a member may face the camera and give his full name, providing he does not reveal his membership in Al-Anon or Alateen.

12/10/74

Even though Al-Anon may not be sufficiently strong in a locality to support its own answering service or Al-Anon Information Service (Intergroup), it is suggested that it not accept offers to share facilities with any outside agency. To avoid any implication of affiliation, Al-Anon should refrain from sharing a P.O. Box and use of the agency's stationery for Al-Anon communication.

After the policy statements, as amended, had been accepted, Mary thanked the Delegates, saying "I just want to say that I feel tremendously heartened by your real interest manifested in this portion of our job, and to thank you for your help as we seek clarification of things that play a vital part in unifying Al-Anon world-wide. The sense of our mutual searching for that clarification has been gratifying to me."

Mary then introduced Lois, who had served as Chairman of this Committee from its inception, and for many years after, and who still serves as Co-Chairman. Lois spoke briefly of how the Policy Committee had come about. In the early days before its incorporation as Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc., there had been the Clearing-House. And as letters of inquiry came in from the growing number of groups, it became necessary to find answers which would then apply to any and all. And, as Lois told the Delegates, "if this had not become Al-Anon policy, it would never have been possible to achieve world-wide unity."

1974

GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

Henrietta S.

Each year the Al-Anon World Service Office informs the fellowship through the Conference of its activities and achievements. After the Conference, a summary of Conference reports and decisions is sent to each group. Quarterly and annual reports of office work and Committees are made to the Board of Trustees of Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc. This is the membership corporation responsible for business policies; estimating annual revenue; prudent administration of funds; authorizing employment of office personnel; expansion and improvement of service to the member-

ship and the publication and distribution of Conference Approved Literature. The Executive Committee is responsible for business and administrative decisions required between quarterly Board meetings. The interim actions of the Executive Committee are reported to the Board of Trustees.

All actions are taken in the framework of our Traditions.

Personnel Administration

The General Secretary (Executive Director) of the WSO, and Secretary of the Board of Trustees, reports to and confers with the Executive Committee and the Trustees on supervisory and administrative policies. Employment and supervision of the Al-Anon Staff Secretaries and the Office Supervisor is the function of the General Secretary, with the approval of the Executive Committee and the Board of Trustees.

Employment and supervision of business personnel, in Publication, Shipping, Groups Records, FORUM Subscriptions, Book-keeping and General Clerical, is the function of the Office Supervisor, with the approval of the General Secretary.

Staff

For many years the General Secretary was responsible for communicating with members in foreign language and English areas overseas about development of national and local structures and guidance in the translation and production of CAL. Some of this correspondence, particularly relating to problems in the Spanish-speaking countries and in Brazil (Portuguese), has been assigned to the Administrative Assistant. She also updates price lists, works closely with the volunteer Literature Committee Chairman, assists in proofreading the FORUM and is Convention Secretary.

The other four Al-Anon Secretaries handle the work of each one's respective committee: *Alateen*, *Conference*, *Public Information* and *Institutions*. The latter three also answer a wide range of questions from groups in an assigned geographical section of the world.

Much time in 1974 was spent on developing the Denver Convention program. The Al-Anon staff meets with the Conference Chairman once monthly to help plan and develop the WSC agenda.

The business staff, headed by the Office Supervisor/Head Bookkeeper, has grown from 29 to 35 employees. The Organizational Structure Committee recommended the employment of a staff writer, an additional P. I. Secretary, a Controller and a Deputy Executive Director. To accommodate these additional employees, leasing additional office space was authorized by the Board.

The continued dedication of the volunteer committee chairmen and other WSO volunteers was tremendously helpful in supplementing the efforts of the staff to keep abreast of the continually expanding demands of fellowship work.

Publications

ONE DAY AT A TIME IN AL-ANON again set a new sales record! 82,781 copies were shipped, an increase of 20,364 over 1973. Shipments of LIVING WITH AN ALCOHOLIC, which increased by 2,326 copies, totaled 10,969. 7,553 copies of AL-ANON FACES ALCOHOLISM were sent, increasing by 1,468. Sales of the DILEMMA OF THE ALCOHOLIC MARRIAGE totaled 9,587, an increase of 1,491. 4,643 copies of AL-ANON'S FAVORITE FORUM EDITORIALS went out, an increase of 481. 13,282 copies of ALATEEN—HOPE FOR CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS were sold compared with 5,294 copies in the last 2 months of 1973, when the book first appeared.

Sales of the Spanish LIVING WITH AN ALCOHOLIC, which was reprinted in a much improved translation, totaled 1,722 copies, 686 more than in 1973. Sales of other literature increased 25% from \$303,444 to \$381,979.

81,295 pieces of free literature, almost twice as much as the previous year, were distributed to proposed groups, individuals, students and public relations contacts.

FORUM

290,327 FORUMS were mailed, 13% more than the previous year, attributable to the free copies distributed to a larger number of groups and the increase in paid subscriptions. Subscriptions at year's end compared with 1973 as follows:

	1973	1974	Increase
Multiple	5,941	6,567	626
Individual	8,045	9,835	1,790
	<hr/> 13,986	<hr/> 16,402	<hr/> 2,416

Shipping & Mimeographing

Shipping costs were higher by \$25,700 in 1974, reflecting greater volume, as well as increases in packing material costs and postal rates. 160,295 letters were mailed, compared with 148,851 the previous year. 78,922 packages were shipped, vs. 74,517 in 1973.

614,500 mimeographed sheets were processed: form letters, tri-annual contribution appeals, WSC materials, supplementary literature on the price list and miscellaneous items for all departments.

Group Records and Directory

2,107 new groups registered and 1,290 were dropped from the active list. Total registrations as of December 31, 1974 were:

Al-Anon Groups	7,793*
Alateen	1,349
Lone Members & Alateen Contacts	262
	<hr/> 9,404*

* Information Services, Intergroups and Central Offices numbering 69 are included.

The World Directory was again published in two parts in 1974. More of the data cards sent out in early November (for information for the 1975 Directory, Part I from the groups in the U.S. and Canada) were returned than in previous years, but again many changes came in after the copy went to press.

Frequent changes of groups' mailing addresses, without immediate notification to the WSO, continues to be a problem. When the free FORUM sent to the mailing address of record is returned, the group records staff must re-mail to another address on file with a request for correction. 10¢ postage was paid on each return, plus 10¢ to send it out again. Frequently the WSO was informed of a change of address but not a change in the group telephone contact. This makes correct referral to the group difficult.

Delegates are again urged to remind their groups of the importance of notifying the WSO promptly of changes of address and phone contact and to pay the rent on time when they have a P.O. Box.

Group Services

The WSO served over 9,000 groups and Lone Members throughout the world in 1974. The 1,905 proposed groups received a welcoming letter, free packet of literature and a FORUM. After registration, we sent the current Directory (Part I to the groups in the U.S. and Canada and Part II to the others), "Al-Anon and Alateen Groups at Work" and to those in an Area with a Delegate, a World Service Handbook.

All English-speaking groups receive a free FORUM subscription and a Conference Summary. Registered French groups and Loners get the French FORUM; to Spanish groups the mimeographed monthly AL-ANON/ALATEEN EN ACCION; to Alateen Groups and Loners, the bi-monthly ALATEEN TALK.

2,400 copies of Institutional Highlights and 2,000 copies of Area Highlights were sent in four quarterly mailings. Nearly 5,000 individuals living with active alcoholics were referred to groups nearest them.

General Correspondence

Replies to members dealt with many problems. Examples: why doesn't the WSO stop groups from making Al-Anon "a truly religious and witnessing affair?"

From a member in Al-Anon 10 years—"Is it all right to hold open Al-Anon meetings?" "Should newcomers have a sponsor?" "Should there be a periodic treasurer's report to the group?" "What does our emblem mean?" "What does Al-Anon mean?" "What to do about a meeting with no opportunity for spontaneous interchange; the Chairman and GR 'permanent'?" "Is it all right to give literature to priests?"—and hundreds more!

Many groups questioned the role of Al-Anon members working as alcoholism counselors. We were asked for permission by a self-help organization not concerned with alcoholism, to reprint ODAT with substitutions for the words that refer to Al-Anon. There were many complaints about groups using non-CAL and requests for definition of membership eligibility.

Most of the questions could have easily been resolved at the group level by referring to the Traditions and Concepts. Where the group could not find a satisfactory answer, the GR could have brought the problems to a District Meeting or sought the help of the DR or Delegate.

Foreign Language Al-Anon

1. French

The Montreal French Literature Committee is the WSO's agent for the translation and production of the FORUM and CAL. It services all French-speaking Al-Anon/Alateen groups in the world. Translation of the FORUM has been undertaken by a volunteer team, headed by Cay C., a former Delegate. Alberte has tried to find other members to assist on a Translations Committee and a Revisions Committee.

The rapid growth of French groups, both in Canada and overseas, makes it important to revise existing pieces to assure consistency in terminology in the Handbook, Concepts and the basic book. Maita F. in Phoenix, Arizona continues her valued revisions of Harriet's translations.

2. France

The WSO received minutes of the monthly meetings of the General Service Committee in Paris. The format of the monthly bulletin, *La Chaine*, has been simplified. A lengthy postal strike, in late '74, affected communication, but we did mail a copy of the revised "Al-Anon Information Services (Intergroups)" in English to the Yvelines Intergroup in Versailles, to use until the French translation could be completed by the FLC. The secretary apologized for Intergroup's inability to send a contribution to the WSO, because of inflation, their joint venture with AA to finance an answering service and their regular support of their own General Services.

At the Nov. 26 meeting of the GSC in Paris, it was announced that an office had been rented to be used by their various Committees. A General Assembly of all the groups in the country is planned for 1975. All groups were urged to elect GRs.

3. Spanish

a. *Argentina* During the year, Lilian C., former secretary of the Al-Anon General Service Board, forwarded file copies of four new reprints, "Alateen Wallet Card," the pink giveaway leaflet, "How One AA Wife Lives the 12 Steps" and "Al-Anon and Alateen Groups at Work." A translation team has undertaken DILEMMA, which they hope to publish after approval by the WSO. Their second printing of LIVING WITH AN ALCOHOLIC (a copy of our current revised edition, which was produced in Spain) was delivered in December and four copies were sent to us. Printing costs had risen sharply and though much was still owed the printer, Lilian was optimistic it would soon be paid because of widespread demand.

Though not now on their Board of Trustees, Lilian promised that "as long as I can, I shall continue to have a finger in the pie. I need Al-Anon much more than Al-Anon needs me." There is an unbelievable amount of red tape in connection with holding an annual Board meeting in Argentina. Three months before each meeting, notice is required to the Department of Justice, notices must be sent to members, the Security Police must be advised and following the meeting, a report must be made to the Justice Department of what transpired and what was voted. This is due no later than 15 days after the meeting. This year the Justice Department required one amendment to the report.

Despite a minimum amount of capital on which to operate, the GSO has been able to stock a large variety of literature. Office equipment bought on credit has now been paid for and additional furniture purchased. Lilian has an excellent office assistant, Nilda, and the help of a few other volunteers.

Re: the Denver Convention, Lilian wrote: "My personal benefit has been so great for having attended the 1970 Convention that I am determined that this time Argentina will be represented not only by an isolated Al-Anon, but by a group." She is moving "heaven and earth" to work out various installment plans with a tourist agency in the hope that the five or six members can manage the trip, despite the recent imposition of drastic currency restrictions on travel outside the country.

Al-Anon has had a wonderful year in Argentina. They have worked hard and enjoyed positive results. A special petition to the Central Bank enabled them to send a substantial contribution to the WSO. At times there are as many as 30 inquiries to be answered at the office and correspondence with the interior of the country has increased. The list of registered groups compiled at year's end totaled 104. Three of these are in *Uruguay*.

b. *Colombia* A message was sent from the WSO to be read at the first Al-Anon national get-together at Bucaramanga. An effort to establish a General Service Committee was unsuccessful despite encouragement from WSO in a letter to all registered groups. Copies of two reprints (*Freedom From Despair* and *20 Questions*) were received. A Bogota group asked how to handle a request from AA members to look over Al-Anon group's records of receipts and expenses, because Al-Anon occupies the same premises as AA but does not contribute to AA for the space.

c. *Costa Rica* The secretary of the Al-Anon CSC wrote in glowing terms of Al-Anon's participation in the XIIth AA Convention of Central America in Panama in the spring attended by members from Mexico, Puerto Rico, Costa Rica, Honduras and the Dominican Republic. As Costa Rica will host this Convention in 1975, she asked for program suggestions.

d. *El Salvador* A request was received for Spanish films on alcoholism. Angela de V., Secretary of the GSC, wrote of difficulties in attracting volunteers to meet the growing needs of their office. The Spanish version of "Al-Anon and Alateen Groups at Work" was revised by Teresa, WSO bilingual staff member, and a copy was sent to El Salvador with permission to reprint.

e. *Mexico* From the Al-Anon GSO in Mexico City came news of their successful second annual National Service Conference in mid-October. Guanajuato sent their first Delegate and the state of Nuevo Leon sent two Representatives. The 3-day agenda included GSO and Delegates reports, plans for improvement of services and an excellent workshop on how to plan a meeting. This was an effort to discourage the widespread practice in Mexican groups of devoting meetings to horror stories: beatings, money problems, etc.

Mexico forwarded a copy of their National Service Handbook, which had been adapted from the World Service Handbook, and also the mimeographed translation of "For Teenagers With an Alcoholic Parent."

f. *Spain* Permission was extended to a group in Aviles to reprint some of the Spanish leaflets with the understanding that it would be relinquished to a National Al-Anon General Service when formed.

g. *Other Spanish* Correspondence from other Central and South American Spanish-speaking countries continued at a high level throughout the year, with some excellent Public Information projects reported from *Peru* and *Ecuador*.

The San Juan, *Puerto Rico*, group requested help in starting an Al-Anon General Service Office. We explained that this territory is a part of the North American Conference and suggested that they might send a Representative to the next WSC and also work towards formation of an Assembly and election of a Delegate. Copies of the Handbook were sent, as well as "Guidelines for Al-Anon Information Services (Intergroups)." This resulted in registration of an Al-Anon Information Office in Puerto Rico and election of a Delegate to attend the '75 WSC!

After several years work by various Spanish-speaking volunteers on translation of ODAT, the Board of Trustees decided to engage a qualified professional. The book is to be printed in Spain and will be available by July, 1975.

4. Finnish and Swedish

A supply of the Finnish version of DILEMMA, produced as a pamphlet, was received early in the year, soon followed by copies of "How Can I Help My Children?" from the Al-Anon General Services in Finland. They also printed a Swedish version of sections of LIVING WITH AN ALCOHOLIC. For the first time, the WSO received a very substantial sum as a contribution from the Al-Anon GS in Helsinki. Previously, their contribution was a continuous free supply of Swedish and Finnish literature, for which they were credited in the equivalent amount of money. Marjatta P. will again represent Finland at the International Convention.

5. Flemish

The secretary of the A.D.B. Nederlandstalige in Belgium wrote that 1,500 copies of the Flemish LWA were off the press in time to appear at the annual Dutch-speaking AA "Country Day," June 15th, in which Al-Anon participated. The WSO received a free supply of the book. Highly complimentary press reviews following its publication brought a stream of inquiries to their office.

The film, LOIS'S STORY, was viewed 19 times in the past year before being returned. The translation of DILEMMA is currently being checked by Al-Anon members, and as soon as the necessary funds come in from the groups, the book will be published.

6. German/Swiss

In early April the corrected translation of "Alcoholism, The Family Disease" was sent back to the secretary of the Al-Anon Zentrale in Germany. A month later, the extensively revised translation of ODAT, done by Ursula P., a member in Salt Lake City, was returned to Germany. Subsequently, the translation of DILEM-

MA, which has been revised by a WSO German-born volunteer, was mailed back with permission to print. A supply of each of two new German publications, "Why Is Al-Anon Anonymous?" and "What Do You Do About the Alcoholic's Drinking?" were received at the WSO.

In late September, the WSO received translations of letters written by Ursel B., and minutes of the May 24th meeting in Essen. Highlights of this correspondence were; attendance at the 1974 Convention in Essen was double that of the previous year's Convention in Munich. There were 8 Workshops and a large open meeting that lasted three hours, as well as a very well-attended closed Al-Anon meeting. Literature to the WSO is to be billed at cost price with the German Literatur/Versand assuming postage costs. In addition, the WSO was promised 20 free copies of all new literature. Minutes of the GSO meeting held in Russelsheim in late October reported the election of a new secretary, Melanie D., to replace Ursel B., who had served for more than 10 years. Melanie was in Miami for the last International Convention and has agreed to lead a German meeting in Denver. A new leaflet, "Guidelines for Al-Anon," was presented by Kurt of the literature team, and samples were sent to the WSO. Ursel reported a new contact in East Berlin. The professor requesting information about Al-Anon was sent two parcels of literature without charge because regulations between East and West Germany prohibit sending anything but gifts.

Al-Anon continues to grow in numbers and activity in Germany; the last list of registered groups exceeded 100.

7. Japanese

Two books (LIVING WITH AN ALCOHOLIC and AL-ANON FACES ALCOHOLISM), the three Service Manuals and P. I. packet were ordered by Bufo Yamamuro of Tokyo, who met Lois when she visited Japan a few years ago. He was interested on behalf of the women's groups that are an offshoot of Danshukai (for recovering alcoholics).

8. Polish

Translations of four literature items done by a member in Victoria, B.C., are on file at the WSO, ready for production when the demand warrants the expense.

9. Portuguese

In Brazil several members in Sao Paulo are working at cross-purposes in an effort to publish literature in Portuguese and to provide group services.

Brazil established a General Service Committee, spearheaded by one member, Sonia L., some years ago. In 1968, the book VIVENDO COM UN ALCOOLATRA, basic sections of LWA, was printed there.

During the past year, the GSC's corresponding secretary, Helena Esther, resigned and with the help of other members, formed an Al-Anon Information Service in Sao Paulo. Five groups support it. This A.I.S. requested permission to mimeograph literature because it may take years for the GSC to accumulate sufficient funds to print it.

In view of a complaint made by the A.I.S. that the book VIVENDO COM UN ALCOOLATRA was poorly done, the WSO had a professional translating service do a comparative study of the Portuguese book. They said the translation has many deficiencies.

A further complication arose when a second A.I.S. was formed in Sao Paulo. Letters have been written to everyone involved urging that they set aside their personal differences and work together for the good of Al-Anon and Alateen as a whole. The matter of literature production is still to be resolved.

10. Other Languages

The first Al-Anon group was formed in Malaysia, in conjunction with an AA group. Denmark also established its first, in Copenhagen. The group sent a *Danish* translation of the Twelve Steps and Traditions for approval to reproduce in mimeography. This was reviewed by a professional translator and later by two Al-Anon members. All three made minor corrections, which were forwarded to the Copenhagen group, with permission to reproduce the piece in mimeography.

The AA in Colombo, who writes the WSO about Al-Anon's progress, wrote 12 articles on alcoholism published in "The Catholic Messenger" in *Sinhalese*. One was entitled "It's a Family Illness." Approximately 70 Al-Anon members attended the monthly meeting of the original Al-Anon group and more would come were it not for difficulties of travel. By mid-year, two more Al-Anon groups were formed and they were hoping to start Alateen. Foreign exchange restrictions prevent sending money out of the country for much needed literature, so all the books and many pamphlets have been provided by the WSO. Without "the written word," it would be virtually impossible for them to follow the program.

The U.K. & Eire Al-Anon London Office wrote us on behalf of Asians, many of whom cannot read or speak English, to ask which pieces would be best suited for translation and production into *Urdu*, and the procedure to follow.

11. English Al-Anon Overseas

a. *U.K. & Eire* Leah B., Representative, reported on National Al-Anon/Alateen activities and progress at the 14th WSC. Jean G., secretary of the London GSO, regularly advises us of new and disbanded groups and changes in addresses and phone numbers. In the early fall, she requested copies of several pieces of service material, i.e., "Guidelines for Alateen Coordinators," "Labor-Management Packet" and "Public Information Guidelines." She asked that any new pieces of a similar nature be sent to their office immediately. There was a tremendous upsurge of activity due to recent radio and TV programs, "and as a result, our telephone line to GSO is almost red hot, but this is marvelous." Leah wrote that their own National Conference in late September was a huge success. For the first time it was held over a weekend instead of for just one day.

Dorothy H., Chairman, sent samples of work completed by the Literature Committee: The HANDBOOK for the U.K. & Eire with suggested amendments; the FACT FILE for the U.K. & Eire; Guide for New Secretaries; P.I. Handout—for Discussion Groups.

b. *Australia* Malie, Delegate from *Queensland* to the Fifth Australian Trial Conference held Easter 1974 weekend in Victoria, visited the WSO for two days immediately following their Conference. She reported that a national General Service Committee had been established. *Victoria* was designated the coordinating center for the country. They hope to form a service structure similar to ours. Norma S., secretary, requested copies of our current By-Laws and "Guide to Al-Anon General Service Structure." Permission was extended for the latter to be reproduced. Proposals were submitted by different states on setting up a permanent national Conference. Since Australia has already held five Trial Conferences, there seemed to be no valid reason to postpone development of a plan that would follow the World Service Handbook to the extent presently feasible.

South Australia distributed a plan for forming Area Assemblies. They still have problems filling vacancies; they try to retain the interest of past officers, calling them to office again when eligible. She described vividly all their fund-raising activities to assure providing generous hospitality in hosting the Conference in the spring. Mavis wrote: "Participation is the key to harmony was

never so truly demonstrated as during this year. The Conference should be a worthwhile and rewarding climax for everyone who has helped in some way. From it all we hope will emerge some new dedicated workers to carry on what has so far been accomplished." She forwarded money for leasing of the picture *LOIS'S STORY*, which is to be shown at the Conference and subsequently circulated throughout Australia.

A member of a group in *Tasmania*, which hopes to finance sending a Delegate to the Conference, wrote for clarification of the 7th Tradition, because an AA group had donated to their prospective Al-Anon Delegate's expenses.

Permission to reprint ODAT was extended to *New South Wales* in August, 1973; acknowledgment and a complete report of progress in financing the production of the book was received in May. Volunteers are to handle shipments, bookkeeping and recording the book orders. Proceeds from sales are to be paid into the ODAT account until the bank loan is repaid; any profit will then go to the Australian GSC. Detailed report on the project is on file at the WSO.

Marj M., former Literature Officer of the Victorian CSC, was named by the Australian General Service Committee as Representative to attend the 15th WSC.

c. *New Zealand* In February, Glad M., Secretary of Al-Anon General Services, wrote: "It has been a wonderful experience for so many Al-Anon members and AA friends throughout N.Z. to enjoy this wonderful film, and we are indeed grateful that HQ made it possible for countries outside the U.S.A. to lease it. The feeling of belonging to a vast worldwide fellowship has been greatly strengthened, especially to small isolated group members." Seeing the film inspired another member to ask for French literature which she intended to give to a priest in *New Caledonia*, where she was to vacation in July.

In early '75 the WSO received minutes of the N.Z. Al-Anon General Services meeting held in Wellington in late June. A Conference Charter was adopted and eight "experienced people who have served and are willing to be called upon to give service where required" were nominated to become Trustees.

d. *South Africa* The annual 1974 AA/Al-Anon Convention, held in East London over the Easter weekend, was "a fabulous event and most stimulating for all." Rapid growth in Al-Anon in the past year all over the country has required many changes, including administrative ones. The General Service Office moved from Pretoria to Johannesburg, where the Witwatersrand A.I.S. was established several years ago. Durban and Cape Town formed their own A.I.S. offices. Secretary of the former wrote: "Our office is getting on like wildfire and when you realize how we started off, it is indeed a miracle." East London and Port Elizabeth, both in Cape Province, started Information Service Committees.

Great progress was reported in P.I. Members are taking part in radio interviews, panel discussions and interviews for news articles, all of provincial and national scope. Al-Anon groups are being invited to speak at schools, marriage guidance sessions, women's and youth guilds, before groups of clergymen, etc. In late spring, there was an AA, Al-Anon/Alateen discussion on an Afrikaans program on a national network at peak listening time. Excellent publicity was given both Al-Anon and Alateen by several prominent Afrikaans newspapers.

A visit by Kinsa K., one of the Executive Committee members, to the Al-Anon A.I.S. in Durban, Port Elizabeth and Cape Town cleared up some misunderstandings that had arisen. This resulted in greater unity and more interest in service.

e. *Hong Kong* *LOIS'S STORY* was shown at the 5th Anniversary of the group in September. Their secretary wrote: "It was as much enjoyed by Al-Anon members as it was by AA, an excellent

production, well worth the time, effort and money which must have gone into the making of it. . . . How lovely WSO looks—I don't doubt that, one day, it will be even bigger."

12. Book Tapes

Late in the year, Dr. D. J. Weber of the Division for the Blind and Visually Handicapped, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C., phoned in response to our inquiry about completion of the cassettes of the Alateen book. It turned out that our original letter to him, dated 1/29/74, with which two copies of the book were sent for his consideration, failed to reach him. Duplicate books were mailed and just before the close of the year, permission forms were signed for the taping to proceed. We also inquired about the progress of the ODAT cassettes, which had been approved for taping 11/9/71. He said that the two recordings of the book already done failed to meet their high standards, so the book was currently being transcribed by a professional.

FORUM REPORT

Louise M., Editor

Louise expressed her thanks to Margaret D., the beloved former editor of the FORUM, who retired in April, and to the staff at the WSO for all their help.

A number of small changes were made to improve readability, and to establish closer communication with FORUM readers and contributors.

All letters excepting anniversary or Convention/Conference announcements are being acknowledged. From October to January, these included 109 pre-printed post-cards, 35 form letters, and 14 personal letters. Letters sent earlier, 49 in all, included one granting permission to the Readers' Digest to reprint an item from the FORUM.

Members whose letters are published in the FORUM receive an autographed copy of the issue in which their work appears. By January, 107 of these complimentary copies had been sent.

Beginning with the January issue, space was allotted to news about Al-Anon World Service activities. Reports of quarterly meetings of the Policy Committee which had appeared in three issues, were discontinued until after the decisions had been approved by the Conference.

The Conference was asked to decide whether articles by non-members should be used in the FORUM. The decision to print only Al-Anon and Alateen material was unanimous.

ALATEEN COMMITTEE REPORT

Carole K., Chairman; Timmy W., Secretary

Reverting to a topic on which much discussion was reported in the 1974 Summary, there was continued interest in Preteen groups. There were 27 inquiries in the course of the year.

After the Conference, our policy statement on these younger members of the family was revised, giving a brief history of the subject. This statement, with a covering letter, is sent in reply to each inquiry, some of which come from outside agencies interested in this age group.

The paper, "HOW ALATEEN CONFERENCES CAN BETTER RELATE TO WSO AND THEIR AREA," was revised for presentation at the WSC so that all Conference Members would be aware that a Special Committee, working with the Alateen (intown) Committee, would develop Suggested Guidelines for Alateen Conferences, as well as suggestions for better relations between the Conferences and their respective Area Assemblies and WSO. This Committee reviewed the voluminous material that had been re-

ceived from various sources (Alateen Coordinators, existing conferences and other interested members), to begin developing these guidelines for starting and running an Alateen Conference. The Guidelines were to be presented to the 1975 WSC for discussion and approval.

"Suggested Program for Alateen Meetings," was extensively revised to include the new literature, ALATEEN—HOPE FOR CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS and "12 Steps and 12 Traditions for Alateen." References to "For Teenagers with an Alcoholic Parent" were deleted as this piece of literature is no longer available.

The mimeographed sheet, "Alateen Speakers Suggestions," was also revised. In addition, the letter which accompanies the HANDBOOK when it is sent to new Alateen groups was revised to correct page references.

Two new mimeographed sheets were added to the price list and are included in the free starter packet of material to new Alateen groups. They are "Organizing an Alateen Group" and "Suggested Alateen Welcome, Preamble to the Twelve Steps and Closing." All of this material is taken from the Alateen book.

Another mimeographed sheet was prepared, although not added to the price list. It was excerpted from the special Alateen issue of the MISSOURI ROUND ROBIN (Oct. 1973), Area Newsletter, entitled "WHAT IS EXPECTED OF AN ALATEEN SPONSOR?" It had appeared earlier in serial form in three issues of ALATEEN TALK. It was decided to mimeograph and make it available upon request. It has been highly popular in recruiting Alateen sponsors and in giving further insight to present sponsors.

Carole and Timmy both attended the 5th METRO (N.Y./N.J.) Alateen Conference in June, West Long Branch, N.J. and ESAC (Eastern Seaboard A.C.) in November, Lake Como, Pa. Carole also attended the 1st NO-MAAC—Northern Mid-Atlantic Alateen Assembly and Conference—(Pa. and Del.), 5th NEAC (New England A.C.) in July, Saratoga Springs, N.Y. and the 3rd Mid-Western Alateen Convention in November, Cleveland, O. Timmy attended the 1st MINI-MAAC—Mid-Atlantic Alateen Assembly and Conference—(Md. and D.C.) in June, Frederick, Md., 1st MEAC—Mid-Eastern Alateen Conference—(Va., W.Va., N.C.) in July, Harrisonburg, Va., and the 10th Southeastern Alateen Roundup in December, Clarksville, Ind. They talked with Board or Conference Committee members whenever possible for additional ideas and suggestions for the Conference Guidelines.

The Mid-Western Convention has grown so large that it was divided three ways as follows: Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma—to retain the name of "Mid-Western;" Illinois, Minnesota, Upper Michigan Peninsula and Wisconsin will comprise the Mid-Lake Alateen Convention. The remaining section consists of Ohio, Indiana and Lower Michigan, known as OMIAC. Indiana already participates in the Southeastern Roundup; however, they are being invited to join this conference should travel become a problem.

Other Alateen Conferences held last year include: 5th SCAC (Southern Calif. A.C.), in June, Redlands, Calif. 2nd EAR—Eastern Alateen Roundup (No. Car.) in May, Asheboro; 3rd Inter-provincial Alateen Conference in May, Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, Can.; 6th TAC (Texas); 7th Ontario Alateen Intergroup Conference. There were probably others we didn't hear about.

ALATEEN TALK was published six times in 1974, which, incidentally, was its tenth year. The June issue carried a new masthead which the Committee felt was a vast improvement over the old one! In November the Committee approved including a cartoon feature called "MEIN MUTT." These characters (a girl and her dog) are created by Laura J., a member of the One Day at a Time Alateen in Dolton, Ill. Mei's father has a drinking problem so they go to Alateen. Their adventures will become a part of each issue.

Many Alateens continue to send generous contributions in response to the appeal letters, often with beautiful notes of appreciation for the program and the work of the WSO staff. Many of the Alateen Conferences also send us contributions from their surplus to help spread the message world-wide.

ALATEEN—HOPE FOR CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS has been placed in libraries in many areas. We continue to receive rave reviews of the book from both Alateens and sponsors.

Alateens are active in PI work in various places. Maryland and District of Columbia Alateens manned their own information booth at the 4th Annual Conference of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) in June, Wash., D.C. Over 3400 registrants came to this conference from all parts of the U.S., Canada and foreign countries. Many stopped by the Alateen and Al-Anon booths to find out more about our fellowship and request further information and literature.

In Ohio, Alateens were guests on a radio program, doing an excellent job of presenting the "before and after of Alateen." Colorado members have been placed on the Mayor's Commission on Youth referral list. Alateens in Sao Goncalo, Brasil, S.A. appeared on a TV program, resulting in many letters of inquiry. Nebraska Alateens, with their State Coordinator, spoke to a county organization of Social Service caseworkers. The Alateen spot announcement has also brought beautiful results with requests to speak.

Many more groups are reporting successful open meetings they have held, inviting AAs, Al-Anons and professional people to attend. Some "firsts" for this type of meeting are: Seaforth Alateens in New South Wales (Aust.), and Alateens in the Indianapolis, Ind. area. The Chimo Alateens in Sudbury, Ontario (Can.) held a highly successful Parents' Night "to show their parents what really goes on at a regular Alateen meeting." Another Canadian group, Mr. Pride Alateen in Halifax, Nova Scotia, invited their guidance counselors to a regular meeting which went on and on because the counselors asked so many questions!

Alateens are being encouraged to participate in District and Assembly meetings in more Areas. Ten Alateen GRs were present at the October Minnesota Assembly.

During the year 638 letters were written to new or proposed Alateen groups, enclosing the free starter packet—an increase of 121 over 1973! This number includes 40 Spanish-speaking (21 more than last year!), five Institutional, four Post Alateen and seven Young Al-Anon. In addition, 54 "Possible Proposed Group" letters were sent.

Thirty-four outside agencies asked about starting Alateen groups—an increase of 20 over last year. In each case, the special information sheet was sent explaining Alateen's relationship to Al-Anon and the necessity of having Al-Anon sponsors, along with some basic pieces of Alateen literature. We also gave the contact for the nearest Al-Anon group (fortunately, there usually is one!), at the same time writing to the Al-Anons, sending them basic literature, and asking them to cooperate by sponsoring the Alateens. When a group does start, and the Questionnaire for Sponsors is returned by the Al-Anon sponsor, we send the complete starter packet of material.

A total of 212 letters was written to groups, many of which were "problem" letters requiring time and thought, discussion at Staff meeting and/or consultation with other staff members.

There were 152 individual letters written during the year, with appropriate literature enclosed. Also 30 letters on Public Information regarding Alateen were written, 25 letters to WSC Delegates, 68 to Alateen Coordinators, 18 to Alateen Conferences, five to Alateen Committee members and 43 miscellaneous.

Preliminary work was begun on Alateen participation at the AA International Convention in Denver.

There are now approximately 50 Areas with Alateen Coordi-

nators, and two in states in Australia and one in the Republic of South Africa. They are helping greatly in the growth of Alateen and the age-old problem of finding sponsors for groups.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Penny B., Chairman; Holly C., Secretary

The Committee meets each month with all the Staff Secretaries who also serve on this Committee. They report on the activities of Committees for Admissions, Agenda, Handbook and Hospitality, and act as liaison for Delegates serving on the Standing Committees.

From January through March, final plans for the 1974 Conference were developed, including those with the George Washington Hotel, where the 85 Conference members stayed. Volunteers in the Hospitality Room came to 43 members—a wonderful response!

Following the World Service Conference, Alice B., was assigned the task of compiling the Conference Summary. Copies of the completed work went to all groups, world-wide, and Delegates were given an opportunity to request additional copies. At last count, 1300 complimentary copies were mailed to the Delegates for distribution in their Areas.

Meanwhile work on the 1975 Conference had started. After considering a number of choices, the Hotel Commodore was selected as the site of the 1975 Conference. The theme, recommended by the Delegate Members of the Agenda Committee, was: TRUST—OUR WATCHWORD! This was taken from the Twelve Concepts. Delegates were kept informed of our plans through letters and the quarterly AREA HIGHLIGHTS.

Delegates also received copies of all contribution acknowledgments sent to their groups, as well as copies of all group-wide mailings.

Nominated at the Conference as Regional Trustee (Eastern U.S.), Paul L., (Kentucky), was elected by the Board. Bobbie C., (Tenn.) as Alternate R.T. Since the Western Region will submit names of RT Candidates for the 1975 election, the Delegates from the 25 Areas who will participate in the voting met for a special luncheon meeting during the Conference. Eric, RT, U.S. Western Region, opened the meeting, and Loretta, Chairman of the RT Committee, reviewed the RT Experimental Plan. By early 1975, resumes of 12 RT Candidates had been received, and sent on to the members who will be voting at the 1975 Conference. A luncheon, followed by a meeting, will again be held in 1975, this time for the Canadian Delegates who will elect a Regional Trustee in 1976. Jean A. RT (Canadian Region) will also be present.

Letters of welcome were sent to the 20 incoming Delegates. This included Puerto Rico which will send a Delegate for the first time. Representatives will be attending from Delaware, the United Kingdom and Eire, and, for the first time, from Australia.

Throughout the year 1974, there has been close cooperation between the World Service Office and the Delegates, who have channeled information relating to our service structure to the Area WS Committee members, the Districts, and the groups.

INSTITUTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Edwina F., Chairman; Ann S., Secretary

The Committee met each month and submitted an article for the FORUM under the theme, "Come Alive in '75."

A number of Districts have appointed members to work with the Institutional Coordinators. Everyone seems to be pulling together toward one goal:

An Al-Anon meeting in every hospital, penal institution and rehabilitation center where there is an alcoholism program.

Many professionals write to ask that a group be started. We send them Al-Anon and Alateen literature and refer them to the Area Coordinator or the Delegate.

Institutional Highlights, too, has carried the message effectively in its quarterly issues. The Committee is most grateful for the many interesting ideas sent in from the field.

There was voluminous correspondence all through the year; letters of welcome to new Coordinators, and answers to the many letters of inquiry.

PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE

Hank G., Chairman; Josie C., Staff

Because of the great increase in new P.I. projects and the work of preparing material to implement them, we give only highlights of our year.

Labor-Management

This project is growing slowly, but surely. Many Areas are now providing information about Al-Anon to both industry and government in their communities. General Electric is now making Al-Anon available to its employees.

Our participation in the exhibit at the 1974 *American Industrial Health Conference* gave us an excellent opportunity to reach large numbers of medical professionals. Work is continuing on the Labor-Management packet; the present packet is available from the WSO at 35¢ each. The first copy of "Guidelines for our Members" is free. Additional copies are fifteen cents.

DRINK, DRANK, DRUNK

This year our cooperation with the communications media brought about the Public Service Television Special, "Drink, Drank, Drunk," which carried the message of Al-Anon and Alateen to families of the twelve million problem drinkers of the U.S. and Canada. Starring Carol Burnett, it was the first prime-time TV program to focus on this problem from the family point of view. Al-Anon and Alateen members volunteered to answer inquiries wherever the show was telecast. Calls seeking referrals are still pouring in.

Radio Public Service Announcements

Eight public service announcements on a single record, repeated the copy on our TV spots; these are now in use. The response from radio stations and members has been enthusiastic.

MS Magazine

The offer of a full page public service announcement by MS Magazine has been accepted, and a layout has been prepared. All Groups will be notified of the publication date.

New Floor Display

A new floor display, using the photographs and copy from our TV spots, will be on exhibit at various events in which Al-Anon will participate during 1975.

"Inside Al-Anon" Public Information

With more and more P.I. projects developing, and more and more Al-Anon and Alateen members becoming involved—approximately 60 P.I. Coordinators, and innumerable P.I. Committees and

Chairmen—there is still a problem of maintaining lines of communication. A workable structure is to form P.I. Committees at the District level, with one member from each group handling the immediate territory. When P.I. services are centralized in this manner, information flows freely, between the WSO, the P.I. Committees, the groups and the public.

PARTICIPATION AT NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ANNUAL MEETINGS

The American Personnel and Guidance Association has Dot S., Louisiana Delegate, as the official Al-Anon representative.

U.S. Public Health Service Professional Associations held its Ninth Joint Meeting in Washington, D.C. Marty L., Public Information Committee, Washington Area Intergroup, was our official representative.

The National Council on Alcoholism. We participated in the NCA program during its Annual Meeting in Denver, April 28th-May 3rd, 1974. Hank G. was the moderator of the workshop on "Al-Anon: A Resource for Alcoholism Programs." Others on the panel were the Reverend Joseph L. Kellermann and his associate, James F. Emmert of the Charlotte Council on Alcoholism; Marie Garrison, Monmouth N.J. Council on Alcoholism, and John Williams, NCA New York City Affiliate. The workshop presented approaches for Industrial Counselors, Medical Directors and Personnel Directors in helping the employee whose work was being affected by relationship with an alcoholic.

National Catholic Educational Association. We shared a booth with the Greater Cleveland Area National Council on Alcoholism and other Alcoholism Agencies at the 71st Convention of this group held in Cleveland in April, 1974. Virginia C., Chairman, Public Information Committee, Cleveland, represented Al-Anon.

American Industrial Health Conference. We were officially represented at the Annual Meetings of the Industrial Medical Association and the American Association of Industrial Nurses, in Bal Harbour, Florida, by Shirley F., P.I. Chairman, and Marge R., Co-Chairman, Miami, Florida.

National Conference on Social Welfare. Carolyn K., substituting for Charlotte M., the Ohio Delegate, represented Al-Anon at the 101st Annual Forum of this Conference.

National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. At this Annual Meeting, held at the Shoreham Hotel, Washington, D.C., Alateen had an Exhibition for the first time. Mary V., Maryland Delegate, and Marty L., of the P.I. Committee, shared the responsibility for our participation.

National Medical Association. We were represented at its 79th Annual Convention and Scientific Assembly held in New Orleans. Dot S., Louisiana Delegate, represented Al-Anon, along with Vivian M., P.I. Coordinator for Louisiana.

American Public Health Association. Dot and Vivian again represented Al-Anon at the 102nd Annual Meeting of this Association, also held in New Orleans.

National Federation of Licensed Practical Nurses. Cathie C., New Jersey Delegate, represented us at the Silver Anniversary Convention held in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

North American Congress on Alcohol and Drug Problems (International Meeting in San Francisco). We participated in the San Francisco meeting, with a Workshop, "Al-Anon/Alateen: A Resource for Alcoholism Programs." Henrietta presented a paper on this subject. Our panel included the Reverend Kellermann, Ed Scharlau, Manager Personnel Program, 3M Company, Henrietta S., Josie C., and Hank G.

LITERATURE COMMITTEE REPORT

Louise M.

"Because I have been primarily involved with the FORUM, as its new editor, work of the Literature Committee has been slow. We do have two new in-town members, Mary Anne K., and Peggy T., and we're making more progress with revisions and new items. A new three-page price list includes space for new items and lists Public Information materials separately. The supplementary price list is now included in the three-page order blank. An additional list, for distribution to non-members, includes only those items which would be of interest to them.

"As pieces of literature are reprinted, minor revisions are made to keep them up-to-date. More extensive changes have been made in 'Are You Living With A Severe Drinking Problem?', adding several more questions. 'If Your Parents Drink Too Much,' a cartoon booklet, was released early in the year.

"Still in the works are the booklets approved by the 1974 Conference: one for the adult children of alcoholics; an expanded Fourth Step Inventory; a booklet for Al-Anon members who work as professionals in the field of alcoholism, and one on 'Double Winners'—AA members who are also in Al-Anon."

FRENCH LITERATURE COMMITTEE

Alberte C., Chairman; Harriet L., Translator

"Expansion of the French Al-Anon and Alateen groups is continuing at a great rate. From 345 groups and lone members in January, 1974, by February 1975 we had grown to 470 groups and Loners. 240 Al-Anons and 60 Alateen groups in Quebec, 13 Al-Anon groups in Ontario, 8 in New Brunswick, where the first Alateen group is now being formed. There are 2 active French groups in the U.S., with a third starting in New York; 11 French Al-Anon groups in Switzerland, 32 in Belgium, and 30 in France with 4 Alateen groups each in France and Belgium. A French Al-Anon group is now being formed in Germany. France has its own Al-Anon General Services Office and French Literature Committee, and 2 active Intergroups.

"Book sales rose from \$24,058.62 in 1973, to \$29,991.68 in 1974. From October, 1973 to February 1975, 6700 copies of ODAT were sold, with 900 going overseas; and 1,428 LIVING WITH AN ALCOHOLIC, with 320 sent overseas. The second printing of ODAT will be ordered shortly."

Harriet then said:

"My report will be a shortie. Even if translation is of utmost importance in any international organization, there is very little one can say on the subject without falling into boring technicalities.

"During the past year, I have been translating mostly Service material.

"In 1961, following our First Experimental Conference, I had the task of preparing the first French version of the Handbook, in anticipation of Quebec's entry into the World Service Conference. Ever since then, my primary concern has been to revise the French version of the Handbook to include any changes that might have been made in the English version. And in 1974, the translation of the 'Twelve Concepts' was undertaken.

"I must admit that I eagerly anticipated working on the Concepts; from the very beginning they have been most exciting and rewarding. The wisdom and foresight expressed in 'Al-Anon's Twelve Concepts of Service' are surely a worthy guarantee of our unity and harmony in the future.

"Over the last year I have been revising our 1966 French edition of 'The Al-Anon and Alateen Groups at Work' to conform to the 1974 revision.

"All the above drafts were channeled, via the World Service Office, to Maita Floyd, a French Al-Anon member from overseas, living in Phoenix, Arizona. We want to achieve the greatest possible uniformity of language in the interest of French-speaking countries everywhere.

"Tri-annual appeal letters, the letter accompanying the renewal of the group's registration, and other communications, including announcements related to the International AA Convention in Denver, and the questionnaire related to the TV program DRINK, DRANK, DRUNK—all were made available to our French-speaking Al-Anon members.

"This briefly covers my activities during the past year. They were far more a pleasure than a tedious task and I nourish the greatest hopes for Al-Anon and each and every Al-Anon member all over the world. Thank you all for making the most beautiful dreams possible. God bless you."

DISCUSSION OF WORLD DIRECTORY—1975 WSC

Henrietta S., WSO

"At the 1972 WSC, the Delegates Only meeting recommended that the World Directory be removed from the order blank. Since it states that the Directory can be ordered by groups and loners, some other means should be found to make it available. If it should be impossible to remove it from the literature list, it is recommended that the decision as to selling the Directory to a non-member be made by the Delegate of the Area from which the request came."

"The Directory was then removed from the descriptive printed order blank, but to make it possible for groups to order, it was put on the single-sheet supplementary price list. The WSO further implemented this recommendation from the Delegates by seeking their advice on whether or not to fill any order received from an outside agency in each one's respective Area.

"The following year, as reported in the 1973 Conference Summary, I said: 'And now I want to thank you all for your wonderful cooperation in responding so promptly when we asked about filling Directory orders from outside agencies. When a Delegate felt that the Directory might be misused by such an agency, the order was not filled and a letter of explanation sent.'

"The ASK-IT-BASKET section of the 1974 Conference Summary included the following:

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 whether 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. It follows that individual members should do the same. Delegates' names and addresses appear in the World Directory at the head of each state and province.*

"Also at last year's Conference at the meeting of the Literature Committee with six Delegate members present, it was agreed that the descriptive order blank be redesigned to segregate Public Information material from the rest. To accomplish this, the literature list had to be enlarged to its present three-fold format, leaving one

page blank. Rather than have it wasted and because the single-page supplementary material sheet was often overlooked by groups, it was decided to put these items on the blank page. Some of us at the WSO had qualms about again having the Directory appear on the order blank but felt that the words 'available to registered groups and loners only' would deter others from ordering it. This composite price list was first printed in September.

"In November, one Delegate questioned how this came about. We agreed that she did have a point; in other words, we had been stating in printed publications that *the World Directory is available to registered groups and loners only* while following the recommendation from the 1972 Delegates Only Meeting 'that the decision as to selling the Directory to a non-member be made by the Delegate of the Area from which the request came.'

"For this reason, *one sentence which appeared in previous editions in the World Directory has been deleted from the 1975 issue—that is: 'They are available only to Al-Anon/Alateen members.'*"

"As an interim measure, it was decided to remove the Directory from the price list until the full Conference could resolve this contradiction. So when the price list was re-ordered in December, 1974, and ever since, the Directory has not been listed for sale, except on the few supplementary order forms still left in stock.

"It is a fact that many Alcoholic Rehabilitation Centers, located in parts of the country where no local meeting lists are published, are AA-oriented; their personnel are aware of our Tradition of anonymity and their need for a Directory is only to be able to make referrals of families of alcoholics to the Al-Anon group nearest them.

"It should be noted that AA GSO follows the same procedure in handling sales of their directory to outside agencies, and yet in the forefront of their directory is this statement: 'They are available only to A.A. members.'

"We now seek guidance of the full Conference body in resolving this problem."

After discussion, the Conference voted to have requests for our World Directory handled as stated in Motions of the Conference (see page 32)

REPORT: AL-ANON/ALATEEN ACTIVITIES AT THE AA INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

Henrietta S., Chairman; Myrna H., Secretary

Preparations for our participation in the Denver Convention, which began in 1973, continued throughout 1974 and taxed to the limit—and beyond—our various committees and staff.

Henrietta mentioned briefly how much work and ingenuity were involved in planning the more than 35 individual sessions—panels, workshops and Big Meetings, not to mention the volume of correspondence.

"You can imagine what all this meant," Henrietta said, "over and above our regular year-round chores, but it certainly gave us an opportunity to prove that we are always provided with the time and energy for a labor of love."

She then turned the microphone over to Myrna, who delivered first the thrilling news that convention registrations had so far exceeded 12,000 and were still pouring in.

"This surely has been an example of willing cooperation on everyone's part," Myrna said, "and how we needed it!"

"In the latter part of the year, meetings were held every week to round out the final details of our program. A tremendous contribution of united effort was made by the Denver Host Committee, with whom we were constantly in touch.

"Then, after much of the preliminary work had been finished, Henrietta and I flew out to Denver for a meeting with the full Host

Committee. Guided by Dorothy E., Chairman of the Host Committee, Marge A., a former WSC Delegate from Colorado and Convention Co-Chairman, and Shirley B., our present Delegate, we visited the sites chosen for our Al-Anon activities. Considering the vast scope of our plans, the Denver-Hilton seemed to have shrunk somewhat since our last view of it!

"Our speakers and panel chairmen were chosen with great care. A Speaker's Questionnaire was sent out in 1974 for distribution to all parts of each Area. Some were sent directly to individuals who would be attending, and forms were also sent to members needed to serve in other capacities. A system was worked out to assure that all speakers who wished to stay at the Hilton would be accommodated.

"Important behind-the-scenes work included articles in the FORUM and the Spanish newsletter AL-ANON EN ACCION. The French Literature Committee handled publicity in that language. Our General Service Committees overseas encouraged participation by those who were planning to attend. The WSO Public Information Committee has a campaign underway to continue until the beginning of July. A Keepsake Program, full of Al-Anon philosophy in highly readable form, is being published, with copy by Alice B., and delightfully witty illustrations by Nancy C., an Al-Anon member in Florida. This is the only item that will be sold at the Convention by Al-Anon.

"We are most grateful, too, to AA for its wonderful cooperation; their Convention Committee is going to mail out our flyers with some of their mailings.

"Among the programs planned are seven Big Meetings; Al-Anon Around the World, featuring visiting speakers from many countries; Double Winners; Young Al-Anon; The Daily Dozen, a Twelve Step Meeting for Al-Anon and another for Alateen; two spiritual meetings, seven panel discussions, 14 workshops and a daily series of meetings in Spanish, French and German. Spontaneous Night-Owl Meetings, starting at 10:30 P.M., will each be chaired by a WSO volunteer. In addition, we'll be featuring films, including several showings of DRINK, DRANK, DRUNK.

"But that's only the beginning," Myrna said, almost breathlessly. "The Host Committee is sponsoring a breakfast for Lois, and there will be a box-lunch Picnic in the Park at the Denver Civic Center. There will also be a Reception in honor of our co-founders, Lois and Anne, for which there will be no charge. And to top this all off, Dubby S., former WSC Delegate from Colorado, has arranged a Reunion Luncheon for all World Service Conference members, past and present."

Myrna then turned the microphone over to Shirley B., our present Delegate, who gave us an ecstatic preview of some other important details. She spoke of the many volunteers who got together to paint local rocks to be given to visitors in remembrance of the great occasion. She told us about joint events sponsored by AA:

"There'll be two big dances on Thursday evening, with Ray Block and His Orchestra, a Saturday Night Gala with Mel Torme and other great performers.

"On Sunday there will be what is perhaps the most important event of all, the great Spiritual Meeting, giving us all an opportunity to be part of the spiritual bond of love that binds our fellowships together."

ALATEEN PANEL

Carole K., Chairman; Timmy W., Secretary

Carole K., Chairman, introduced the in-town members, Martha E., Alateen Coordinator for N.J., and Robin G., Post Alateen, Fairlawn, N.J. She then welcomed the new Delegate members: Agnes L., (Ark.), Barbara S., (N.H.), and Lois B., (Sask., Can.).

Martha spoke on Sponsorship—Alateen's No. 1 problem. She had been an Alateen, now sponsors the Ridgewood, N.J. group, and serves her Area as Alateen Coordinator. Martha stressed the advantages of having sponsors with Alateen experience. "Former Alateens can explain the structure of our fellowship, the importance of anonymity and how to handle group finances." She urged Al-Anons who are not able to sponsor groups to encourage others to do so.

"Building understanding between Al-Anon and Alateen could persuade many more Al-Anons to undertake sponsorship," Martha said. "This could come about through:

1. Joint Al-Anon/Alateen meetings, on a topic such as 'Alcoholism, the Family Disease,' with all participating.
2. Workshops for Al-Anons interested in Alateen, with guest speakers—an Alateen member, sponsor or Coordinator, to discuss what goes on at Alateen meetings, what Al-Anon and Alateen can do for each other.
3. A display of Alateen CAL at Al-Anon meetings.
4. Alateen sponsors speaking at Al-Anon meetings. This gives Al-Anon members an excellent opportunity to know what sponsoring an Alateen group is all about. The Alateen Coordinator's role is to encourage Al-Anons to start and sponsor Alateen groups, and to make both Al-Anons and Alateens aware that Alateen is a *part* of Al-Anon, not a separate fellowship; to meet regularly with sponsors to head off possible problems between Al-Anon and Alateen and report to their Area Assembly on all Alateen activities to keep communications open."

Martha concluded with a quote from the October 1973 MISSOURI ROUND ROBIN (Area Newsletter) which was devoted to Alateen: "Why do we hold back in committing ourselves to sponsorship? We need you! Would *you* be a sponsor? For those of us who have received help and hope in the program, there is no greater 12-Step work than to carry the message to our children through the fellowship of Alateen."

Betty W., Delegate from Oregon, then spoke on "How the Alateen Coordinator Helps the Delegate and Unifies Alateen in his Area."

"Let me share with you a mental picture of Oregon. It is larger than New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maryland and New Hampshire combined, but it has only 2¼ million people. Portland, our largest city, has 380,000; the next largest has 79 thousand and from there the population figures go to small, smaller, smallest. Before you pack up to head out our way, I just want you to know we love having you come to visit but please don't plan to stay; we like having that big state all to ourselves. Most of the 2¼ million live in the western half of the state so that's where most of our Al-Anon and Alateen groups are.

"Now to two of my favorite topics—Alateen and Coordinators. Our first Alateen Coordinator was elected in 1968. She served about a year and I was asked to finish her term. With some reluctance, I accepted. Alateen had not been too successful in our Area and although I had been an interested sponsor, I felt there wasn't really much to coordinate. There were no guidelines for Alateen Coordinators at that time, so I decided it would be best to start with an up-to-date list of existing groups. Sounds easy, right? Well, communications being what they are, it took quite some time.

"There were only 5 or 6 active groups. There had been more but mostly the groups formed, kept going for a time and then died away. Why was this so? The main reason was that sponsors became tired and no one was even willing to lend a hand! So we started sponsor workshops. It took time to get anyone else but

sponsors of existing groups to attend but they learned through sharing thoughts and ideas.

"I talked about the need for groups and sponsors both to Assemblies, Al-Anon groups and individuals. Boy, did I talk! There were many times when they thought 'Oh no, here she goes again.' Luckily I had been active at the Area level for quite a while so I had lots of friends who tolerated me. Besides, I've learned that if you believe in what you're doing and are willing to work at it, miracles can and do happen. I submitted articles to our Area newsletter. Our Area Committee voted to help new groups by furnishing their own starter packet of literature and whenever we had a prospective sponsor, that little goodie was always thrown in. The GRs were very helpful. They went back to their groups and carried the message for me and brought me information about what was going on locally.

"In Portland, where I live, when the Al-Anon answering service received a call for Alateen information, guess who got most of the calls! So I had an opportunity to talk with many counselors of young people. As we all know, many of these are from homes where there is an alcohol problem. Sometimes a few Alateens and I would go talk with people on Youth Commissions and other social agencies. During school hours, I usually went alone, but always with copies of 'Facts About Alateen' and other literature in hand.

"At times I became discouraged, when a group folded or a planned one didn't make it or when my notes in the newsletter weren't answered. Discouraged? Yes. Give up? No.

"I was Alateen Coordinator for four years. At the end of that time, there still weren't very many groups, but things were improving. Within the last year the number of Alateen groups has doubled. We are having more Alateen workshops and sponsors' meetings. The groups are sending GRs to District and Assembly. Our problems now are mostly involved with growth.

"I wish more Al-Anons were willing to be sponsors. We have had and still have, some AA sponsors. This had led to a few problems since Alateen is part of Al-Anon, and uses the elements of our program from the Al-Anon standpoint. Now that lines of communication are opening more and more, things are looking up.

"I hope I've given you the impression that I like being a member of this big family because I really do. Let me close by saying that our 20 Alateen groups may seem small to many of you but to us, it's wonderful!"

After Betty's talk, Carole commented on how the Alateens have grown in knowledge of structure, etc. The first Alateen Conference she attended she walked in with a big smile and said, "Hi! I'm Carole from WSO." Someone said, "What group is that?" Timmy and she continued to attend many Conferences, talking about structure, WSO's function and Alateens relationship to Al-Anon. Now when they attend Conferences, kids come up asking intelligent questions about all these things!

Carole introduced Timmy who announced the new Alateen Discount Package. Package A, 77 pieces, a total value of \$6.45 for \$4.95. Package B contains the same 77 pieces plus the hard cover book, ALATEEN—HOPE FOR CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS, a total value of \$9.95 for \$7.95.

On the *Suggested Guidelines for Alateen Conferences*, Timmy told us that a few changes, approved by the Committee on Wednesday morning, had been given to the Conference. After questions and discussion from the floor, with a number of Conference members still not entirely satisfied with the Guidelines, Louise M. made the following MOTION: "The Conference gives the Special Committee, working with the Alateen Committee on the Alateen Conference Guidelines, a vote of confidence for the work they have done so far, with the provision that the Guidelines be reworked and presented to the Delegate Committee Members and the Board

Trustees for final approval." After discussion, the Motion was approved.

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To get us ready for the rest of a busy afternoon, we had a brief coffee break, after which there was discussion of the Delegates Only Meeting concept. It was agreed that no matters on the agenda, or those which should properly come before the Conference as a whole, be brought up at a DO meeting.

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REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Agenda Committee

In reporting on the conclusions reached by the Standing Committee, Dot H., (Georgia) listed a number of recommendations, indicating that the Delegates on this Committee had really done their homework. The suggestions were:

- that ideas submitted to the WSO Agenda Committee during the year be relayed to the Conference Committee.
- for a closer communication between WSO Agenda Committee and Agenda Delegate Members, they hoped that a Staff member would continue to attend Agenda Standing Committee meetings at the WSC.
- that Conference reports be sent to Delegates by March 1 so that Area reaction can be obtained before the Conference.
- that the 16th WSC souvenir be a parchment-type paper, suitable for framing, bearing the Al-Anon Traditions. (An alternate suggestion: plastic disk with Al-Anon emblem encased.)
- that the Delegates Headstart session be re-scheduled to the pre-Conference new Delegate orientation session, to be replaced by a "Town Hall" meeting on Concepts.
- that Workshops also have Delegates serve as moderators or co-chairman.
- that the Workshop questionnaires be submitted to the Delegates for their suggestions.
- that a Workshop be scheduled on *Recovery, Unity and Service*.
- Reminder: Delegates may submit '76 Conference agenda suggestions up to Nov. 1, '75.

In conclusion, Dorothy said that the Committee will happily welcome other suggestions for Workshop topics.

Literature Committee Meeting

Louise M., past Chairman of the Literature Committee, and now Editor of the FORUM, gave the summary of the Standing Committee meeting held Wednesday morning.

The Standing Committee approved exploring the role of the Literature Coordinator, a new office which has been developed in a number of Areas. Drawing on the experience of these Areas, guidelines will be set up for use in other W.S. Committees.

A vote was taken on whether to use "who" or "whom" (*Who* you see here or *Whom* you see here) on our display card. The majority decided on "who"; most felt "whom" was too formal.

No decision was made on whether or not to drop our booklet, *How To Know An Alcoholic*.

It was also pointed out that several alcoholism groups publish *Alcoholism, A Merry-Go-Round Named Denial*, with their own reprint, and own interpretations. This does not violate our copyright since our version differs substantially from the original.

Booklets were proposed on problems in sobriety and the resentments children often have about the non-alcoholic parent in the

family. They will be considered, but cautiously, since it is impossible for us to produce and carry literature on specific problems, many of which could be solved by study of the program.

Alateen Committee Meeting

The Committee reviewed the Guidelines for Alateen Conferences, but after considerable discussion, it was agreed to refer the question to a Conference session.

Lois B. of Saskatchewan is a new member of the Alateen Committee. Alateens in her province have had their own Assembly for several years. It operates the same as an Al-Anon Assembly, with an Alateen Provincial Representative in the role of Delegate, visiting groups all over the province, reporting back to the Assembly and meeting with GRs from the groups. This Provincial Representative also attends the Al-Anon Assembly as a voting member of the Area Committee.

In 1972, Timmy W., Alateen Secretary at the WSO, attended the First Interprovincial Alateen Conference held in Saskatoon and observed the Alateen Assembly in operation. It was conducted efficiently and beautifully. The GRs voted to send Diane M., the Provincial Alateen Representative, to BIG MAAC, the Alateen Conference held annually in Maryland, which also had an Assembly.

In 1971 both of these Alateen Assemblies had asked for direct representation at the World Service Conference. The WSO explored the problems involved and the conclusions, showing the impracticality of this plan at the present time, were presented in a paper which was distributed to the Delegates at the WSC. It was suggested they give careful consideration to the idea during the year and encourage Alateen participation at the District and Assembly levels. Since then we have heard of other Areas with Alateen Assemblies but have had no details.

As a kind of pilot project, the Committee decided to explore the feasibility of encouraging Alateens to form their own Assemblies, which would be a fine training ground for continued service in Al-Anon. They asked Lois, of Saskatchewan, to ask the Alateen Provincial Representative for definite information as to how the Assembly is now functioning. Lois will also contact Tim P., who was largely responsible for launching the Alateen Assembly, and report her findings to the Alateen Committee at WSO, who will send them to the Delegate Committee members. They will try to get the feeling in their Areas about this idea and report back to the WSO. A general report on the project will be given at the WSC in 1976.

P.I. Committee Meeting

Hank reported an exciting sharing meeting by members of the P.I. Committee. Several valuable suggestions had been brought to the meeting and many points were agreed on, which Hank summarized briefly.

It was generally felt that there was some lack of communication which Hank suggested might be because not enough encouragement was given for members to become involved in P.I. work. Group support, he said, is greatly needed. Good P.I. people are also needed in work of national and world-wide scope. Great care must be taken not to initiate projects without coordinating them with the WSO, because of the public nature of this work.

Hank spoke of the need for strong P.I. Coordinators, and how help on the District level could contribute to the work. Among the suggestions were that local newspapers can be a valuable asset. We were reminded of mats that are available from the WSO. "Working with industry," Hank said, "requires continuous follow-up, since contacts tend to change frequently."

In closing, he reminded the Delegates that WSO sends them quarterly reports and presented the Committee's suggestion that

consideration be given to having two P.I. Committee meetings during our 1976 Conference.

Institutions Committee Meeting

Lucille C., Minnesota reported on the stimulating and informative meeting of the Institutions Committee, on the work that had been done so successfully—and what still lies ahead to be accomplished.

The January issue of the FORUM had introduced the Institutional theme, COME ALIVE IN '75. One suggestion in the FORUM feature referred to the highly successful "Meeting on Wheels" used by Pittsburgh, Pa. to stimulate interest in Al-Anon.

It was suggested that a Fact File on Institutional work be prepared, similar to the PI Fact File. It could include Guidelines to be used by Institutional Coordinators and Chairmen. It would also be desirable to have Guidelines for the use of Alateens involved in this work.

The Committee voted to include three additional pieces of literature in the Institutional literature packet: The Alateen Cartoon Booklet; "How Can I Help My Children"; and "Freedom from Despair." The price of \$4.85 for 54 pieces is to remain the same.

Elsie, of Cal. S., presented a display board being used at the hospital where she serves as Al-Anon Sponsor, suggesting that other Institutional Groups might find a similar display valuable. The newcomer is referred to an Al-Anon group and is given one or two pieces of literature, "Homeward Bound" and/or "A Guide for the Family."

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The afternoon ended with two of our outgoing Delegates telling about "A Memorable Area Experience" during their terms as Conference members.

Elsie Q., Calif. (S) told us about her interesting experiences:

"Returning home last year, I reported to the Assembly and told them my idea of having our own 'week-end affair'—a dream of mine ever since we held our first one-day Workshop in 1970. The Assembly gave the Committee the 'go-ahead.' Guidelines for the future were important, so the W.S. Officers got busy on those. We truly 'CAME ALIVE IN '75.'"

"We had a Participation Meeting on Friday Night; Saturday morning the official opening. From there, patterned after the WSC we had four rooms readied for discussions by the four Area Districts, with moderators and reporters for each session. All discussed the same topic at the same time. We had different subjects covering four services of Al-Anon. Many were amazed that Al-Anon services reached into so many areas.

"At dinner on Saturday night, many AAs joined their spouses for the 'LET YOUR HAIR DOWN' program. Everyone enjoyed the skits, good laughs, soft music, and on Sunday morning the reporters presented the summaries of the workshops. We called this 'GETTING IT ALL TOGETHER.' We closed with 'Lois's Story' so we could all go home in a tranquil mood.

"This was our first. We didn't know what to expect and how many would come. If there were responses from 350 groups? What would it be? We played the whole thing by ear. If only GR's came it would be a nice crowd. Include the alternates, a nicer crowd. Add visitors and we'd be in heaven! We were; 545 registered! Everyone shared—the enthusiasm was great. It spilled over into District meetings, into Area WSC meetings; it was beautiful.

"A memorable event, it was my dream come true while serving as Delegate for my Area."

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Then Jackie, from Florida, described an experience that was

as amusing as it was memorable. She spoke of the much looked-forward-to visit of Margaret D., who with her daughter, would be vacationing nearby. She had promised to stop by for a few hours to visit with her Al-Anon friends in Florida. Jackie had immediately invited scores of them to a pool party in Margaret's honor. With all plans made, but no word from Margaret as to when she would be arriving or even where she was staying, a sense of panic set in. Especially when Jackie realized that she did not even know Margaret's last name.

A call to WSO solved that problem, but then began the problem of locating Margaret. And the possible problem that the motel registration might be in her daughter's name.

The local telephone directory listed three pages of motels. Jackie and a friend started working backwards and forwards to try to locate Margaret—which proved even more difficult than locating the motel in which she was staying. Phone calls crisscrossed back and forth, but somehow Jackie and Margaret kept missing each other, while the guests gathered for the party.

But we in Al-Anon always manage to come through. Margaret did finally arrive at the party, but the lateness made no difference; it was almost morning before the happy gathering broke up!

Thursday Morning April 24

After roll call and announcements, the first event of the day was the:

INSTITUTIONS PANEL

Edwina F., Chairman; Ann S., Secretary

Ann opened the panel meeting, doing the honors for Jo K., former Chairman of the Institutions Committee, who had moved to Florida. Ann welcomed—and thanked—the in-town members of the Committee, Rose, our new Delegate from New York S. and Edwina F., who after great service as Area Institutional Coordinator, is now Chairman of the Institutions Committee. Ann expressed the Committee's gratitude for the help given by Delegates throughout the year, for "the beautiful two-way communication and cooperation between the members of the Areas and the WSO.

Ann then introduced Edwina, who thanked the Institutions Standing Committee for their fine meeting and told about her somewhat unconventional introduction to institutions work in Al-Anon. A friend had signed her name to a committee list. But despite regular weekly meetings, the group fell apart. Then a newcomer who was interested in Institutional work, called the WSO, which responded with a copy of "Guidelines for Institutional Work" and the format for beginner's meetings. From then on, Institutional work in Nassau and Suffolk Counties snowballed.

The first meeting was held at Central Islip State Hospital. Growth was slow, even with the cooperation of the professional staff, in making the spouses of the alcoholic patients aware of Al-Anon. The next step was to branch out to programs at Pilgrim State and South Oaks Hospitals. The meetings varied in type and structure, but there was never a deviation from our Guidelines or the Traditions.

"In May, of last year," Edwina said, "we began to use the 'Meeting-on-Wheels.' We approached the top administrators in clinics and hospitals, with offers to bring a Meetings-on-Wheels. It proved an ideal way to present Al-Anon.

"In my Institutional work," Edwina concluded, "I have learned the importance of always staying within our Traditions, and keeping a positive attitude and enthusiasm. I have gained so much personally from this work. The look in someone's eyes when they identify for the first time at an Institutional meeting is more thanks than I ever expected."

Louise B., the Delegate from Virginia, told us of the "increas-

ing awareness of Al-Anon and Alateen in the courts and institutions."

"The State of Virginia has shown a progressive attitude toward the problem of the alcoholic. In most programs funded by municipal or state government, there has been both coordination and cooperation with Al-Anon."

Louise listed some of the groups where this inter-relationship occurs: The Roanoke Honor Court Program; The Bureau of Alcoholic Studies and Rehabilitation, which funded a two hour show in Richmond following DRINK, DRANK, DRUNK; An A.R.C. at the Norfolk Navy Base; A.S.A.P., a pilot program to get the drunk driver off the road; The Salem V.A. Hospital, Southwestern State Hospital, Alexandria Hospital and Fairfax City Hospital. The Alateen meeting at Fairfax was the first Alateen hospital group in Virginia.

"Al-Anon meetings have been carried to prisons to coincide with AA meetings."

"We tell people the alcoholic's chance of recovery is 80% greater when the family affiliates with Al-Anon, and that Al-Anon growing at the rate of 12% a day. People in courts and institutions like facts and figures!"

Thursday Afternoon

WORLD SERVICE HANDBOOK

At mid-morning began the long discussion of the World Service Handbook revision, which had been undertaken at the 1974 Conference by a Committee chaired by "T" (Kansas). "T" had been replaced by Lois because of her earlier years of work on the Handbook, and she chaired this meeting, ably assisted by Holly C., Henrietta S., of the WSO, and by Jean A., Regional Trustee, Canada.

At the first of the two scheduled Handbook sessions, Lois greeted us warmly:

"Let me start this discussion of our Handbook with a prayer in my heart, and love; I know we'll come up with something useful."

"Our Handbook came into being in 1961; we followed AA from the beginning. After Bill had written the Third Legacy manual, which included the Service Structure, and the Twelve Concepts of Service, he helped me prepare the first Handbook for Al-Anon. It wasn't the same as AA's; it couldn't be, for we are different fellowships and our problems are quite different from AA's, although the principles that guide us are the same."

"Over the years, from 1961 on, many revisions and improvements were made. We know it is far from being a perfect document, and last year, at the Conference a Committee was appointed to revise the Handbook. The WSC Summary of the 1974 Conference reported this and listed the names of the members: Elsie Q., Calif. S.; Connie McD., Conn.; "T," Kansas; Cathy C., N.J.; Charlotte M., Ohio; Anne H., Penna."

"Well, this Handbook Committee has done a tremendous job; many months were spent working on it and in many instances the writing was greatly improved. You Delegates here have had a considerable amount of time to study the new version, and here, at this session, we'll try to find answers."

Lois then asked how many used the Handbook as written and then how many used it with some changes. The show of hands indicated that more made changes than followed the Handbook exactly. Lois then called on "T" who had chaired the Delegates Handbook Committee since the 1974 Conference.

"T" felt that it would be simpler to follow a set pattern; suggesting deviations could cause problems. A too-rigid set of rules would not serve well, either. Her view was that Areas might well make such changes as served their needs but that change should be gradual. "T" said that since the Committee could not meet, they

presented, by an exchange of letters, ideas that were being successfully used. (These suggestions were incorporated in the preliminary draft which was submitted to the Conference.)

After thanking "T," Lois mentioned that a very fruitful meeting of the Handbook Committee had been held before the Conference opened.

Lois then called on Jean A., Regional Trustee from Canada and former WSC Delegate from Ontario. "Jean will tell us how her various Areas use the Handbook."

Jean: "It seems to me that it would be most helpful to use the word GUIDE in the Handbook's title. That's what it is. We use it as a guide, but we have deviated from its procedures at times, when a special need arose to do so."

"One instance: I recall attending an Area Assembly where they just couldn't see the GR remaining as DR. This posed no problem; they simply voted on it."

"If we had any idea that this is a *rule* book, we'd really be in trouble. My view is that it should be followed as closely as it can be, always remembering the importance of unity. Wisely made changes would not affect that."

Lois: "The Handbook does say that it *suggests* procedures, that these are the methods that have been found satisfactory by most groups. If too many options are offered, it will be hard for the membership to decide which is best."

Walter, N. Car.: "My feeling is that we're equating unity with doing things just one way. The procedures as set up do not work in our Area."

Martin, Ill.: "If we consider the many new groups coming along, it seems to me they would find options confusing."

The question again came up whether voting at the Assembly should be on the basis of one vote per group. Before Lois again put the question to the Conference, she said: "It is possible, if the GR becomes a DR and the DR becomes an officer of the Assembly, that a group could have three votes. This doesn't seem to me very democratic."

Mary, Md., agreed with Lois, but Cathie, N.J., made a persuasive case for the opposite view.

A brief discussion centered around the question whether the Handbook should continue to include stories of Handbook use. Some felt it added readability, others considered it inappropriate in a book of guidelines. The latter view, by Stephanie, WSO, was brief and to the point:

"It's service literature; let's not make it folksy!" (It was voted to omit the stories.)

After many of the views on various points of the Handbook had been given, Henrietta, WSO, spoke on an over-all problem that had arisen in connection with the Handbook revision. She expressed deep concern over the process by which the Committee had proceeded. The Delegates' Committee had the somewhat inexplicable idea that its work could be done as a unit wholly detached from the World Service Office. Since, from the very beginning, World Services, the Conference Committee, the Executive and Policy Committees and the Staff have played an important role in any matters concerning the fellowship as a whole, she found it a serious threat to our unity to have the WSO by-passed in this way. Henrietta pointed out that these matters are of great concern to the struggling groups and General Services in other countries; everything we do also affects these important parts of our fellowship. They are currently using the Handbook as a very lifeline; when changes are made, their needs must also be considered. As Henrietta put it: "We have built a large body of experience which is useful for everyone in the fellowship to share, and to share their experience with the WSO to be passed along where it will benefit our Al-Anon friends everywhere."

At the discussion which took place at Session VII on Friday morning, it was announced that in the interim, Alice B. had volunteered to undertake the revision of the Handbook, incorporating in it the ideas which had come out of the discussions as well as the changes in the final draft submitted by the Committee for Conference approval.

To sum up: The key points agreed upon were:

- that the concept of one vote per group be retained in the Handbook
- that the Handbook should give only general and not specific suggestions on variations made to fit local situations
- that reference to Alateen should be retained throughout the Handbook
- that the Delegates' stories should be dropped
- that instructions to new Assembly Areas be retained
- that the WSO shall have a Standing Committee on Handbook

A vote was taken on two questions: That the outgoing GR should have the vote at the election Assembly (4 opposed; 2 abstentions)

That Alice B. undertake the rewriting of the Handbook. (Unanimous)

The Delegate members of the Committee with whom she will work are Eledia S., (Mo.), Bette O'B. (Conn.) and Cathie C., (N. J.) Cathie was also a member of the Handbook Committee last year.

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(The Canadian Delegates lunched with the Regional Trustee Committee to talk over the forthcoming (1976) selection of an R.T. from Canada to succeed Jean A.

The rest of the Conference members had luncheon in the East Ballroom, with plenty of lively interchange.)

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At 2 o'clock we assembled again, the first order of business being the nomination of a Regional Trustee from Western U.S. The nominee chosen was Norris R. (Calif. So.) formerly a Delegate and member of the Literature Committee. The Alternate was Audrey S., former WSD from Iowa.

REGIONAL TRUSTEE NOMINATION

Chaired by Ted K.

Early in 1974 the Delegates and Chairmen of the 25 Western Areas were asked to submit the names of nominees for a Regional Trustee candidate. With the request went a copy of the Revised Plan. Twelve Assembly Areas submitted resumes of their candidates: California (S), Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Texas (E), Utah, and Washington.

The voting members were: the Western Region Delegates, six Trustees of WSO, and six Delegates from other Regions, in this case Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Atlantic Provinces and West Virginia.

The nominees were: Norris (California S.), Audrey (Iowa), Lorraine (Kansas), Theresa (Louisiana), Frances (Minnesota), Mary (Montana), Jay (New Mexico), Robert (Oklahoma), Lillian (Texas), Betty (Utah), Sharon (Washington), and Irene (North Dakota).

Norris led the field on the first ballot, with ten votes. Five Areas then withdrew the names of their nominees. In a second vote Norris was again far ahead. Four more Areas then withdrew their

nominees, leaving the names of Norris, Audrey and Robert for the third ballot. The decision, on the fifth ballot, was Norris, with 27 votes. This nomination was confirmed by his election at the Annual Meeting of the Board.

The Alternate RT is selected from the remaining nominees, in this case Audrey of Iowa, who was subsequently elected at the Board meeting.

Next year, the new RT will represent Canada. Marjorie of Australia drew the names for the Delegates from outside of the Dominion who will participate in the balloting. These are Nevada, Wisconsin and New Mexico, with the first Alternate from New Jersey, and the second from Maine.

Prior to this session, the Canadian Delegates met for lunch with Jean Allen, RT from Canada, Loretta L., Chairman of the RT Committee, Henrietta, Holly and Ted, to discuss the Canadian nominations scheduled for next year, as well as proposed changes in the voting procedures.

ASK-IT-BASKET

This session is eagerly awaited by most Conference members, since the questions often concern situations of interest to others than those who asked them. As always, some of the problems could well have been resolved by referring to our Traditions. Now that a Digest of Al-Anon policies will soon be available to everyone in the fellowship, it may be that the Ask-It-Basket session won't even be needed in the years ahead!

The panel: Mary S., Chairman of the Policy Committee; Dot H., Georgia; Norma McG., Massachusetts and Myrna H., WSO. Alice B. and Timmy W. gave an occasional assist on literature and Alateen questions.

Q: If a group has more than one meeting a week, should the second meeting be considered a separate group and register separately?

A: *Only if they have their own slate of officers and thus function as an individual group.*

Q: Do Areas pay Delegates' expenses to Regional Conventions?

A: *This decision is made at the discretion of the Assembly.*

Q: Are funds available to aid spouses in Al-Anon and/or their underage children, particularly in emergencies?

A: *No. Individuals who wish to help their friends in such circumstances may, of course, do so.*

Q: Aren't we breaking Tradition Six when GRs solicit money from their groups to finance an AA Central Office picnic or the state's AA birthday?

A: *We do not, or should not, finance anything but projects within the Al-Anon fellowship. Of course we cooperate with AA, but financing such events goes beyond cooperation. Al-Anon members, as individuals, may give such help to AA, if AA is willing to accept it.*

Q: As an easily recognized container for contributions to the WSO, would you consider providing a heavy cardboard bank, for sale to groups, which could be folded for mailing, and clearly marked "Al-Anon World Services."

A: *We send the groups three appeal letters each year, asking for contributions for the support of the WSO. Some groups supplement these contributions with surplus from their group funds at other times of the year as well. Therefore there would be little general need for the bank suggested.*

Q: Please define "promotion" and "attraction."

A: Promotion is aggressive salesmanship, attraction invites people, makes them want what we have for them.

Q: Can Alateens use Al-Anon literature, including ODAT and the FORUM?

A: They may, can, and do! Any Alateen meeting, Convention, Workshop or Panel at which these young people express themselves about the program give ample proof that they do read Al-Anon literature and understand it.

Q: Could the beautifully simple explanation of alcoholism in the Alateen book be used elsewhere in our literature as well?

A: An excellent suggestion. Will keep it in mind for new pieces or revisions.

Q: Do you feel it is asking too much to pass the basket at an Alateen dinner after everyone has paid for dinner and bought raffle tickets?

A: Yes, that is overdoing it a bit!

Q: If I understand correctly, from last year's Conference, names and addresses from the World Directory are given to anyone calling or writing to the WSO. Should this policy apply also to Areas having an Al-Anon Information Service? Can anyone who calls in be given names and addresses from the World Directory?

A: When names, addresses or telephone numbers from our World Directory are given to inquirers, it is solely for purposes of referral, to help someone who needs Al-Anon or Alateen. In the same way the name and location of a nearby group may be given out.

Q: Can a list of names and numbers of Al-Anon members be given to persons locally to be used instead of the local answering service number? Local professionals do not like to wait hours for a call-back from the answering service when they have a prospective Al-Anon member in the office. If so, how is this done?

A: Yes, a professional may be given the names and telephone numbers of Al-Anon contacts, provided they are members who are willing to receive calls for help.

Q: A "spiritual awakening" and "detachment" are mentioned in our books and pamphlets but without a clear explanation. Could we have something on this in terms that new people could understand?

A: A "spiritual awakening" cannot be explained; it is an intimate, personal experience that we become aware of only when it happens to us and helps to change our lives. "Detachment" is discussed throughout our literature (Detach from the problem, not from the person; detach, or release, with love.) There have also been several recent articles in the FORUM on detachment.

Q: Will the WSO consider changing the wording in our literature which refers to wives of alcoholics? There are women in AA and many husbands are turning to Al-Anon and object to this wording.

A: It just isn't possible to gear our literature to the exact proportion of men and women members of Al-Anon. A good deal of our literature now includes references to the husbands of alcoholics, and there will be more in new pieces and revisions. Too bad the English language contains no neutral word for this purpose!

Q: Our entire state pleads for an in-depth study of the Steps and Traditions such as AA has.

A: Perhaps not "in-depth," but there is coverage of the Steps and Traditions in our booklet devoted to these. They are well covered, too, in the new Alateen book. We're considering something more ample in the future.

Q: Since the FORUM and ALATEEN TALK are not CAL, why do they have the CAL stamp on them?

A: Responsibility for material in these publications has been given to the editors of these publications by the Conference, which makes it unnecessary—and impractical—to obtain Conference approval on every issue. In any case, being the voice of the Fellowship at large, many of the views which appear in them are those of the members who wrote them.

Q: Is it permissible for Al-Anon to have a garage sale for the public? Is it okay for anyone to come to the garage sale?

A: Yes, if it is not identified as an Al-Anon event.

Q: On page 54, February 23 in ONE DAY AT A TIME the first paragraph reads: "We are not bound morally or legally to shoulder the alcoholic's responsibilities." How do you explain this to a group in a state with community property laws where the wife is legally responsible for debts her husband makes, drunk or sober?

A: We were not aware of this at the time ODAT was written. This statement will be changed in succeeding editions and in any other literature where this error is implied. Thanks for calling it to our attention!

Q: Why are they doing things that are separating Al-Anon and AA?

A: Al-Anon has been a separate fellowship since it began in 1952. We are grateful to AA for the use of its program and we do co-operate.

Q: Why don't Al-Anons have birthdays?

A: It's a little more difficult to establish the exact date of one's beginning in Al-Anon than it is for AAs, whose anniversaries are set by the date on which sobriety began. Many Al-Anons do celebrate a birthday and join the Birthday Plan, as a means of expressing their gratitude to Al-Anon, by contributing a dollar a year to WSO for each year's membership.

Q: Could we have a clarification of Al-Anon open or closed meetings?

A: See Chapter XV in LIVING WITH AN ALCOHOLIC.

Q: Is it a break of Tradition to use group funds to give gratuities to an employee of the place where they meet? He arranges chairs and makes the coffee for the group.

A: No, this could be considered as part of the rent.

Q: For the purpose of literature displays can we purchase just the covers of pamphlets and the book jackets?

A: Sorry, but the pamphlet covers are not available separately; however, several book jackets are included in our display packet.

Q: Should Al-Anon and AA have regular joint meetings?

A: They may have them if they wish, but such meetings cannot be registered as Al-Anon groups.

Q: How many groups are needed to form a District?

A: There is no set number, since so many factors are involved. Most have eight or ten.

(There were a number of suggestions that specific book titles be included as CAL. Literally thousands of inspirational books make helpful reading for individuals, but do not relate directly to the Al-Anon program. Our leaflet, "Why CAL?" explains this in detail.)

PUBLIC INFORMATION PANEL

Hank G., Chairman; Josie C., Secretary

Josie C's contribution to the P.I. panel was brief and to the point. She showed us some of the interesting material the Committee has produced.

Her rundown on P.I. material, available through the WSO, included a picture of our new floor display, which was currently on view at an NCA Convention in Milwaukee.

The theme of our TV spots, Josie pointed out, is being carried on all our P.I. material, for all media. She reported excellent demand for both the TV and radio spots, and added that they are being well used.

In thanking the Delegates for their great help in making DRINK, DRANK, DRUNK such a resounding success, Josie told us that it is available on tape, and can be rented through the Public Television Library in Washington, D.C.

The "Twenty Questions" on DRINK, DRANK, DRUNK are available in both English and French, as well as the new posters and newspaper mats and mechanicals. An order blank for these materials has been sent to the P.I. Coordinators, Intergroups and Information Services. A new price list for interested people outside our fellowship is also available from WSO.

Jackie M., Florida, gave a highly enthusiastic report of the snow-balling effectiveness of Florida's infant P.I. Committee. "We've taken giant steps forward in a relatively short time," she said, pointing to many highly productive results of the Committee's work. On the one hand, there was the heart-warming acceptance of the radio and TV spots. Comments from station managers such as "First rate!" and "Among the best public service spots ever!" were universal. And, Jackie added, because of these spots, public interest and enthusiasm for Al-Anon has surged upward.

DRINK, DRANK, DRUNK, Jackie told the Conference, really started the ball rolling throughout the state. TV and radio program directors and newspaper editors all wanted to get into the act. Just a few of the rewards, generated by this program which blanketed Florida were:

- Three of the state's largest cities asked for Al-Anon and Alateen participation on local panel discussion programs, giving us a full hour of prime time after the showing.
- Hot-lines were set up for calls during and after the panel programs. More than 500 calls came in; with almost 300 more during each of the following months.
- More than 1,000 new members joined the program immediately, and the number is increasing daily.
- Inquiries flowed in from schools, hospitals, Mental Health Centers, Naval and Air Force bases.
- The University of Gainesville requested Al-Anon participation in a special Educational Program for teachers, principals, counselors and school social workers. This program is scheduled to reach every school in the state.
- Local Junior High Schools are requesting Alateen speakers. So far, almost 2,000 young people have been made aware of the problem, and that there is help.

Jackie reported that all groups are still placing our books in Public and School libraries; open Al-Anon and Alateen Educational Information Meetings are beginning to catch on all over the state; meetings are planned for doctors, lawyers, judges, juvenile authorities, police, Mental Health Agencies, etc.

Jackie's final suggestion related to Florida's success with the U.S. Military: "Their cooperation has been most gratifying. I

urge those of you in Areas where there are military installations to get in touch with them. We have found their help invaluable."

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Jean A., Regional Trustee from Canada, told us about the tremendous job done by our Canadian groups and members to get the greatest possible response to DRINK, DRANK, DRUNK telecasts which blanketed Canada.

"One aspect was the breathless speed at which we had to operate, and the follow-up problems were also awesome. But the results were massive, magnificent and heart-warming."

Jean summarized in this way:

- I saw the program when I attended the quarterly Trustees' meeting, and thought it our greatest P.I. breakthrough to date.
- CBC was, of course, the most promising network because of their coast-to-coast facilities.
- I discovered the best method of persuading the network to use it was to have people write in, requesting the show.
- I encouraged, no, *urged* everyone I could contact to write to CBC.
- At our Fall Assembly, I also appealed to everyone to send in requests.
- The result was almost immediate. I met with the CBC Promotions Manager on November 26th, and the show was scheduled for December 22—in prime time, 10 P.M., Sunday. 40 TV stations across Canada were contacted by capable, enthusiastic Al-Anon members. And remember, this was during the hectic pre-Christmas season.
- Next, every Canadian Delegate was briefed and asked to arrange local phone numbers for local stations to flash on the screen.
- A December 9th meeting with representatives of CBC, the 3M Company and an advertising agency developed still more information to be passed on to our Delegates, such as arranging for Al-Anon members to work with those who wanted help, long after the program's airing.
- Time did not permit doing this by mail. How wonderful it is to have the miles melted away by the telephone!
- I talked with every Delegate and they made plans for receiving and passing on the calls that came in.

Jean went on to point out that the results are still being felt, with groups growing at an amazing rate. Not only was it a meaningful experience for her, she said, but it has proven, once again, the need for, and importance of, good Public Information work.

Jean stated, in conclusion, "This has proved that Al-Anon members do put Al-Anon first, regardless of the season, regardless of personal commitments. Our Delegates met the challenge. This project was successful because Al-Anon was working at its best!"

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We then heard some inspiring messages from outgoing Delegates:

Ellen P., (Michigan) had an exciting story to tell us about an experience that demonstrated clearly how Al-Anon works "when we let it."

"Penny's letter immediately brought to mind something that happened last October which still has many Al-Anons in Michigan talking.

"At the 1974 Conference, I spoke with Josie C., and asked her to come out and conduct a Workshop on Public Information and

to speak at the Michigan Fall Assembly meeting. This suggestion had been greeted with enthusiasm by all concerned. One DR had remembered that, on another memorable occasion, buses had been chartered to bring members to an Assembly, and arrangements were made for bringing people from western Michigan.

"Then, a week before the Big Day, Josie was attacked by a virus—and called to say she might not be able to make it, but was still hoping she would be well in time for the meeting.

"Two days before the meeting, a frantic call from Josie reported she would be unable to fly . . . and there was no other way for her to get to Michigan.

"Calls to Committee members and Al-Anons in the host town made the message clear: we'd have to find a substitute from outside the state. But those who answered our long distance phone calls simply could not do it.

"At that point", Ellen went on, "the message came through to me. I could do nothing more but to put it all in God's Hands, and however it worked out would be His Will for us.

"The next morning, there was a call from Josie, saying she *would* be at the Assembly, virus and all. God had answered our prayers, after a short detour, to remind us who was really Head of our planning committee.

"Josie arrived, the chartered bus arrived with all the smiling faces, and we literally packed them in . . . over 150 Al-Anons from the four corners of Michigan."

* * * * *

From Norma of Indiana, we heard this moving experience:

"It has been a thrilling experience to watch our Districts really beginning to function and to see the unity of the groups. There was a time when the groups seemed to be competing with each other but they have come to realize that personal progress for the greatest number really does depend upon unity; within the groups, the District and the Area Assembly. In parts of Indiana the A.A.'s were firm in not wanting Al-Anon. My Husband, Greg and I have had the privilege of sharing at some meetings and after our talk the AAs realized they hadn't known what Al-Anon was all about.

"The first year I came to New York alone, but before the banquet was over I had a message that my husband would join me before 11:00 P.M. My old enemy Fear nearly overcame me. Greg had been sober for three years, but he hadn't found serenity, nor could he let others have any. He fussed and quarreled all week, but with the Al-Anon tools and my Higher Power I detached with Love and did the job I had to do.

"The last day we were invited to Lois' home and that day, in Bill's study, Greg had a spiritual awakening. Since then, each day has gotten better and better for both of us. I like to use the example of our marriage as a train; A.A. & Al-Anon are the tracks. The tracks are not always level, but they are always side by side, guiding us one day at a time. I'm so grateful for this one-of-a-kind gift from God and so thankful my Higher Power let me be a small part of this great world wide organization. Thank you for sharing with me and letting me share with each one of you."

* * * * *

"T" of Kansas had more than a single happening to relate in her moving statement:

"First the growing experience—personal growth in the spirit of the program, the beautiful simple straight-forward learn-at-your-own-pace method of Al-Anon.

"There were some worrisome experiences: While hundreds of miles from home, I had serious car trouble, and was rescued by an Al-Anon member with a mechanic husband. Area WSC Meetings and Conferences seemed consistently to be scheduled during ice and snow storms. I dodged tornado-brewing clouds as I left an

Assembly en route to the farthest southwest point in the state.

"There were exciting but exhausting experiences such as: Sitting in as substitute sponsor at an all-night Alateen Rap session, with a 3-day Conference barely begun. And holding 3 District Meetings, on 3 consecutive days, 50 to 100 miles from home, in 3 different directions.

"There were family experiences: An unbelievable welcome home after a week at my 1st World Service Conference . . . their willingness to take second place in my time and thoughts on numerous occasions—their support, cooperation and sacrifice.

"There were inspiring experiences involving dedicated Al-Anon and Alateen members, such as: A District of 5000 square miles, with 3 small groups, had over 90% of their membership in attendance at the District Workshop and purchased over \$40.00 worth of books!

Continued acceptance and understanding from my own home group and my sponsor, allowed me to remove my Delegate's hat and remain just "T," an Al-Anon member, in need of frequent Al-Anon replenishment—spiritually. I learned to look for miracles; to expect a shortage of hours in my days and to realize I am learning to know myself.

"T" told us of many other spiritual experiences during her time as Delegate—enlightening and inspiring to all who heard her.

AREA FINANCE WORKSHOP

Workshops have for some years been an important feature of the Conference, involving the total membership in five meeting sections at the same time in five locations.

Discussion grows out of a series of pre-planned questions which bring out a wide variety of views and experiences to be shared.

Presentation was by Walter H., No. Car., and Irene K., Ill. N. Each meeting had a moderator and a reporter. After the sessions ended, all suggestions were combined by the Summary Reporter, Dottie D. of Nevada.

Questions considered were:

How does your Area handle Assembly funds: What expenses are covered?

- Rent for meetings of Assembly and Area WS Committees, postage and preparation of mailings, notices of meetings minutes, Area Newsletters
- Stationery, postage and phone calls by Area WS Committee members
- Travel expenses for Delegates within their Areas
- The \$425 equalized expense fund

How are District funds handled?

- These include the cost of literature for local distribution and displays; DR's travel expenses, service literature such as Handbooks, Concepts and specialized guidelines

Also discussed were contributions, financial reports, and the preparation of budgets. The question "How can each Area make the best use of surplus funds brought such interesting ideas as these:

- We purchase bus displays
- An Industrial Fund to cover literature needs and mileage expense in making contacts with people in industry
- Covering expense of bringing in out-of-town speakers

In closing her Summary Report, Dottie marveled at the concern and dedication that these Finance Workshop sessions revealed and how much everyone seemed to have gained from them.

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Ruth of New York (N) made a touching statement, not a dramatic one, but it went straight to our hearts:

"I have been asked to talk about 'an' experience since I have been a Delegate. Not easy to do; just being in office has been a big experience for me.

"If I have to pinpoint one it would be how our first Northern New York State Al-Anon convention came to be. It just kind of happened at an Assembly. The first one was in Syracuse and our second is coming up in Albany in May.

"My biggest thrill has been travelling to all the groups that have invited me. I don't drive, so my routine has been to get on a bus at midnight in Albany right after work, and arrive early in the morning. I've been met by Al-Anon friends that I'd never known, taken into their homes, made welcome until meeting time and often even been put up overnight.

"Putting all my notes together after the WSC in New York and giving my report has been a joy. I try to convey to our members all that is done, how you people at WSO do such a fantastic job all year round. I also love to relate the experiences of the other Delegates as I heard them at the Conference.

"I was not elected Delegate because of my formal education; I'm not even sure I completed ninth grade. I learned more in Al-Anon than anywhere else in my 44 years of life. Being on the Literature Committee has been an experience. When I first came to Al-Anon I wasn't even capable of reading the literature.

"Since I have been Delegate, I've tried to keep things simple for me, and for other people like me."

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Charlotte M., of Ohio, rightly called her experience-recital "Dreams Do Come True."

"First, let me say travelling the four corners and across the middle of your Area does pay off in greater participation of your groups at the Assembly level. We are having nearly 50% group participation at each Assembly, and had the weather been better for traveling, our recent Assembly voting body would have exceeded 50%.

"Now for the Dream. Nearly eight years ago, Information Service P.O. Box in Dayton, Ohio, received a letter from an Al-Anon member in Southeastern Ohio. This portion of our Area is somewhat hilly and people are isolated from any large city in the state. The letter asked about an Al-Anon get-together for fellowship and sharing similar to the A.A. Conferences. It was with some sadness I answered the letter, stating that the only meeting available to the entire Area was the Assembly held three times a year to conduct business and World Service matters. I also mentioned that the expense of such a venture was an obstacle, but that it was certainly worth keeping the idea in mind.

"This letter planted a seed. When I became Delegate my only specific goal was a Convention strictly for fun, fellowship and sharing. With some prodding, urging and encouraging, a committee was formed to plan a one-day in '74. That is all we could afford. We expected no more than 150 but to our delight 254 attended. It was a day filled to the brim with Al-Anon, Alateen and A.A. participation, and Walter H., Delegate from N.C., was our special Al-Anon speaker (stand up, Walter!). He capped the day with a beautiful Al-Anon lead.

"It was such a success the WS Committee voted to attempt a three-day in '75. All plans have been confirmed and our three-day will be June 20, 21, 22 at Denison University, Granville, Ohio. Our principal Al-Anon speaker is Dee M., ex-Delegate from Roanoke, Va. Our total package, including registration, meals and lodging, is \$30.00 per person, and we will have the entire West Quadrangle for complete privacy. One gentleman member said he couldn't afford to stay home at that rate! My District is chartering buses to solve transportation problems for some Al-Anon mem-

bers. Detailed Guidelines have been set up for the Convention Committees. A copy has been given to Holly to add to the WS material gathered at last year's Workshop on Conventions. I will be glad to send a copy to any interested Area.

"Coincidentally, the terrain of the permanent Convention site strikingly resembles that of the land which created the dream. Denison campus is on a hill with gently rolling slopes and overlooks central Ohio.

"It was a beautiful dream, and the best ones are those we want to come true!"

AL-ANON IN AUSTRALIA

presented by Marje McG.,

Representative of Australian General Services

"My accent will tell you I'm originally from the home of Johnnie Walker, but today I bring you greetings from Al-Anon in Australia. You don't know how glad I am to be here.

"Australia's 13 million population is rated among the top six in the world in alcohol consumption. Professionals estimate that 5% of our people have a drinking problem. That means over half a million are in trouble, and more than 2 million are affected. A.A. came to Australia in 1945; Al-Anon started in 1954. We now have about 200 Groups which extend into all 6 States.

"In the early days, members found their strength through personal stories, but in time the availability of literature published by our World Service Office, and the growth and greater understanding of our Groups led to tremendous spiritual, therapeutic and organisational growth. We can say with confidence that Australian Al-Anon is now firmly established. We are, surely on the verge of a breakthrough to recognition similar to that achieved by A.A.

"Victoria and New South Wales, our two most populous States, provide our greatest membership. In the early 1960's, groups in some of our States began to cooperate, each group sending Delegates to regular meetings. In time these meetings spread to the other States. Now, every State, except Tasmania, has them and they have proved their worth in all aspects.

"In 1969, following a suggestion from Queensland in letters to the other States and Henrietta, our first Australia-wide meeting was held in Adelaide, and since 1970 Trial Conferences at Easter have been held in rotation in all States.

"Unfortunately, we tackled things from the wrong end. In the early days of these national meetings, even some of us who are now engaged on the national level had never even heard of the 12 Concepts of Service or the World Service Handbook. We floundered badly—how could it be otherwise?

"But these meetings had two good effects. They brought the State bodies closer and showed us the need for joint action on the plan provided by the World Service Handbook and the 12 Concepts of Service.

"Our 1974 Trial Conference resolved to form a General Services Committee in Victoria. The Committee is charged with carrying out Trial Conference decisions, promoting the study of the World Service Handbook and encouraging the formation of Districts and Areas, leading to the establishment of a permanent structure in line with the World Service Handbook, with whatever modifications may be necessary to fit local conditions.

"I must record here the great help we have received from World Service Office in all this.

"The General Services Committee has proved workable, in spite of limitations such as lack of finance, shortage of staff, etc. We need a detailed plan of procedure for the next 12 months. More education is needed at all levels, through newsletters from General Services Committee, talks by members of Trial Conference Sub-

Committees and General Service Committee, Workshops, Assemblies and any other feasible means.

"Study of the Handbook, 12 Concepts of Service and 12 Traditions is essential and to be encouraged at all levels. 'Guide to Al-Anon General Service Structure' will form the basis of our practical work.

"A major problem is integrating the projected national structure with our existing State bodies. Our population is concentrated on the Eastern and Southern seaboard. Large areas of the centre, west and northwest of Australia do not, and perhaps never will, sustain sizeable populations. We could not follow your original policy of division into 4 quadrants. We will have to rely more on State boundaries than you have done.

"Briefly, the following are some of the decisions made at our 1975 Trial Conference:—

1. The General Services Committee will function until a permanent Conference is established.

2. The General Services Committee will allocate individual responsibility to each of its members to cooperate with each Trial Conference Sub-Committee in various aspects of our work.

3. The Conference was given a permanent meeting place in Melbourne, the locality of the General Services Committee. It has now been separated in time from the A.A. Convention which is held annually at Easter.

4. The Delegates agreed to have a Post Office Box as a permanent address.

5. Two members from General Services Committee will have a vote at the next Trial Conference.

"The atmosphere in which we work is improving greatly. Interest in alcoholism was never greater. Telephone inquiries increase daily. Our relations with professionals are generally very good. Throughout Australia there is growing acceptance and referral to Al-Anon from treatment and social agencies, such as hospitals and clinics.

"The Foundations on Alcohol and Drug Dependence who are organising industrial Conferences in each State include our literature in the material given to those attending.

"All States, except Tasmania, publish monthly newsletters, which are well received.

"All sections of the media show growing willingness to publicise our work and our improving awareness is making good use of this. We do not get the results from TV and radio programs which you seem to get here in America. We read and marvel at the fact that WNET, New York, received 6000 calls in 90 minutes after showing DRINK, DRANK, DRUNK. We would be in raptures if we got 60!

"Sales of literature increase regularly. With permission of the World Service Office we now print several items of literature, including ODAT, sales of which have exceeded our wildest dreams.

"Until recently, Alateen has been a serious problem area, but there are signs of increasing activity. Public Meetings organised by Alateens have been held in most States, some of which have now organised "In Between" groups, which are filling a real need. Though Alateen numbers are still not large, it is heartening to hear reports of growth and development of individuals and groups.

"In conclusion, it is my sincere hope that I have not bored you with a recital of our successes and failures rather than telling of our hopes and aspirations."

Everyone was fascinated and delighted to hear what goes on Down Under.

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The next Delegate to tell us of a memorable experience while she was representing her Area here was Helen S. Ont. (S):

She told about a Workshop for District Representatives, who agreed that there was never enough time at Assembly meetings to

explore the workings of the Fellowship in depth.

"The Workshop day was one filled with inspiration and joy, shared by all the DRs, some of whom had spent most of the previous day traveling to the meeting, so they might find a way to better serve their Districts.

"The unanimous feeling was that all had gained better understanding and insight, so it was decided to have a Workshop twice a year. The third one will be in May."

Helen summed up the feelings of the DRs who have attended these Workshops, "We need informed and willing members to preserve the quality of Al-Anon and Alateen for those to follow. Our founders laid a firm foundation. We have a responsibility to pass this on to others."

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We then heard from Claire B., the retiring Delegate from Quebec (W):

"I am glad to have this opportunity to share with you an Area experience which proved very successful and rewarding at home.

"Everyone knows about beginners meetings which in many groups take place just before the regular meeting. In Montreal, two Al-Anon members have started a 'NEWCOMER GROUP.' It is essentially an orientation for newcomers only; older members are not allowed. The newcomer attends this group for at least six weeks and is then directed to a regular group. He is given a Meeting List to find a group he may wish to attend. The Newcomer Group has the cooperation of the 12th Step Chairman of the Information Service Center and it is announced to the groups through the Newsletter and the Information Service.

"This venture has been really successful. It has 20 to 25 at each meeting, and anyone can see, in the regular groups, who is from the Newcomer Group through their self-confidence and willingness to learn. Alateen has just started such a group and should experience the same good results.

"I would like to close by saying that my whole term as Delegate has been a memorable experience. It will be with me always."

AL-ANON IN THE UNITED KINGDOM & EIRE

Pat D., Representative

"I am so happy to be here, and I bring you loving greetings from all corners of England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Eire, and the surrounding islands as well.

"I cannot tell you how impressed I am with this Conference and your World Service Office here in New York. I never dreamed when I took the first step on the Al-Anon pathway, how exciting it would be, or that it would lead me here.

"I had an international introduction to Al-Anon. My husband had told me about it when we first met. He said it was such a help to the families in New Zealand where he had found A.A. and he suggested that I should start a group. His good message fell on stony ground, I'm afraid, so he suggested it to an A.A. wife who was more receptive to the suggestion. She was assisted in starting a group by one of our very early members who had found Al-Anon in America and brought it back to the West Country of England, and who now lives in Switzerland. I am sorry to say I did not think I needed Al-Anon; by that time my mother was sober in A.A. However, when I went to my first meeting, I found that I did need it after all, and also found the inspiration which has been with me ever since.

"Only ten groups were then registered with New York; I have the World Directory for 1959 here in which they are listed. These groups were not known to each other until the idea to unify them

was born at an A.A. Convention in Bournemouth in 1960. Several group secretaries got together wondering how it could be achieved. They approached AA and received great help and encouragement. They were allowed to advertise in the AA Newsletter asking secretaries to write to a Box number giving details of their groups so that records could be kept. The response was wonderful. This led to the inaugural meeting of the Al-Anon Central Services in England and Wales, held in London in November 1960. I have the historic handwritten notes of that meeting, and the first News Sheet edition, which appeared in January 1961. At that first meeting, a secretary and assistant were elected, also a treasurer, an editor, and someone to look after the literature.

"History is fascinating to me as a means of measuring growth, for as you know from previous representatives, we did not stand still. We soon joined Scotland, Northern Ireland and Eire, and each year fresh progress was made. A sound basis for the structure which exists in the U.K. and Eire today, came from the wise encouragement of the World Service Office.

"I am pleased to tell you we now have over 320 groups, three times as many as before the formation of Districts and the opening of our General Service Office in London in 1970. Most Districts have more groups than we had in the entire country 16 years ago, even the remote rural districts. During the last year the London District split into three, each third is growing fast. More recently a District in the West of Scotland has divided into two. Our sales of literature, and circulation of *News & Views* are growing so quickly that we have real problems of despatch in our small one-room office—when I see your spacious offices, I am green with envy! We have been trying for a couple of years to find new premises and just recently have found a place that may materialize.

"Last September, over a week-end, we held our U.K. & Eire Service Conference. This year, our sixth, we are repeating it at the Hugh Stewart Hall of Nottingham University. The week-end allows us more time to use more of your Conference ideas, and our own Delegates have made some good suggestions for changes. We are inviting observers to attend our Conference, from Europe and elsewhere, who are just starting their own Conferences.

"I have been so pleased to hear that France held its first General Assembly in March, which was very successful. For ten years, I have been in touch with Al-Anon's growth in France, as it is my second country. It was wonderful to learn that a Christmas television programme last year brought hundreds of enquiries to Al-Anon from all over France, which resulted in the formation of many groups in the Provinces as well as in Paris, and many contacts with Lone members or Isoles. Alateen is also advancing in France, and members went to a Convention in Belgium which also has strong Alateen.

"In the U.K. the first Alateen Convention took place in Ireland. Alateen is growing well there, and they hope to get a countrywide structure soon. Dublin has opened an Al-Anon Service Centre, which can be used by Alateens on Saturdays. The all-Ireland A.A. Convention has just taken place, and I have a letter from the secretary of the G.S.O. who attended it, saying how special it was because of the many Al-Anon and Alateen members who took part in it. There were speakers from California, and Jean says there was a special feeling of warmth. She met Leah who was with you last year as our Representative and she sends a special message to all of us here.

"Scotland has also just held an Al-Anon convention in Edinburgh at Easter.

"A major advance has been made in institutional work, when two Al-Anon members visited the Home Office in London in October last and followed it up with another meeting in February. A letter has been sent to all prison governors by the Home Office, setting out Al-Anon's aims and purposes, and offering help to the

families of alcoholic prisoners or any prisoner with an alcoholic in the family. It had been hoped to cover more in the field of after-care and the Probation Services, but that will have to be done at a local level. In Ireland, with AA's cooperation, Al-Anon had an interview with one of the Probation Officers in Mountjoy Prison, Dublin, who suggested that an open Al-Anon meeting be held in the prison, so that alcoholics could inform their families about Al-Anon. This had positive results. Work in prisons is also being done by individual districts.

"Alateen in general is growing well, groups have doubled in the last year. A wonderful Open Meeting was held at last year's A.A. Convention. At that meeting, Dr. Bill Spence, a non-alcoholic Trustee of the Australian Service Board, suggested ways to help, and said these words: 'Alateen is the most significant force I have seen for the future mental health of our country.' 'When you think about it, he can speak for the world.

"In connection with the theme of this Conference: TRUST—OUR WATCHWORD I should like to say that sometimes in life we set out fearing that the task before us may be too great, and I have found these words of Minnie Louise Haskins so inspiring. She wrote: 'And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year: Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown. And he replied: Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than a light and safer than a known way.'"

"TOWN HALL" MEETING ON RURAL AREAS

Holly C., Moderator

It was a typical town-hall meeting; everybody who had something of interest to say was given an opportunity. During the past year, via a lively exchange of letters, Holly had accumulated a good deal of material about the problems that beset Areas where the spaces are really wide open! She said:

"Some of the problems we think of as weighing only on the Areas with widely-scattered groups, often beset big city Al-Anon as well. The principal difference is *distance* and even that is beginning to shrink, as more and more groups come into being.

"Just as an example: when I came into Al-Anon 20 years ago, there were only 24 groups within a 50-mile radius of New York, and that included parts of New Jersey, Long Island and Westchester. Today there are several hundred."

In the discussion, to which Delegates from Mass., Minn., B.C., Colo., Mo., Ida., Mont., and others contributed, it was clear that something Holly called "negative localism" was inhibiting the forming of new groups. As groups get larger, one Delegate said, they should be encouraged to split in order to provide more coverage, more availability.

Holly summarized the contents of letters she had received on yet another subject: the importance of the District structure. "As the focal point through which the groups relate to the Area, it is doubly important in rural sections."

"Much can be accomplished through the use of well-planned workshops on such topics as CAL, sponsorship, structure and Public Information."

A number of Delegates spoke of the importance of keeping in touch with out-of-the-way groups through personal letters, "personal and frequent!" somebody emphasized.

Two other points were made and discussed: first, the Al-Anon member who prefers open AA meetings to her own, and the Al-Anon groups who close their doors to join AA members in their meetings and on occasions such as Anniversaries.

It was conceded that nothing could be done about the member who didn't realize how much she is missing by not concentrating

on her own program. But the practice of "joint" meetings where beginners or those in need of an Al-Anon meeting are overlooked, might be corrected by neighboring groups setting a good example. Sound knowledge and application of our Traditions would certainly tend to discourage this.

Holly also reminded the meeting of the importance of having plenty of literature available and the economy of buying it in quantity. Items ordered 100 at a time are sold at a nice discount, and the books, ordered five at a time, carry a saving of 50¢ on each book. Literature bought at the District level can more easily be bought in quantity and savings used to support the District.

INFORMATION SERVICES (INTERGROUPS)

Myrna H., WSO; Rose M., NYS

After a warm exchange of greetings with the Conference, Myrna reported on the guidelines for Information Services. To refresh everybody's memory, she reminded us that a study has been in progress on the best way to bring our Information Services and Intergroups under a single line structure.

"A special committee was headed by Eric, Western Regional Trustee, assisted by Jean, present Canadian RT and Jewel S., the outgoing RT, Eastern Region. I served on the Committee as a staff member; my job was to coordinate the study.

"As reported in the 1974 WSC Summary, the Committee had already drawn some conclusions from last year's findings which would be helpful in revising the Information Service Guidelines.

"After last year's Conference, several Delegates wrote for further information; new Information Services were forming and it didn't make too much sense to recommend the old structure without considering a new one.

"We asked Louise M. to help and she re-wrote sections of the new guidelines without discarding the earlier ones, since many Information Services were still finding them quite workable. Louise incorporated the new plan into the guidelines which gave the Information Services alternatives.

"During this time, a Pilot Project was underway—The Nassau-Suffolk Information Services on Long Island in New York. I kept in touch with those who were involved in it. Several people working on this project came into the office and on one occasion, Holly and I were asked to attend a quarterly meeting of their member groups, now represented by Alternate GRs and Alternate DRs.

"One of the people who came in to talk with us about the Pilot Project was Edwina. As happens so often in Al-Anon, we became friends, and when I learned that she had also been active in Institutional work, we asked her to join that Committee on which there happened to be an opening. Shortly thereafter, Jo. K., long-time Institutional Chairman, resigned to move to Florida, and Edwina became Chairman in her place. So out of our work with the Information Services project came a very large fringe benefit!

"From all indications, the Pilot Project answered many questions we had hoped to resolve.

"When Rose, our new incoming Panel 15 Delegate took office in January, she was asked to bring to this Conference a report on the Pilot Project.

"So now I'll give you Rose."

Rose's talk

"I would like to share my experience about the Pilot Project at the local level. It covers two very large counties, a peninsula of 150 miles, with 100 Al-Anon groups. Six of the Districts were not functioning at the District level. The local people needed a lot of help; yet many didn't even know the Handbook existed.

"Nassau, one of the counties, is densely populated; it has more

of the older established groups and the Information Service is located there. Suffolk is rural, larger in area. The groups are younger.

"When Districts were suggested to the people in Suffolk, they thought it was great because they could get involved right where they were. What happened when the Pilot Project was implemented is that the DRs became very active. The groups became involved even if the DRs didn't.

"In a little over a year the Districts have doubled and the DRs are now important people. Nassau's activity is increasing on the District level. In Suffolk, five Districts have united to support a simple service structure.

"A little over a year ago, our Assembly was attended by only 20 people. Last Friday, there was another Assembly and about 100 people were present.

"The irony of this was that it all started as a plea to help the Information Service, and that it has created a really functioning Assembly which was our aim."

Myrna thanked Rose for this impressive story of what can be done, and it certainly seemed to inspire everyone who heard it.

* * * * *

The next outgoing Delegate to tell us of his memorable experience while he served as Delegate was John C. (Rhode Island).

"As I was preparing to attend my first Conference, I came prepared to talk about the question of whether the WSO should serve Preteen groups.

"In my Area, there were many objections to accepting them in the same way as Alateen. Some felt they were 'too young,' 'too disturbing,' 'just a baby-sitting service.' All negative.

"But from the time the 1973 Conference closed without any decision having been reached, I did some research which revealed that there was a great need.

"I learned that children under twelve suffer just as much as the older children."

John then told of some particular instances of how young children react to the happenings in alcoholic homes, and continued with:

"We can't tell them 'yes, we know you are suffering but you'll have to put up with it for four or five more years before we can help you.'"

John's concern for these little ones resulted in many inquiries, and led to the formation of a healthy Preteen group. "At least a beginning," he said.

"When I first came to Al-Anon, I listened. Then I heard. Soon I began to believe. Next I put it into practice. Now it is part of me. So if you ask me to say something about myself, it would have to be 'I help people.'"

* * * * *

Then came the moment for another of our outgoing Delegate's memorable experiences. Virginia of Tennessee, after a cheery greeting, said:

"I thought I was fortunate when I didn't get a phone call from Penny—until I got her letter, but I am grateful that this is limited to 2 or 3 minutes.

"Of the many memorable experiences I've had, there is one which really sticks in my mind. I did hesitate to make this event the subject of my talk up here, as I feel sure that the other Delegates will talk about happy events in their Area, but we do have to take the 'bitter with the better.'"

"My husband and I went up to Tullahoma, Tenn. to take an AA friend to talk at a meeting and I merely went along to visit with the Al-Anon group. Those who knew me were nice and friendly.

Before the meeting opened two or three got into a discussion of politics as there was an election coming up and, since it was before the meeting, I didn't complain or scold about it.

"The chairman was a very conscientious and mild mannered man that I had known for some time. He asked me to tell the group about the N.Y. office and the Conference, which I did and I answered questions.

"Everything was just lovely until I'd noticed and appreciated the nice display of CAL and mentioned that of course that was all they should use at meetings. Whereupon this loud-mouthed male Al-Anon just went into a tirade about how the people who wrote our literature didn't know all there was about Al-Anon any more than certain other people he named knew all there was to know about various other subjects. Some others there agreed with him. I kept calm and cool and explained the best I could, but he wouldn't accept it and left as soon as the meeting was over.

"The chairman explained that his spouse was an alcoholic and that he had a drinking problem, too, and had, in fact, had a few before he came to the meeting. The group as a whole was rather embarrassed that he had acted that way, which apparently wasn't unusual for him.

"I do appreciate this opportunity to mention this small event and I love every one of you."

A special session was held on the

Purpose of the D.O. Meeting

Ted had mentioned in his welcoming talk Tuesday night that this Conference will discuss the Delegate's Only Meeting with the idea of clarifying its function. A preliminary meeting had been held at which various questions were brought up.

Addressing the Conference Ted said he hoped there would be a mutually satisfactory understanding of the D.O. Meeting and its purpose.

The response to his memorandum in July, Ted told us, indicated a need to broaden communications between WSO and the Delegates at the Conference, and to make the Conference itself more flexible, so that matters deemed vital for discussion could be brought before the Conference as a whole, even if they were not on the agenda.

There are now two sources of suggestions for the Conference Agenda:

1. Groups and Assemblies at all levels of the fellowship will identify a matter which should be brought before the fellowship.
2. The Standing Committees, meeting at the Conference, bring their recommendations to the floor, at the time they report on their individual meetings.

Ted suggested careful consideration as to whether the entire Conference should pass on all matters involving the fellowship.

"And how does this pertain to the D.O. meeting?" Ted asked. "Let me quote from the explanation which AA provides its Delegates. 'The D.O. meeting is an opportunity for sharing—it is not meant for discussion of items on the Conference Agenda, nor for the purpose of forming resolutions. These should come from Committee meetings or proposals made on the Conference floor.'"

Ted closed with the comment that the World Service Office should have made the function of the D.O. meeting clear from its inception in 1966. And he reminded the Delegates that even unanimous recommendations from the D.O. meeting were not binding until they had been discussed and voted upon by the Conference as a whole.

REPORT FROM DELEGATES ONLY MEETING

Anne H. (Pa.)

The Delegates Only Meeting, as envisioned by the 1975 World Service Conference Delegates, Anne suggested, provides an opportunity for the Delegates to share their experience.

"This meeting," she said, "is a kind of serendipity, a joyful happening, with people ending up knowing and accepting each other.

"As a result of the meeting, Delegates make suggestions to the World Service Office and respond to the needs of Delegates in their responsibilities at the Conference and in their Areas."

The Delegates of the 1975 WSC requested that a committee of Delegates meet with a committee of WSO members to discuss the other suggestions deriving from the Delegates Only meeting. This innovation was agreed upon. During this meeting, the Delegates called attention to the length of time required to receive orders from WSO. The Delegates were assured that every effort will be made to remedy this situation, beyond the time lost in transit which cannot be controlled.

A suggestion regarding sale of the Directory was made at the Delegates Only Meeting, but this matter had already been discussed and voted on by the full Conference before the report of the Delegates Only Meeting was given.

The Delegates extended their thank you to the Conference Committee for their effort in organizing and putting on the Conference.

* * * * *

Eric, the outgoing Regional Trustee for the Western Region, expressed his gratitude for having been permitted to serve in that capacity, and thanked the Board members for their patience with his sometimes outspoken and even explosive comments, but noted that whatever decision was eventually arrived at was accepted by the entire Board.

Serving as a Regional Trustee, he told the Conference, he had come to recognize the importance of World Service and had a clearer understanding of the relationship between WSO and the groups. "The business of Al-Anon is in good hands," he said. "WSO has done a great job with both the business part and the program itself. If we keep the program going at home, our people at the WSO will do their part."

As one who had been assigned to work on the Intergroup Guidelines, he noted that there had been a real need for the study which had been made. But he reminded us that "guidelines are guidelines, they're not rigid rules. Guidelines do not imply an intention to interfere with the group's autonomy. They only suggest what has been learned from majority experience. My hope is that all of us will realize that Al-Anon is not a double-headed structure, but a fellowship of equals with differing responsibilities, all aimed at a single goal."

In closing, Eric commented on the fact that "discussion, the examining of problems, is healthy and necessary in the sharing of experience, as we do at our Conference. This is how we grow. As long as we place principles above personalities our fellowship will remain strong.

"And now that I have completed my work at the World Service level, I'll go back to working at the Area and group level. Because after all, the group is the basis of everything we do."

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The business of the 1975 WSC ended with the nomination, presented to fill the vacancies on the Board of Trustees. According to our Charter, a Trustee's term is for a period of three years; no

Trustee may serve for a period of more than six consecutive years.

Stephanie O'K., Chairman for the Nominating Committee, appeared in her robe and slippers, symbolizing the weariness felt by all the Conference Members, as, after the busy days, the Conference wound up with a late Friday night session. It was Stephanie who presented the slate to the Conference body.

She began by defining the composition of the Board of Trustees, as stated in our Charter:

"The Board of Trustees of Al-Anon HQ is an incorporated Trusteeship composed of members of families of alcoholics. It chooses its own successors, subject to the approval of the Conference or a Committee thereof."

Stephanie went on to explain that there are nine in-town trustees, of whom three are elected at each annual meeting. Of the three Trustees whose terms expired as of the following day, two, George H. and Loretta L., were eligible for re-election to a second three-year term, and Stephanie placed their names before the Conference. The third Trustee, Alice B., having served for six consecutive years, was ineligible for a third consecutive term as Trustee, and the name of Mary S. was placed in nomination, to replace Alice. All three were unanimously approved by the Conference members.

The names of Norris R., as nominee for Regional Trustee, and Audrey S., as Alternate were placed before the Conference body and were unanimously approved.

Alice B. was designated, again unanimously, as Chairman of the Executive Committee for next year.

Stephanie then concluded by stating that, as yet, no successor has been found to replace Jo K. on the Board of Trustees, but that Barker H. had been designated to replace Jo on the Executive Committee.

Closing Session

The Spiritual Meeting which traditionally closes our Conference began with the Serenity Prayer. Then Penny, our Conference Chairman, read an excerpt from *ONE DAY AT A TIME*.

A deep sense of love and understanding seemed to fill the room, touching us all, with each of us governed only by a Higher Power as we understood Him. Penny commented briefly on the divergence of opinion that had appeared during the Conference and reminded us that, "if two of us were alike, there'd be no need for one of us."

Penny then introduced Mary V., the outgoing Delegate from Maryland, who was completing her fourth year in this position. Both Mary's husband and son are in AA, and Mary told of the many AA meetings she had attended before she found Al-Anon and realized that she too, needed help in order to recover.

Referring to the days when her husband's disease was active, Mary said, "we sat at the table of despair." Despite her deep involvement in church work, it was not until, in Al-Anon, when she learned to "turn my will over to God," that she finally found peace and serenity. And she and her family progressed, through the help of Al-Anon and AA, "to a table where we now sit at a feast."

Stephanie O'K. spoke in another vein . . . of how, the night before, in trying to sum up her thoughts for her talk in the morning, she had again taken the Fourth Step—searching within herself for a truth she could meaningfully share with us all. There was a moment, Stephanie said, an almost frightening moment, when she felt a sense of communication with her Higher Power that seemed almost physical. The moment passed, and with the peace that came with it, the title of a popular song came into her mind. That title truly does sum up the true meaning of the Al-Anon fellowship: "You'll Never Walk Alone."

MOTIONS OF THE 1975 WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE

1. To approve the Financial Report. (Unanimous)
2. That the Conference give the Special Committee working with the Alateen Committee on the Guidelines for Alateen Conferences a vote of confidence for the work they have done so far, with the provision that the Guidelines be re-worked and presented to the Delegate Committee Members and the Board of Trustees for approval. (One abstention)
3. To rescind the following 1972 Policy Statement:

"Al-Anon Conferences/Conventions which accept registrations from AA members, and which normally designate a portion of the receipts for the WSO, should pro-rate such receipts between the AA General Service Office and the Al-Anon World Service Office, and the AA share be offered to the GSO. Acknowledgment of AA support of the event should accompany all such contributions when they are forwarded to the GSO by Al-Anon."

(Unanimous)
4. To print in the FORUM, as a regular feature, the current policies which have been approved by the Conference, with the rationale, at the discretion of the Editor. (Two opposed)
5. Not to list the new groups in the FORUM by city, but to list instead the number in each state or province.

(46 in favor
19 opposed
9 abstentions)
6. Not to print articles in the FORUM from persons outside of Al-Anon or AA. (Unanimous)
7. To approve the annual reports as presented. (Unanimous)
8. That the distribution of the World Directory be limited to Conference Members, Assembly Secretaries, Information Services, (Intergroups), overseas General and Central Services, groups and lone members. Copies may be sold to individual Al-Anon and Alateen members only. When outside agencies in the U.S. and Canada request Part 1 of the World Directory, their requests will be made known to the Delegate in the Area where these agencies are located. The Delegates will then, at their discretion, provide these agencies with lists of referrals. (Two opposed)
9. That the Anonymity Placard will maintain its present wording of: "Who You See Here . . ." (Two opposed)
10. To give Conference approval to the "20 Questions" from the DRINK, DRANK, DRUNK Quiz on Drinking as part of our literature. (Unanimous)
11. That the points for consideration presented by Lois to the Conference be accepted as follows:

Re: *World Service Handbook*

 - a) That the concept of one vote per group be retained in the Handbook.
 - b) That the Handbook shall give only general and not specific suggestions on possible deviations.
 - c) That reference to Alateen shall be retained throughout the Handbook.
 - d) That the Delegates' stories should be dropped from the Handbook.
 - e) That instructions to new Assembly Areas be retained in the Handbook.
 - f) That the WSO shall have a Standing Handbook Committee.
12. That Alice B. undertake the rewriting of the Handbook. (Unanimous)
13. That the outgoing Group Representative is to have the vote at the Election Assembly. (Four opposed
Two abstentions)
14. That the revised By-Laws of Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc. be accepted as presented. (One opposed
Six abstentions)
15. That the Policy Digest, with the revisions made by the Conference, be adopted. (One abstention)
16. To accept the slate of the Board of Trustees as presented. (Unanimous)